

Mark Cawson QC

Call 1982 | Silk 2001



Clerks' Details

 Nick Buckley
 0161 817 2757

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator
- Deputy High Court Judge
- Recorder
- Chairman - Northern Chancery Bar Association
- Benchler, Lincoln's Inn

Memberships

- ADR Group Accredited Mediator
- Standing Council of Mediation Advocates
- Chancery Bar Association
- Northern Chancery Bar Association (Chairman)
- Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association (Chairman 2008-2013)
- Insolvency Lawyers' Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- R3

Education

- University of Liverpool, LLB
- Inns of Court Law School

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Overview

- Mark is recognised as a leading QC (Band 1) in Chambers and Partners UK 2020 in the fields of Banking and Finance, Restructuring/Insolvency, Professional Negligence, Chancery and Commercial Dispute Resolution.
- Mark's practice encompasses advisory work, ADR work, interlocutory work, and trials, principally in the fields of general commercial litigation, commercial fraud, corporate and personal insolvency, company and partnership disputes, commercial property disputes, and solicitors' and other professional negligence work
- Mark's ADR experience extends to all the above areas, and includes acting as a mediator, acting as an arbitrator, and acting as an evaluator for the purposes of early neutral evaluations

Recommendations

Chambers and Partners 2020 (Band 1 Silk)

Banking and Finance

Recognised as one of the Northern Circuit's leading silks for resolving commercial disputes, he acts for a diverse range of clients including government departments, local authorities, financial institutions, office holders, SMEs, and private clients. He can draw upon his ancillary expertise in the field of insolvency to act in cases concerning distressed corporations and he is experienced in cases relating to commercial fraud and professional negligence.

Expertise: "He's very good with clients and is a real team player."

Restructuring/Insolvency

Stands out for his adept representation of both corporates and individuals in complex insolvency cases. He numbers banks, office holders and government departments among his impressive roster of clients. He is especially well known for his ability to deal with cross-border corporate insolvency.

Expertise: "A very experienced and technically strong silk who has a real air of calm, in even the most high-pressured of situations." "Technically excellent, very personable and pleasant to deal with." "Mark combines a strong understanding of applicable law and methodical analysis with a commercial and practical approach. He is an extremely persuasive advocate."

Professional Negligence

Leading silk who continues to impress in the professional negligence sector. He handles a range of claimant and defendant work pertaining to the legal profession. This forms part of a broader commercial and chancery practice. He frequently acts for SMEs, banks, local authorities and private clients.

Expertise: "An excellent lawyer who operates very thoughtfully." "He is very experienced and well respected in the market. He's also very good with clients." "Very authoritative and measured in his approach."

Chancery

Highly regarded silk adept at commercial chancery litigation. He regularly represents the government, financial institutions and individuals in fraud, insolvency restructuring and partnership disputes.

Expertise: "He is not an aggressive opponent but he is somebody who is firm and stands his ground. He has got a very even and calm manner in court." "He is calm and analytical. He won't bully witnesses, but he will cut their evidence apart."

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Extremely well-regarded silk who has a wealth of experience in corporate disputes, partnership

and company matters, commercial fraud and insolvency litigation. He is also active in cases concerning property litigation, and his work extends to chancery and professional negligence-related matters. He often represents government entities, as well as banks, private businesses and individual clients.

Expertise: "He can very quickly run through a vast mass of documents and has a mastery of the detail." "He's excellent with clients and provides very robust and sound advice."

Chambers and Partners 2019 (Band 1 Silk)

Banking and Finance

Recognised as one of the Northern Circuit's leading silks for resolving commercial disputes, he acts for a diverse range of clients including government departments, local authorities, financial institutions, office holders, SMEs, and private clients.

Expertise: "He's superb. He's very balanced, judges like him and he's very bright." "A master tactician and a very safe pair of hands."

Restructuring/Insolvency

Stands out for his adept representation of both corporates and individuals in complex insolvency cases.

Expertise: "A formidable legal mind and extremely easy to deal with." "Outstanding ability, a piercing intellect and extremely persuasive in court."

Professional Negligence

Leading silk who continues to impress in the professional negligence sector.

Expertise: "He is very calm and measured, and has the respect of the judiciary."

Chancery

Highly regarded silk adept at commercial chancery litigation. He regularly represents the government, financial institutions and individuals in fraud, insolvency restructuring and partnership disputes.

Expertise: "A very thorough and persuasive advocate." "He's someone judges take seriously, as would you if you saw him on the other side." "He is very high-quality, very smooth, very well liked by the judges and commands a lot of authority in the court."

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Extremely well-regarded silk who has a wealth of experience in corporate disputes, partnership and company matters, commercial fraud and insolvency litigation.

