

Katja Perätalo



Title: Partner

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Languages: Finnish, English, Swedish

Assistant: Victoria Reiter

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Katja Perätalo advises clients in industrial construction projects in all phases of negotiation and execution, and both in terms of non-contentious and contentious aspects. Katja has particular expertise in EPC & EPCM projects (based on FIDIC terms and otherwise), projects based on disaggregated contracting/procurement strategies, and Contracts & Claims Management leadership both on a global organisational level and within a particular project or contract. She works on projects across industries ranging from renewable energy, green hydrogen, nuclear and bioproducts to production plants and facilities within e.g. oil&gas, defence, food and pharma. She is also active in Hannes Snellman's ESG Group.

Katja holds a Doctor of Laws / LL.D. degree from the University of Helsinki and a M.Sc. (tech) degree from Aalto University. Her doctoral dissertation covers the interface between tort and contract law in the context of liabilities between parties of a large-scale construction project. She is a recurring speaker on topics especially within construction and contract law.

Before joining Hannes Snellman, Katja was in charge of contracts & claims management and a member of the management team of the procurement organisation at one of the largest industrial companies in Finland. She also has several years of experience from working in another leading Finnish law firm, including a secondment to a leading international law firm in London. Katja originally started her career as an analyst in the real estate sector.

Katja is a former international-level athlete, a European Championship finalist, and World Championship semi-finalist. She held Finnish national records in swimming from 2004 to 2015.

REFERENCES

- Counsel to SSAB in its transformation project to build a fossil-free mini-mill in Luleå, Sweden, 2024
- Counsel to SSAB in its Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant project in Mississippi, USA, 2024
- Counsel to Keliber in respect of the construction and supply contracts of its lithium project, 2022
- Counsel to the State of Finland and its Defence Forces in the procurement of a fighter aircraft system, 2022
- Counsel to OX2 in negotiating balance of plant construction contract package for 145,2 MW Niinimäki wind farm, 2022
- Counsel to Exilion in the construction and financing of Isokangas and Palokangas wind farms, 2022

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- Counsel to Veolia in its crude methanol processing plant project in connection with Metsä Fibre's Äänekoski bioproduct mill plant, 2022
- Counsel to OX2 in negotiating balance of plant construction contract package for 455 MW Lestijärvi wind farm, 2021
- Counsel to Keliber in respect of its lithium project, 2021
- Counsel to YIT in wind power development project, 2020

RANKINGS

- "Katja Perätalo is superb with her wide understanding of the construction business, same as Maria Landtman. They provide excellent expertise through their argumentation and understand the business logic very well. So with them it is fluent to manage even the toughest and longest of negotiations.", Real Estate And Construction, Legal 500, 2024
- "Cheerfulness. Proactive and constructive. Exceptionally good in her line of expertise. Thorough understanding of both legal aspects as well as the real-life challenges that the client is facing. Always available, easy to work with.", IFLR1000, 2023
- Ranked as Next Generation Partners, Real Estate And Construction, Legal 500, 2023-2024
- "Excellent communication and negotiation skills. Sharp legal mind and very good project management. Availability, even temper and disposition. Solution-oriented and very diligent and detail-oriented while keeping in mind the need to reach a resolution and balance competing interests. Well liked by operational teams.", IFLR1000, 2022

MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS OF TRUST

- Member of the Mediation Committee of the Finnish Bar Association, 2024–2026
- Accredited mediator at the Mediation Register of the Finnish Bar Association, 2023-
- The Finland Arbitration Institute (FAI) Arbitration Academy, 2022
- Urhea (Pääkaupunkiseudun urheiluakatemia), Member of the Board, 2009–2013

PUBLICATIONS

- Rakentamisen vastuut murroksessa: uusi kaavoitus- ja rakentamislaki ja teollinen rakentaminen. Teoksessa Hemmo, M, Hoppu, K, Norros, O & Pönkä, V (eds) 2022, Yksityisoikeus ja oikeuskulttuuri: Juhlajulkaisu Heikki Halila 1952 - 26/5 - 2022, s. 373-836. Edita, Keuruu.
- Vastuunmuotoerotelu ja rakennusurakka - Velvoiteoikeudellinen tutkimus sopimuksen ja deliktin väliselle rajapinnalle sijoittuvista vahingonkorvauskysymyksistä rakennusurakan vastuusetelmien kontekstissa, Alma Talent 2020
- Lectio praecursoria: Katja Perätalo, Vastuunmuotoerotelu ja rakennusurakka, Lakimies 7-8/2020
- Joint and several liability in the context of construction projects, Oikeustiede–Jurisprudentia L:2017 (Suomalainen Lakimiesyhdistys, the Finnish Lawyers' Society) 2017
- Tort liability between parties to a construction project, Oikeustiede–Jurisprudentia XLVII:2015 (Suomalainen Lakimiesyhdistys, the Finnish Lawyers' Society) 2015
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Construction - Country Guide Finland (Co-author), IBA International Construction Projects Committee 2014
- Liability of principal designer towards special designer in a builder-driven construction design project, Business Law Forum (University of Helsinki) 2013

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Partner, Hannes Snellman, 2024–
- Specialist Partner, Hannes Snellman, 2021–2024
- Counsel, Hannes Snellman, 2020–2021
- Neste Corporation, 2016–2020
- Castrén & Snellman, 2012–2016
- Seconded Lawyer, Simmons & Simmons, 2015
- Mrec, 2011
- Asuntoturva, 2009–2011
- Doctor of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2020
- Master of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2012
- Master of Science (Technology), Aalto University, 2010

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Suspension over chains of contracts in Nordic industrial construction projects at Nordic Conference on Construction Law, January 2025
- FIDIC vs YSE 1998 in Finnish construction projects at Alma Insights annual Construction Disputes Day, November 2024
- Alma Talent's seminar on industrial procurement and construction related to green transition production plants, November 2024
- The Nordic approach to the relationship between contract and tort liability, UNIDROIT Nordic Law Centre Workshop in Rome, October 2024
- Sopimusneuvottelujen hyvät ja huonot käytännöt, Wind Finland Oulu 2024 'Rakentaminen ja tuotanto' Seminar, February 2024
- Teollisten rakennushankkeiden erityispiirteet, Finnish Bar Association's 'Rakennushankkeiden sopimukset ja erimielisyydet' seminar, February 2023
- Rakennuttamisen sopimukselliset erityispiirteet vihreän siirtymän investoinneissa, Rakennuttaminen 2023 Seminar, January 2023
- Energiamurros ja vihreän siirtymän investoinnit Suomessa: projektirakentamiseen liittyvien erimielisyyksien erityispiirteet ja niiden ehkäisy projektin eri vaiheissa, Lakimiesliitto, Alma Talent Rakennusriitapäivä seminar, November 2022
- Wind power construction – how to mitigate disputes before, during and after construction?, Wind Finland, October 2022
- Liabilities in wind power construction – how to mitigate disputes before, during and after construction?, Wind Finland Goes Construction, March 2022
- Energiamurros ja investoinnit Suomessa - teollisten rakentamissopimusten erityispiirteet, Alma Talent Rakennusjuridiikka 2022 seminar, March 2022
- Vastuunuoetoerottelu ja rakennusurakka, Asianajajaliitto, Raksajuridiikkaa konkareille seminar, September 2021

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