



Steve Devereux C.Eng FCI Arb

Arbitrator, Neutral, Mediator, Drilling Expert



Key competencies

Drilling Expert – over 40 years planning and drilling oil, gas and geothermal wells internationally in over 40 countries

Qualified Arbitrator, Fellow of CI Arb

<https://www.ciarb.org/membership/member-directory/member-profile?id=3539>

Hunt ADR accredited Mediator

Experienced Drilling Expert Witness - video

<https://www.oilfield-elearning.com/ExpertReport>



Brief history

Qualified as an Aeronautical Engineer – 1978

Joined Shell as a Trainee Driller - 1979

Consulted since 1988 as Drilling Engineer / Supervisor / Superintendent / Manager / Training roles

Published author in my field – two books, PennWell

<https://www.pennwellbooks.com/steve-devereux-1/>

Accredited by the Academy of Experts.

https://academyofexperts.org/search-register/profile/steven-devereux/?register_type=2



Completed over 100 appointments as Expert and Arbitrator since 2016.

One arbitration award is in the public record:

<https://tinyurl.com/SD-ArbtralAward>

Qualified to lead major investigations with Taproot.

<https://www.taproot.com/>

Attended course “Fracture and Fatigue Failure Analysis” in March 2022 by Dr Clayton Thomas.

Contact

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<https://www.drilling-expert.legal>

This resume is available at

<https://www.oilfield-elearning.com/DevereuxResume.pdf>

Linkedin profile

www.linkedin.com/in/steve-devereux

References (20 pages)

https://www.oilfield-elearning.com/SD_references.pdf

Article examining CJEU attitude to arbitration

<https://tinyurl.com/CJEUvArbitration>

Work history (4 pages)

https://www.oilfield-elearning.com/SD_workhistory.pdf

Expert Witness appointments examples

Arbitration - Covid related termination of rig contract

Appointed by Counsel for the Respondent. Analysed reports, assisted Counsel in drafting the Statement of Defence on technical issues. Wrote 2 Expert Reports, participated in joint expert meeting and final hearing, was cross-examined.

Litigation [1] relating to an IP dispute

Researched claim documents. Examined patents and advised counsel on validity of claims. Responded to patent attorney video evidence. Drafted expert report.

Litigation [2] relating to an IP dispute

Called in at short notice after a previously appointed expert decided not to continue as an expert witness. Appointing party was alleged to have broken patents filed by a competitor. Drafted an expert report to meet a tight deadline.

Arbitration - Liner, packer, cementing, testing, well control and HSE issues

Forensic analysis of a series of events to understand the true nature and causes of a set of problems for a technically complex high value ICC arbitration. Wrote an Expert Report. Case settled.

Arbitration - Subsea BOP issue

Appointed by the Tribunal to provide an expert report on a dispute under UNCITRAL rules between an oil exploration and production company and a drilling contractor. Subsea BOP could not be disconnected from the well. Attended the rig a year later when the BOP was successfully recovered. This case led to an appeal and so the award is in the public domain. [PetroSaudi Oil Services Ltd. v. PDVSA Servicios SA.](#)

Arbitration - Oil Well Control Issues

Appointed by counsel for the respondent to provide an expert report for an arbitration on a well control issue where procedures were not followed correctly.

Litigation – shareholder action

Oil company allegedly misled shareholders who invested based on misrepresentations. Drafted an expert report for the shareholders to initiate legal action.

Expert opinions and incident investigations examples

Expert Opinion - New Build Jack Up Rig

Appointed by counsel for the claimant to provide expert technical opinion on test loading of spud cans on a new build jack up rig.

Expert Opinion - Subsea oil well accidental disconnection

Appointed by counsel for the claimant to provide expert technical opinion on the merits of claim and defence for an issue with a rig causing an accidental disconnection from a subsea oil well.

Expert Opinion - Sub Surface Safety Valve Mandrel Welds

Investigated and provided expert technical opinion regarding the failure of welds on sub surface safety valve mandrels. The company lawyers had advised that there were no grounds to bring an arbitration. I was able to show that there were breaches of contract sufficient to bring a dispute.

Incident investigation – near fatality

Led the investigation and issued a report on a near fatal incident where part of the travelling block failed. A large steel plate fell to the rig floor, narrowly missing a person.

Incident investigation – well testing incident

Led the investigation and issued a report on an incident during a well test which came within a few seconds of destroying a \$100m exploration well with potentially catastrophic loss of life and pollution. A combination of failures in equipment, planning, supervision and failure to follow Management of Change procedures.

Incident investigation – stuck pipe in a high angle well

A well suffered stuck pipe which cost several weeks and millions of dollars to fix. I was able to identify the root causes of the problem and make recommendations to prevent a recurrence.