

# Conflict?

Over the past decade, our partner-level commercial disputes lawyers – all with backgrounds at leading international firms – have been trusted by more than 25 of the UK and US's largest law firms to handle mid-value disputes and conflicted matters.

## A safe pair of hands

**Bellevue Law's Commercial Disputes practice – working in partnership with clients and fellow law firms.**

As a specialist firm offering the quality and expertise of City-trained lawyers cost-effectively and ranked in the Chambers & Partners Dispute Resolution Specialist Firms category, we regularly support clients who need high-quality, good-value dispute resolution services.

Our streamlined business model allows us to provide clients with the support of outstanding senior lawyers at a

competitive price, and we regularly receive referrals of mid-value matters from colleagues at larger firms.

Our team of alumni of major international firms including Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Freshfields, Hausfeld, Latham & Watkins, Linklaters, Pinsent Masons, SJ Berwin (now King & Wood Mallesons) and Weil. Our experience spans a wide range of contentious work from high-value, complex, international arbitration and High Court disputes, to the commercial resolution of mid-range contractual disputes.

## When do clients instruct us?

We have the skills and experience to advise clients on how to navigate technically and factually complex and high-value disputes. Recent examples include a multi-million pound breach of contract dispute; multi-million US dollar international arbitrations; a LIBOR manipulation claim; High Court litigation relating to alleged breaches of confidentiality and privilege; a complex multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of fraud and deceit; shareholder disputes; and defending former directors of an insolvent business against allegations of breach of duty made by the company's liquidators.

We also regularly provide advice and representation in smaller (but nonetheless important, and often complicated) matters that require care and attention, but which are not the focus for larger firms, such as mid-value contractual disputes. For example, we often support clients to resolve situations where one party is looking to recover payment for the provision of goods or services, and other disputes relating to whether work was done properly or at all. We also regularly advise parties in shareholder disputes.

We have the experience to support clients to achieve swift commercial resolution of such claims, allowing both

parties to draw a line under the issue and avoiding the delay, expense and uncertainty of lengthy legal proceedings. Colleagues at City and international law firms regularly refer their valued clients and contacts to us, knowing that they can trust us to handle these matters cost-effectively, without compromising standards of advice, representation and service.

Other firms also ask us to provide independent advice to third parties (such as directors or related parties) when this is needed. We also regularly work alongside other boutique law firms specialising in other areas, who bring us in when their clients need litigation advice.

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...flawless, thoughtful, sensitive and very careful with your expenditure of time and our resources. I will make a point of suggesting you to my partners and colleagues for our future needs.

PARTNER, US LAW FIRM



## About Bellevue Law

Bellevue Law was founded in 2014 to provide a genuine alternative to traditional law firms – for our people and our clients alike. We are known for combining legal expertise with holistic service, as well as for our deep-rooted commitment to doing business ethically and sustainably as one of the UK's very few B Corp-certified law firms. We are ranked in both the Legal 500 and Chambers directories, and have been rated by clients at 9.4/10 or above when asked how likely they are to recommend us to friends or colleagues in each of our past eight annual surveys.



### Faye Moore

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Faye is a highly regarded litigator specialising in commercial litigation. With over 18 years' experience, she has managed a wide variety of complex, high-value national and international disputes, including claims for breach of contract, negligence and fraud. She has acted for clients in manufacturing, facility services, aerospace, retail and financial services.

Faye previously worked in the litigation departments of international law firms SJ Berwin (now King & Wood Mallesons), Pinsent Masons and Hausfeld. She has recently acted for a high-net-worth individual against an international retail and investment bank regarding a £1 billion claim for the alleged fraudulent manipulation of LIBOR, and represented an international cargo airline in high-value arbitration proceedings.

Recognised in the Chambers and Legal 500 directories since 2018 as a "Next Generation Partner", "Rising Star" and "Associate to Watch", Faye is described by clients as "exceptional", "very clever" and a "true pleasure to work with".



### Lianne Craig

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Over her 25-year career, Lianne has developed a broad domestic and international disputes practice with in-depth expertise in a wide range of complex commercial, financial and competition matters across a range of sectors. She has considerable experience acting in multi-party and group claims including large-scale, often challenging, financial services disputes. Prior to joining Bellevue Law, she was the Managing Partner and Head of Commercial Disputes at a leading international boutique litigation firm.

Lianne's clients include UK and international clients with a particular focus on Spain and Latin America. She acts for clients in many sectors and in businesses from founder-led start-ups and SMEs to blue chip corporations, financial institutions, private equity and hedge fund investors and third-party funders. She also offers strategic litigation consultancy working alongside existing case teams, whether to bring an additional strategic perspective or to assist with relationship management during particularly challenging moments in the life cycle of any dispute.

Lianne has been recognised by the legal directories for many years as a Leading Individual and was awarded 'Individual of the Year for Dispute Resolution London' by The Legal 500 in their UK awards 2020. She was also listed in The Lawyer 'Hot 100', 2021.



## Florence Brocklesby

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Florence is Bellevue Law's founder. She trained at leading international law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, qualified in 2000, and later joined Debevoise & Plimpton before founding Bellevue Law in 2014.

