

Mark Cawson QC

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Clerks' Details

 Nick Buckley
 0161 817 2757

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

 Colin Griffin
 0161 817 7139

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator
- Deputy High Court Judge
- Recorder
- Chairman - Northern Chancery Bar Association
- Bencher, 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

Commercial

Overview

Mark is recognised as a leading QC (Band 1) in Chambers and Partners UK in the fields of Banking and Finance, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Chancery, Restructuring/Insolvency, and Professional Negligence.

His practice extends to:

- Corporate and personal insolvency work
- Company and partnership litigation and disputes
- General commercial litigation
- Commercial fraud, and asset tracing
- Commercial property disputes
- Solicitors' and other professional negligence work including indemnity coverage issues

The emphasis of Mark's practice is on complex and high value litigation in the above areas. Mark's practice encompasses advisory work, interlocutory work (often urgent), and trials (often lengthy). His work takes him on a regular basis to the Court of Appeal and the High Court, and in particular the Business and Property Courts in London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and elsewhere.

Mark sits as a Deputy High Court Judge and a Recorder, and he is an accredited mediator. He is the current Chairman of the Northern Chancery Bar Association.

Recommendations

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 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.

Cases

Quinn v Spreadex Limited (2017) - Claim by investor against spread betting company seeking to recover monies waged and lost on the grounds that the Defendant had failed to disclose the payment of secret commission and was in breach of COBS regulations. Settled Spring 2017.

Porter Capital v Masters (2017) - Acting for US factoring company in appeal to the Court of Appeal in respect of claim against a guarantor that raises issues as to the construction of the relevant factoring agreement and guarantee, both governed by Connecticut Law. Acted subsequently on trial of preliminary issues as to Connecticut Law securing successful judgment in September 2017.

ING v OW Bunker Middle East DMCC (2017) - Acting for liquidators of Dubai subsidiary within the OW Bunker insolvency in respect of claim that raised issue as to whether certain assets (valued at in excess of £50m) are caught by the terms of a bank's (ING's) security for monies advanced under a Multicurrency Revolving Borrowing Base Facilities Agreement. Settled early 2017.

Promontoria Chestnut Limited v Iliad Group Limited (2017) - Defending claim on guarantee where debt had been assigned to vulture fund. Raised questions as to the true construction of the guarantee, and issues as to the application of the "Purview Doctrine". Summary judgment granted September 2017

Montpellier v Leeds City Council (2013) - Multi-million claim in deceit brought by developer against Leeds City Council relating to the development of the Leeds Arena. Claim successfully defended on behalf of Leeds City Council.