

Ben Lafferty

Call 2021



Clerks' Details

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Memberships

- Northern Circuit
- The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

Insolvency

Ben is frequently instructed to handle a variety of Insolvency Act matters and applications, in both the personal and corporate insolvency contexts. In particular, Ben has experience of the following applications and general insolvency matters:

- Contested winding up and bankruptcy hearings;
- TOLATA claims;
- Applications to set aside statutory demands;
- Applications to vary income payment agreements;
- Applications to annul and/or rescind bankruptcy orders;
- Administration applications and applications to extend the period of administration;
- Applications to permanently stay liquidation;
- Remuneration applications;
- Reviewable transactions (including TUV and preference matters); and
- Applications to challenge CVAs on the grounds of unfair prejudice.

Instructions of particular note in Ben's insolvency practice include:

- His obtaining of a dismissal of an application to set aside a statutory demand worth £686,693;
- His involvement in a tri-partite application to annul a bankruptcy order, in which he acted for the Trustees;
- His obtaining of three concurrent bankruptcy orders in a debt claim valued at circa £3.2m;
- His involvement, both by the provision of drafting work and appearances in court, in a CVA challenge application valued at circa £1m, concerning the differential treatment of commercial landlords – where properties had been categorised into differing classes in the CVA. In this matter, Ben was pitted against a silk; and
- His obtaining of an order setting aside a statutory demand stated to be valued at £130,000, by reason of his submissions on the nature of damages in unjust enrichment claims.

Education

Qualifications

- St Malachy's College, Belfast (2008-2015)
- Queen's University, Belfast (2015-2018) LLB Law with Politics, First Class Honours
- BPP Manchester (2019-2020), LLM Legal Practice, Distinction

Scholarships

- Inner Temple Major Scholarship
- Inner Temple Duke of Edinburgh's Scholarship
- BPP Academic Excellence Scholarship

Recommendations

Of Ben's performance in a 4 day multi-track trial, the designated civil judge hearing the trial commented of his performance (after the conclusion of the trial, by way of email):

"I thought you conducted the trial very well and incredibly well for someone of your call."

Of Ben's performance in successfully obtaining the dismissal of an application to set aside a possession order and underlying warrant for eviction, Ben's instructing solicitor noted, by way of feedback to Chambers' senior management:

"...[the District Judge] was particularly complimentary toward Ben and his skeleton this morning – at which we had as successful a court outing as I can remember..."

Ben was also good with me and with our client.

I was pleased to witness it – [he is] a credit to chambers."

Of Ben's involvement in difficult and high value bankruptcy matters (valued at circa £3.2m), his instructing solicitor noted:

"We have been very impressed with Ben...He has been very thorough, responsive and attentive. We have found him to be knowledgeable and approachable, and his written advice has been very good."

Of Ben's performance in a possession and contested probate matter, his instructing solicitors noted, by way of feedback to Chambers' senior management:

"We have had great help from Ben Lafferty in relation to a possession matter and related probate dispute...We attended a possession hearing last week and after a long battle, we obtained the order we needed and Ben was able to persuade the judge to ignore the numerous

obstacles trying to be put up by the opposing barrister. The clients have been very happy with his services, they are a private paying couple, the fees for dealing with the matter have been kept reasonable and as ever more work has not doubt been done and not charged for.

We have been very pleased with the service from Ben and would recommend his services to anyone.”

Of Ben’s performance in successfully defending a £104,000 summary judgment application, Ben’s instructing solicitor said of his performance, by way of feedback to Chambers’ senior management:

“I would like to bring to your attention my admiration for the work done by Counsel in extremely difficult circumstances.”

Beyond the Bar

Ben is an avid guitarist, having played (or, at least, attempted to play) the instrument since the age of 5. His obsession with the instrument sees him attempt to source a guitar shop on each of his travels to the various court centres up and down the jurisdiction to which he is sent.