Expertise: "He has exceptional clarity of thought and a warm manner that puts clients at ease. He is able to express the most technical of points in a language that a client can readily understand

and consider, and always goes the extra mile.” “He is an exceptionally gifted advocate and very good technical barrister.”

Chambers and Partners 2018 (Band 1 Silk)

Chancery

Regularly represents the government, financial institutions and individuals in fraud, insolvency restructuring and partnership disputes.

Expertise: “Academically first rate.” “He makes his points beautifully.”

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Extremely well-regarded silk who has a wealth of experience in corporate disputes, partnership and company matters, commercial fraud and insolvency litigation. He is also active in cases concerning property litigation. He often represents government entities, as well as banks, private businesses and individual clients.

Expertise: “He is very calm and measured. When he is in court the judges respect him and he has real gravitas.” “He should be a judge; he is a very safe pair of hands and is very dependable.”

Professional Negligence

Leading silk who continues to impress in the professional negligence sector. He handles a range of claimant and defendant work pertaining to the legal profession. This forms part of a broader commercial and chancery practice.

Expertise: “He’s an absolute joy. He’s very user-friendly and has a practical grasp of the client’s needs.”

Restructuring/ Insolvency

Stands out for his adept representation of both corporates and individuals in complex insolvency cases. He numbers banks, office holders and government departments among his impressive roster of clients. He is especially well known for his ability to deal with cross-border corporate insolvency.

Expertise: “He prepares thoroughly – it is a given that he has read every single paper.” “He has a formidable legal mind and he is extremely easy to deal with as well.” “He demonstrates every key attribute required of an effective QC and never fails to impress clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2017 (Band 1 Silk)

Chancery

“He is very calm and collected in court and he always knows what he is doing.” “I rate him very highly and he has a particularly strong reputation for insolvency work.”

Commercial Dispute Resolution

“He is an incredibly calm and insightful barrister.” “He is forensic in his analysis, his arguments are a joy to read.”

Professional Negligence

“He is excellent, he has good manners with clients and he is very user-friendly, responsive and very capable in the courtroom.”

Restructuring/Insolvency

“His drafting skills are excellent. He’s calm on his feet, but ruthless when he needs to be.”

Chambers and Partners 2016 (Band 1 Silk)

Restructuring/ Insolvency

“He is personable, knowledgeable and committed.” “He is a quiet thinker with a formidable legal mind who is extremely easy to deal with.” “He demonstrates every key attribute required of an effective QC and he never fails to impress clients.”

Professional Negligence

“He’s approachable, calm, constructive and helpful. Excellent with the client, he has good empathy, and is quite pragmatic in his advice.”

Recent work:

“Acted for Weightmans in a claim against it regarding a conveyancing transaction that went wrong due to a nearby quarry development plan which was missed.”

Commercial Dispute Resolution

“I have been thoroughly impressed by his attitude, his paperwork and his quick and easy grasp of a detailed case.” “Always very well prepared, he never dodges a difficult question and is always willing to give the client as much time as they need.”

Chancery

“He is just brilliant; steady, bright and a really safe pair of hands.”

Chambers and Partners 2015 (Band 1 Silk)

Commercial Dispute Resolution

“One of the top silks in Manchester in chancery and commercial work. He is of great stature.” “He is quiet and unflappable, and his work is very thorough.” “He’s very measured, very bright, very careful in his approach. He always seems to get it right.” “At the trial he is excellent on his feet and can give his opponent a good pummelling. His cross-examination is excellent. He’s very measured and considered. He’s very bright and sees things in cases that no one else has.”

Restructuring/Insolvency

“Ten out of ten. His legal knowledge is superb and it’s a great advantage that he sits as a judge as you get extra perspective on problems you might face.”

The Legal 500 UK 2020

“Technically excellent on insolvency matters.”

The Legal 500 UK 2018/19

“A tremendously bright silk.”

The Legal 500 UK 2017

Commercial, Banking, Insolvency and Chancery Law

“Calm and discerning; judges warm to him.”

The Legal 500 UK 2016

Commercial, Banking, Insolvency and Chancery Law

“One of the best Manchester insolvency practitioners; he is technically excellent.”

The Legal 500 UK 2015

Commercial, Banking and Insolvency

“Vast experience, sensible and commercial.”

The Legal 500 UK 2014

Chancery and Commercial Litigation

“Exchange Chambers’ Mark Cawson QC is clearly respected by the judges.” “A highly effective commercial litigator.”

Beyond the Bar

Outside work, Mark enjoys travel, the Cumbrian countryside, watching Sale Sharks and Liverpool FC, and playing the occasional round of golf. He enjoys reading, armchair politics and theology, and taking an active part in his local Church and Church affairs.