

Underwriter profiles



Melanie O'Neill-Horton started her career at Nelson Hurst & Marsh (now Lockton) as a claims broker in 1991, before joining RE Stone Syndicate (now Brit) as a Lloyd's Professional Indemnity underwriter in 1994. In 2003 Melanie joined Liberty writing all PL classes but specialising in Lloyd's Brokers and UK Solicitors. She is now the UK and European Head of Professional Lines overseeing Professional Liability and Strategic Assets across 11 separate territories. Melanie is ACII qualified and a Chartered Insurer.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 0371

M: +44 (0)7917 163 255

E: melanie.o'neill@libertyglobalgroup.com



Andrew Townsend started his insurance career as a PL broker with Willis in November 1985 and joined Liberty in September 1996. Throughout his career he has specialised in all classes of professional liability and is now the UK and European Head of Professional Liability responsible for managing the PL written across 11 separate territories. He is a member of PLUS, an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute and has been a Chartered Insurer since July 2004.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 0373

M: +44 (0)7789 926 993

E: andrew.townsend@libertyglobalgroup.com



Amanda Burnell has over 25 years underwriting experience and has been with Liberty since 2006. She is responsible for underwriting all classes of Professional Indemnity for major UK and International corporate clients. Amanda specialises in Architects and Engineers and construction related PL and is recognised as a leader in this field. Prior to Liberty, Amanda worked for Scor, where she established their London Professional Indemnity account, and Munich Re. She is FCII qualified and holds a Masters in Law.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 0372

M: +44 (0)7879 068 372

E: amanda.burnell@libertyglobalgroup.com



Michael Spurling has over 15 years of professional liability underwriting experience in the London market and has been with Liberty since July 2001. Michael oversees the day-to-day underwriting of US PL business written in London and is responsible for marketing, underwriting and controlling products and services which respond to the needs of professional risks requiring special handling or unusual coverage. Michael is both a member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society and the Chartered Insurance Institute.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 0374

M: +44 (0)7890 629 884

E: michael.spurling@libertyglobalgroup.com



Sam O'Shea has over 5 years Professional Indemnity underwriting experience in the London Market. He previously worked for Argo International and Chubb Syndicate writing a broad range of professional indemnity products for large corporate clients with a focus on Lawyers PL. Sam also has extensive experience of Accountants, Architects and Engineers, Design and Construction and Miscellaneous PL. He has a Bsc (Hons) degree in Management Sciences and is ACII qualified.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 0375

M: +44 (0)7890 626 884

E: sam.o'shea@libertyglobalgroup.com



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Claims profiles



Irene Stavrou heads up financial and professional lines claims having joined Liberty in 2005. Her earlier career was spent in private practice as an insurance and reinsurance litigator before joining the Group Insurance Management division of UBS Investment Bank as Claims Manager for the Bank's global and local insurance programmes. Irene has handled numerous high profile, complex claims from all around the world and is a member of PLUS and the LMA.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 1243

E: irene.stavrou@libertyglobalgroup.com



Katherine Burgon joined Liberty in 2007 and is one of the claims managers responsible for financial and professional product lines.

She is a graduate in Law from Hull University and has worked in claims in the insurance industry since 1998 with a number of international insurers. Most recently Katherine worked for Swiss Re, handling large and complex UK and international Professional Indemnity and Financial Institution claims.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 1252

E: katherine.burgon@libertyglobalgroup.com



Ben Barker joined Liberty in 2013 and manages claims for all financial and professional product lines. A graduate in Mathematics and Economics from Exeter University, he started his insurance career with Marsh in 2003 gaining experience within the Finpro practice. In 2010, Ben joined AIG working as a senior adjuster in their financial lines claims team. Ben is Deputy Chairman of the IUA Cyber Legal and Claims Sub-Group.

T: +44 (0)20 3758 1278

E: ben.barker@libertyglobalgroup.com



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