



Neil Budd

Powers his way to associate partner

Associate partner, Neil Budd, talks to us about how he has powered his way to partner, his passion for helping charities and his interest in renewable energy.

He gives us an insight into his life ambitions, his progression at Shakespeare Martineau and his greatest claim to fame.

Neil started his career in local government in North London as a property and construction lawyer. In the mid-1990s, on a trip to Moscow, he was very impressed with the buzz and vibrancy of the city and went to work there for a City of London law firm, trying to develop a property practice. Following the financial crash in Russia in 1998, Neil returned to London and started working as an energy lawyer, developing gas and coal-fired projects in Eastern Europe, then moving into renewable energy. He joined Shakespeare Martineau in 2012 to help the firm develop a renewable energy practice.

You have travelled quite a lot in your career, are you settled in the UK?

I have been living and working in London since 1999 so it's been a long time since I lived abroad. But renewable energy is a global industry now so there is plenty of travelling to be done. Last year, for example, I spoke at conferences in Turkey and Serbia.

Describe yourself in three words...

Easygoing, loves cats.

Have you always wanted to go into renewable energy law?

I really got into it by accident. I started working on power projects in 1999 thinking that a power station was really just a property with a large chimney! In those days, renewable energy was barely on the radar. But in the mid-2000s renewable energy started to develop, so I made the leap into on-shore and off shore wind, biomass and then solar, where I have helped develop the team to become one of the leading solar practices in the country.

What inspires you?

In my spare time I do a bit of pro-bono work for a charity in the East End of London called Toynbee Hall. With the cuts in legal aid, there is a huge need for free legal advice and sometimes it can be as simple as helping people to fill in a form that they don't understand.

What do you value most about Shakespeare Martineau?

I think that the firm has a lot of drive and ambition. It's also a fun place to work and quite relaxed. I was very pleased to be offered partnership because renewable energy has taken a big hit in the last couple of years with the cuts in government subsidies. So by offering me a partnership, Shakespeare Martineau are not only showing commitment to me but also to the renewable energy industry as an industry that will continue to grow and develop in the future.

What are your future ambitions?

I think that we have developed a reputation as one of the leading energy practices in the country. I would like to continue to develop our reputation in the sector including into new areas such as battery storage. The energy industry is changing very fast and the Energy and Projects Group, with our combined expertise in both projects and regulatory work, is very well placed to maintain and develop further our position as a leading practice. Also, as renewable energy is now a global industry, I would like to try to develop an international practice and in this context we are already talking to developers in areas such as Turkey, the Balkans and Africa.



Location: London



Years of service: 4



Area of law: Energy and projects