

George Rowell

2004



Clerks' Details

👤 Lynn Salter
☎ 0161 817 2754

👤 Joe Mawson
☎ 0161 817 2753

Appointments

- Attorney General's Regional Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown since 2008 (re-appointed in 2010 and 2015).
- Lincoln's Inn, Hardwicke Award
- Government Legal Service Scholarship

Memberships

- Northern Chancery Bar Association
- Bar Pro Bono Unit

Education

- MA (Oxon), Dip. Law, MA in Law (City)

Beyond the Bar

Wine, golf, food, real ale, boating, independent travel, South Asian history, property renovation.

Insolvency CV

Overview

George is a commercial barrister specialising in tax disputes, professional negligence and insolvency. Although he has experience across the range of insolvency work, he has a particular interest in cases with overlapping tax and insolvency issues. Where insolvency proceedings are brought by or for the benefit of HMRC, his expertise allows him to spot weaknesses in HMRC's position that might not be apparent to other insolvency lawyers. He advises insolvency practitioners on the complicated interaction between the statutory tax assessment provisions and the insolvency legislation. He also has a thriving practice in insolvency and directors' misfeasance cases arising from failed tax avoidance schemes.

George's insolvency experience includes:

- Pursuing and defending applications in the bankruptcy court
- Freezing injunctions in the context of insolvency.
- Insolvent TUPE transfers
- Domicile and international issues
- Claims against directors of 'phoenix' companies
- Transactions defrauding creditors or at an undervalue
- Tracing and breach of trust claims
- Voluntary arrangements
- Tax-related insolvency issues

George has been recommended as a Leading Junior in the Tax section of Chambers & Partners and the Commercial, Banking & Insolvency section of Legal 500 (see Recommendations for details).

Recommendations

“George is very knowledgeable and experienced. He advises in a thorough yet practical fashion, giving advice on the best way forward in cases.” “His first written advice was very comprehensive and was used through the whole case.”

Chambers and Partners, 2020: Tax – Regional – Band One

A much-admired junior whose broad practice encompasses cases concerning VAT, corporation tax, stamp duty land tax and capital gains tax. He also acts in employment-related tax matters. He advises on cases concerning enterprise investment schemes and tax penalties and is increasingly active in issues relating to professional negligence. “Very impressive knowledge, grasp of issues and expertise. No-nonsense – he goes straight to the issues and provides clear and concise advice.” “He gives clear and practical advice – we have a lot of faith in him.”

Chambers and Partners, 2019: Tax – Regional – Band One

A much-admired junior whose broad practice encompasses cases concerning VAT, corporation tax, stamp duty land tax and capital gains tax. He also acts in employment-related tax matters. “He is very pragmatic and he always finds a solution.”

Chambers and Partners, 2018: Tax – Regional – Band One

“Highly recommended for his extensive experience of handling tax disputes, especially those involving VAT, PAYE and inheritance tax. George is frequently instructed on behalf of both taxpayers and HMRC. ‘He is an impressive and persuasive advocate who is quick on his feet.’”

Chambers and Partners, 2017: Tax – Regional – Band One

“Draws praise from both clients and peers for the depth of his tax experience. He is particularly recognised for his work on tax penalties, inheritance and capital gains tax and employment-related tax issues. Strengths: He has impressive sharpness of mind and good analytical skills, and is a man with abundant common sense. When you’ve got him you have no need to go to London.”

Chambers and Partners, 2016: Tax – Regional – Band One

“Always ten steps ahead.”

The Legal 500, 2020: Northern Circuit – Commercial – Leading Junior

“Recommended for tax and professional negligence matters.”

The Legal 500, 2016-2017: Western Circuit – Commercial – Leading Junior

“Recommended for employment-related tax disputes.”

The Legal 500, 2015-2016: Western Circuit – Employment – Leading Junior

“A tenacious, confident and persuasive advocate who is quick on his feet.”

The Legal 500, 2015-2016: Western Circuit – Commercial – Leading Junior

Cases

- Advising former directors of major construction firm facing £6m misfeasance and TUV claims arising from failed EBT, “Alchemy” and “Goldfinger” tax avoidance schemes (with leader).
- Advising liquidator as to £1m+ claim against directors who used failed “E Securities” remuneration planning scheme.
- Advising administrator as to tax and NIC assessments for £3.8m arising from failed tax planning.
- Opposing bankruptcy petition brought by HMRC for tax debt of £1.1m.
- Opposing bankruptcy petition brought by bank against property developer for £1m mortgage debt.
- Defending director of ‘phoenix’ company against claim brought by HMRC for tax debts of his previous companies.
- Representing the Insolvency Service in statutory redundancy payment proceedings brought by 200 ex-employees of insolvent property maintenance company.
- Fraud, tracing and breach of trust claim against bankrupt trustee of intestate estate.
- Advising former director of insolvent restaurant company in respect of claim by liquidator to recover alleged VAT debt for benefit of HMRC.

Publications

- *Tax Penalties: A Practitioner’s Guide* (George Rowell and John Flood, Sweet and Maxwell, 2017, 781pp.)
- Consultant Editor of *Simon’s Taxes* (LexisNexis), jointly responsible for 71,000-word Penalties Division.