

About us

Forensic services





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 Smith &
Williamson



About Smith & Williamson

Smith & Williamson is a financial and professional services firm with 11 offices and over 1,800 people located across the UK, Ireland and Jersey. Our business uniquely combines a UK top ten accountancy practice* with a range of other financial services.

Smith & Williamson is a member of Nexia International, a leading, global network of independent accounting and consulting firms, providing a comprehensive portfolio of audit, accountancy, tax and advisory services.

*Latest survey by *Accountancy Age* magazine (as at 31 December 2019)

Our capabilities

Smith & Williamson's forensic services team includes experienced expert witnesses, who have given evidence before a variety of courts and tribunals. Their advice and experience will ensure that your case, or that of your client, is positioned for the best possible outcome.

For over 25 years, we have provided a full range of forensic services. Our experts work closely with the parties and their legal advisers guiding them through the numbers and explaining their impact in a commercial context.

You can benefit from:

- Reliable expert witness reports
- Consistent advice
- Partner-led teams
- A thorough and flexible approach
- A commercial outlook where needed
- A dedicated multi-disciplinary team

Our services

Smith & Williamson provides the full range of forensic services and our multi-disciplinary team advises on a variety of dispute resolution cases. We work closely with lawyers from around the world, taking on a litigation support role on their cases.

Quantum and valuation services

Our named experts take a leading and hands-on role in the detail of cases, ideally placing them to give effective oral testimony.

Acting for claimants, defendants, as a single joint expert or in an advisory capacity, we provide expert evidence on quantum and valuation issues in the following types of cases:

- Breach of contract
- Consequential loss
- Misrepresentation
- Post-acquisition disputes including breach of warranty
- IT disputes
- IP disputes
- Business valuations
- Shareholder/partnership disputes

International arbitration

Our forensic experts have given evidence before a variety of tribunals including the ICC and the LCIA. We act on behalf of claimants and defendants and often as early-case advisers. We also advise on other experts' reports, challenging them and providing rebuttal arguments.

Cross-border disputes

We have over 25 years' experience of providing expert evidence in quantifying damages of complex and high-value commercial disputes in the UK and internationally.

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Auditor negligence and disputes over financial reporting

With an in-depth understanding of the onerous requirements of auditing standards, we have extensive experience of assessing the extent to which auditor negligence contributed to misstatements in audited accounts. Working closely with the legal team, we work constructively to find appropriate answers to the extent of negligence and how that negligence gave rise to the underlying losses.

We have also worked on numerous cases where financial reporting matters were at the heart of the dispute, covering international financial reporting standards and FRS 102.

Our aim throughout is to ensure that our input and reports are balanced and understandable to non-accountants.



Jonathan Pryor
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Fraud and financial crime

Organisations benefit from our ability to deal efficiently with both the threat of fraud and misappropriated funds by quickly establishing what has gone wrong and helping to recover the funds.

With considerable experience in undertaking large, complex forensic investigations and asset tracing on a global scale, our team has provided expert witness testimony in both civil and criminal courts and under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

We investigate instances of suspected fraud and allegations of bribery, providing expert evidence to management and their lawyers enabling them to evaluate the situation and help determine how to proceed.

Our experience of undertaking multifaceted forensic investigations enables us to identify relevant documents that may otherwise have been missed. Additional evidence can also be garnered from even the most unhelpful of witnesses by our forensic accountants, who are expert interviewers. Our evidence and analysis can supplement and corroborate information gathered from documents, helping lawyers to obtain search and freezing orders.

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Additional evidence can also be garnered from even the most unhelpful of witnesses by our forensic accountants, who are expert interviewers.

Forensic technology and e-disclosure

In both complex investigations and during disclosure processes, our forensic technology advisers will provide you with scalable and technically focused solutions to issues surrounding the recovery, retention, investigation and presentation of electronic data. We have a thorough understanding of the legal process and apply both technical skills and a commercial approach when gathering data and protecting digital evidence, ensuring that it conforms to relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

At the heart of our e-disclosure solution is IPRO Enterprise, an integrated modular software system that allows us to host and access large amounts of data, which could save you time and money.

We can also provide advice to organisations that are subject to a competition investigation on the requirements around electronically stored data.

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Monitoring trustee and competition services

Overseeing the implementation of remedies arising out of merger controls and antitrust investigations, we have acted as monitoring trustee on cases in the UK, Europe and internationally across a broad range of industries.

Our team has acted on behalf of a number of competition authorities including; the European Commission, the UK Competition and Markets Authority, the Italian Antitrust Authority (AGCM), the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS) and the Brazilian Antitrust Authority (CADE).

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Quantifying losses in personal injury and clinical negligence claims

As one of the few accountancy firms with a dedicated personal injury and clinical negligence team, and over 20 years' experience, we give you specialist support tailored to meet your, and your clients', requirements during the course of the claim.

Our team will work with you to minimise the complexity involved in quantifying losses in claims, with particular focus on the calculation of loss of earnings and pension.

We act on behalf of the claimant, defendant or on a single joint basis and give evidence in court and assist at mediations.

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To get the best results,
we believe in providing
reports and advice that
get straight to the point.



Valuation services in divorce proceedings

Whether or not there is a discrepancy between the parties' understanding of the financial issues at stake, spouses will need to think about; the value of their interests in privately-owned companies, income earned from the businesses, the liquidity of the businesses to facilitate any settlement and the tax consequences of the liquidity options available.

Working closely with family lawyers where business valuations are required, we provide expert reports on behalf of husbands, wives, or as a single joint expert. We understand the pressures and deadlines, whether

set by the court or the client, and will ensure that the evidence is reasonable, transparent and can be relied upon in court.

We are also on hand to act as a shadow expert, enhancing understanding of figures and valuations prepared by others, drafting requests for additional explanations and answering, or asking, questions that might arise.

Clients also benefit from our ability to draw on our firm-wide resources to provide expertise on pensions, personal tax and trust accounting.

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