

GORDON WIGNALL

Year of Call: 1987

Contact

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Tel: 020 7797 8400; 07834 760602

Education

MA (University of Oxford)

Karmel Scholarship prizewinner (commercial law), Gray's Inn

Norman Tapp memorial prizewinner (mooting), Gray's Inn

Diploma in EU Law (merit) (King's College London, 2014)

Diploma in EU Competition Law (merit) (King's College London, 2015)

Appointments

CEDR trained mediator; formerly a part-time employment judge



CIVIL & COMMERCIAL LAW PROFILE

Gordon has a wide and varied practice with practical experience of different regulatory and specialist areas. He is familiar with relevant EU principles including those of application in competition, data protection and environmental cases (especially waste). His specialist interest in litigation funding and costs has been of practical use in multi-party actions. He has experience of jurisdictional issues, including those which relate to banking and professional negligence. He was formerly on the editorial board of the White Book (Civil Procedure Rules) and was the editor of the Law Society Guide to CFAs.

Gordon has conducted numerous multi-party actions under the GLO provisions of Part 19, CPR. Many have been in environmental (pollution) cases, although he has also undertaken claimant work in consumer protection matters (e.g. VW claims), professional negligence, banking and financial services and in landlord and tenant cases, many with a European element. He has previously been instructed to act for investors under the FSMA collective redress scheme (judicial review). He is used to working in teams of lawyers in these areas.

Individual claims

Gordon is experienced in contractual disputes: sale of goods of different descriptions, breaches of covenant and general contractual disputes of various descriptions. In private individual cases, he has experience of restraint of trade (including injunctive relief), wrongful dismissal, restitution, 'piercing the corporate veil', breach of confidence and advice and representation in disciplinary proceedings. His fraud experience includes all forms of claims including FSA-unregulated investments and offshore property schemes (including CEPPs). In negligence-related matters his case work has included claims against banks for negligence in the conduct of mortgage and property transactions and claims for and against IFAs and other professionals. He was a part-time employment judge.

He is a recognised expert in private nuisance, including flooding, leasehold flats, noise nuisance, smoke, animal by-products and WEEE. Other special areas of interest include ship recycling and waste transshipment.

He has undertaken judicial review work in various regulatory contexts, especially in environmental and financial services cases. In appropriate cases he defends criminal allegations made by regulators.

Injunctive relief

Gordon is familiar with the principles relating to injunctive relief for the preservation of trust property; freezing injunctions; restraint orders; receivership (including receivers accounts), both at first instance and at appellate level. His specialist advisory work includes the drafting of funding vehicles connected with different forms of litigation funding, some including insurance provision.

International work

His caseload has included claims concerning Nigeria, Pakistan, Cyprus, Cap Verde, Channel Islands, France, Eire, Portugal, Holland, Spain and jurisdictional disputes and relevant international conventions and treaties. His experience in jurisdictional and international litigation includes issues concerning the Brussels Regulation and Hague Conference issues as well as the CJJA 1982. Gordon was instructed in the first major Crown Court prosecution of transfrontier waste offences.

Costs

As the editor of the Law Society's Guide to CFAs and a former contributing editor to The White Book, Gordon has an extensive costs practice including wide experience of multi-party actions and insurance funding. His experience covers DBAs, CFAs, CCFAs, entitlement to legal aid funding and litigation funding, both domestic and nondomestic, including foreign arbitrations. Gordon has a special interest in the funding of litigation and has advised members of the House of Lords on the application of LASPO and the implications for the UK's obligations under the Aarhus Convention.

Some public access work is exceptionally undertaken

RECOMMENDATIONS

"He is a winner with clients - he's easy to work with and is approachable."

"Gordon is a pleasure to work with. He is great with the clients and builds a real rapport with the court. He is a great guy to have on a team dealing with a difficult case. He is a go-to barrister on group action claims."

Chambers UK Bar Guide [2018]

"A junior of choice for environment and a real heavyweight for private nuisance matters."

"Has a practice with a strong focus on pollution claims and challenges to Environment Agency decisions. His knowledge of his area is extremely deep and extensive."

Chambers UK Bar Guide [2017]

"A respected junior who is very active on environmental and waste permitting and recycling issues".

"He has an analytical mind and detailed approach."

Chambers UK Bar Guide [2016]

"A great barrister who is really commercially minded, very bright and good with clients".

Chambers UK Bar Directory [2015]

"An experienced junior who has an extensive planning and environmental practice. The majority of his environmental work involves regulatory disputes with local authorities, planning authorities and the Environment Agency... He's a very experienced and knowledgeable barrister, and has a very pleasant manner."

Chambers UK Bar Directory [2015]

"A depth of knowledge that makes him stand out".

Legal 500 [2015]

"He is very down to earth and gets on well with solicitors and clients...He is very knowledgeable, and he is able to put across complex points in understandable English".

Chambers UK Bar Directory [2014]

"He has a hands-on and very practical approach".

Legal 500 [2014]