Florence handles commercial disputes and advises a range of clients including multinational corporations, professional services firms, privately owned businesses and tech challengers, as well as entrepreneurs, shareholders, senior executives and partners. She also routinely represents fellow lawyers and law firms. Her recent experience includes advising a high-net-worth individual on the defence of a breach of contract claim and representing a luxury goods retailer and an international entertainment business in High Court breach of contract claims.

Florence is known for her strategic and pragmatic approach to resolving clients' disputes. She is recommended in both the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories, where clients describe her as "expert, reliable, thorough and easy to talk to".



## Catherine McBride

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Catherine is a Senior Consultant at Bellevue Law with over 25 years' experience in private practice (including as a partner at a leading US firm) and in-house roles including Head of Litigation and interim GC. She advises on litigation, investigations, and regulatory matters, providing commercially focused guidance to financial institutions, corporates, individuals, private equity firms, and professional services organisations.

Catherine has extensive experience managing domestic and cross-border investigations involving financial and non-financial misconduct, regulatory breaches, employee misconduct, conflicts of interest, anti-bribery and corruption issues, and financial crime. She also has significant expertise in whistleblowing and previously served as MLRO at a leading US firm.

Her work covers all aspects of investigations, including scoping, data management, regulatory reporting, third-party engagement, interviews, disciplinary processes, root-cause analysis, remediation and reporting.



## Alexandra Key

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Alexandra specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration. She qualified as a solicitor in 2000, and spent 10 years working at Allen & Overy before joining Bellevue Law.

Alexandra is a highly experienced commercial litigator with extensive trial experience. She has acted in numerous contractual disputes, as well as fraud claims, shareholder and joint venture disputes and injunction applications. Alexandra has experience of litigation in the County Court and High Court, the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Belize and the Privy Council, and has extensive arbitration experience. Her recent experience includes representing the claimant in a High Court claim concerning the defendant's failure to repay a substantial loan and acting for the respondent in a property rights dispute.



## Gemma Bullmore

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Gemma is a highly experienced disputes lawyer, having spent nearly 20 years working across a wide range of commercial and public law disputes with a varied client base.

Gemma has gained both private practice and in-house experience, including 10 years at global law firm Weil before moving to the Government Legal Department, and more recently working in the Nomura London litigation team. She has worked on regulatory matters, complex and cross-border litigation in connection with contract claims, shareholder disputes, insolvency and fraud, conduct and employment related matters, domestic and cross-border regulatory and internal investigations, European arbitration, mediation, and risk management.

During her time at the Government Legal Department she also represented central Government clients at inquiries including the Grenfell and Covid-19 inquiries, as well as defending judicial review claims and tribunal proceedings.

# How do we work?

Our team is made up of our founder, Florence Brocklesby, and experienced Senior Consultants Gemma Bullmore, Lianne Craig, Alexandra Key, Catherine McBride and Faye Moore. Our clients include businesses of all sizes, from small enterprises to household-name multinationals, as well as high-net-worth individuals, professionals, founders, shareholders and professional services firms. As a certified B-Corp, many of our clients are purpose-driven businesses. We receive many repeat referrals from clients, general counsel and law firms who know they can trust our legal skills and strategic advice.

Whilst we are in a strong position to take on lengthy and/or complex litigation, we regularly also act in more straightforward contractual disputes and debt recovery matters too. We frequently advise clients bringing and defending mid-value contractual and shareholder disputes, where the sums involved are too significant to walk away from, but nonetheless require cost-sensitive solutions, and may be technically challenging.

Our innovative business model means that one of our senior lawyers can partner with the client to handle most aspects of a dispute – from providing advice on the merits and strategy to preparing correspondence and handling negotiations, cost-effectively and without duplication. In this way, we are able to provide clients with expert, pragmatic and cost-effective support throughout a matter.

Our team is experienced in the use of alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, to bring disputes to a swift and pragmatic end where appropriate.



The team at Bellevue Law offer a truly first class service: good, practical advice; friendly and willing service and excellent value. Highly recommended.

PARTNER, US LAW FIRM

# How do we do this cost-effectively?

We have removed unnecessary overheads, enabling our highly experienced lawyers to support clients at a price point comparable to that of a junior City lawyer or mid-level regional associate.

As a result, in most cases, our clients are served by one of our senior lawyers, who handles most aspects of the dispute. For mid-value disputes, our experience is that this model offers great value, as it provides clients with one senior point of contact who understands every detail of their dispute and avoids duplication. For larger matters, we can bring in our Associate and Trainee Solicitors and Paralegals, as well as document review specialists and junior barristers where this is most cost-effective.

While our hourly rates are highly competitive, in appropriate cases we are willing to consider alternative charging models including fixed fees, conditional fee agreements and damages based agreements.

Like larger firms, we use modern technology to make legal proceedings more efficient – particularly for disclosure, exhibits, bundles and documentary evidence. Our team is highly experienced in the use of e-disclosure platforms and preparing electronic bundles.

# How do we treat clients?

Although our agile way of working means we can provide our services cost-effectively, our clients can expect City firm standards, exceptional lawyers and holistic, empathetic service.

When we receive referrals from larger firms, we see ourselves as an extension of their team, maintaining their service standards and ensuring that clients are well-informed and supported.



[Bellevue Law] have been consistently insightful, incisive and provided both excellent advice as well as a full range of options on our approach throughout our relationship.

LEGAL 500

