

Geoffrey Senogles

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Biography

Geoffrey Senogles is a Welsh chartered accountant based in Geneva and London. He leads CRA's European team of forensic accountants. Geoff's practice covers international arbitration (treaty and commercial), joint venture disputes, sports, business valuations, financial investigations and compliance. He has testified over 30 times and has worked across Europe, the Middle East, India, Levant, Africa and North America. For many years, he has taught financial damages at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg. He speaks Welsh, English and French.

Describe your career to date.

In 1989, I began my career in UK accountancy practices, working on audit, accounts preparation, tax, and advisory projects, then focusing on forensic accounting. I relocated to Geneva in 2000 to join the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) and thereafter founded and ran Swiss consulting firms, before joining CRA in 2012.

How did you come to be an expert witness in arbitral proceedings?

I progressed from UK-based forensic accounting expert

witness work, getting a major boost from working alongside legal colleagues and Commissioners at the UNCC. My first arbitration testimony was in front of the Iran-US Claims Tribunal.

What is the most memorable matter you've worked on?

Many cases compete for this title, as I have been blessed with a varied and often fascinating caseload over the years. Three stand out: acting for a global sports organisation in front of TAS/CAS; acting for the Palestinian Authority quantifying losses; and working in Kinshasa advising, in French, the RD Congolese government on reparations.

What makes for a good expert witness?

Communication skills (listening as well as oral and written) are paramount, plus a robust disposition, backed by technical solidity.

My lecturing to LLM students has been a valuable, illuminating and thoroughly enjoyable aspect of my practice over the years.

Given your perspective, what are the challenges currently facing arbitration practitioners and expert witnesses?

Among the many challenges faced by counsel and expert witnesses is the need to express such

voluminous information and detail to the Tribunal, while also presenting arguments or explanations in such a way that the Tribunal understands quickly and intuitively before making a decision. Making a complex issue easily understandable takes a great deal of effort.

Would you say that forensic accounting and expert witness testimony is increasing in importance during arbitral proceedings? If so, why is this?

In my experience, the case's real importance to the parties' representatives is typically the numbers. This places a burden on practitioners (both legal and quantum) as well as the Tribunal to understand the arguments and evidence. Quantum witnesses need to be able to explain issues in such a way as to convey the essential impact—without seeking to lecture for an hour on their "pet" financial topic.

How does CRA distinguish itself from the competition?

We have a broad range of specialist practices across our firm, allowing generalists like me to collaborate with and support sector or topic specialists or affiliated academics. As a group of around 125 VPs, we are collegiate and meet regularly.