Lawrence McDonald

Call 1996

Clerks

Joe Mawson
0161 817 2753

Chris Brown
0161 817 7146

Prya Anisa
0161 817 2794

Miriam DoVale
0161 817 7138

Appointments

- Recorder (Ticketed to hear Chancery cases, Civil cases and Criminal cases)

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Property Bar Association
- Northern Chancery Bar Association (Secretary)
- Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association
- Inner Temple

Education

- The Inns of Court School of Law
- University College London
- The Manchester Grammar School

Commercial

Lawrence is an experienced commercial litigator and is the Head of Chambers' Property Team. He has particular expertise in property, insolvency and professional negligence cases, acting for companies, individuals, office holders and public bodies before courts and tribunals of all levels in England and Wales. He has also appeared in the Courts of the Isle of Man.

He is recommended as a leading practitioner in commercial litigation and property litigation by both the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners:

"Lawrence is an outstanding, technical and robust litigator. He is knowledgeable, polite and strong with effective communication skills".

"He is thorough, creative and excellent at cross-examination"

"Lawrence is a tremendously affable character and enjoyable to work with. He is commercial in his outlook and very knowledgeable on the law."

Lawrence is frequently instructed on urgent applications such as freezing and other types of injunctions. He is experienced both in obtaining such orders and in resisting them or seeking to have them discharged.

Lawrence's commercial litigation practice includes:

- Property litigation of all types including real property, landlord and tenant and development disputes
- Commercial contract disputes
- Shareholder and company disputes including particularly unfair prejudice petitions
- Partnership disputes
- Personal and corporate insolvency

- Professional negligence, particularly in claims for property related negligence such as conveyancers, architects and valuers.

In addition to advocacy before the courts and tribunals, Lawrence regularly represents clients in mediation and has successfully mediated dozens of cases. He is a qualified mediator and he also sits as a Recorder in civil, criminal and Chancery cases.

Cases

People in Mind Limited v Armchair Answercall Limited (2014) – A 6 day trial in London about whether the departure of a network of franchisees frustrates a contract for services with the franchisor. Listed before the Court of Appeal in autumn 2016.

Bradley v Heslin [2014] EWHC 3267 – A 3 day trial before the Vice-Chancellor regarding the acquisition of an easement by prescription, adverse possession or proprietary estoppel. Listed before the Court of Appeal in March 2016.

Hamlington v Wrexham County Borough Council (2014) – A 5 day trial about whether drainage works by a highway authority caused damage to property.

Rainford v Rainford (2014) – Whether payments made by an ex-husband to his ex- wife were a loan or gave rise to a beneficial interest in a property.

Whalley v PF Developments Limited [2013] EWCA Civ 306 – A successful appeal to the Court of Appeal regarding the assessment of damages for trespass.

Feury v Marshman (2013) – A 5 day trial before HHJ Bird concerning easements, nuisance and harassment. Following cross examination of the witnesses, the case settled on favourable terms before judgment.

Liverpool Quays Management Limited v Moscardini [2012] UKUT 244 (LC) – A successful appeal to the Upper Tribunal regarding the recoverability of service charge expenditure.

Campbell v Banks [2011] EWCA Civ 61 – An appeal concerning the applicability of section 62 of the Law of Property Act 1925.

Re Northall (Deceased) [2010] ECHC 1448 (Ch) – A 3 day trial before David Richards J concerning the beneficial interest in money held in a bank account in joint names.

Pierse Developments Limited v Liberty Property Investment Limited [2009] EWCA Civ 1423 (as Instructing Solicitor) – A dispute regarding a development agreement for a block of flats in Liverpool that was affected by the recession.

Sugarman v Porter [2006] EWHC 331 (Ch) (as Instructing Solicitor) – Restrictive covenants.

Mean Fiddler Holdings Limited v Islington LBC [2003] 3 EGLR 61, LT; [2003] 2 P&CR 7, CA (as Instructing Solicitor) – Compulsory purchase and breach of leasehold covenants.

Recommendations

The Legal 500

"Lawrence is very robust in submissions. Judges appreciate his technical expertise and calm presence in court."

"Lawrence is an outstanding, technical, and robust litigator. He is knowledgeable, polite, and strong with effective communication skills."

"Lawrence is very friendly and provides an excellent service. He is also well respected and pragmatic."

"Lawrence is a tremendously affable character and enjoyable to work with. He is commercial in his outlook and very knowledgeable on the law."

"Lawrence is very good with clients and supports his solicitor. He knows what solicitors and clients want of him, and is great on his feet, personable and very likeable. He is good at getting his head around the larger issues."

"Lawrence demonstrates clarity of thought in his written advice, submissions and work. He is able to communicate relatively complex legal argument into language that a lay client can readily understand."

"He is knowledgeable, very good with clients, in depth knowledge of all instructed matters, very good as consultant, very organised and works in a speedy manner."

"An assured voice in the court room and a lateral thinker on his feet."

"His calm demeanour reassures clients."

"Recommended for a panoply of property disputes."

"He has an excellent all-round knowledge and is a great lateral thinker."

"He handles a broad spectrum of real estate cases, including landlord and tenant disputes" "A calm, collected and intelligent advocate."

Chambers & Partners

"Lawrence McDonald is very well versed in dealing with matters in the North of England. It also helps that he sits as a judge."

"Lawrence McDonald's knowledge is second to none. From a negotiation point of view he is brilliant."

"Lawrence McDonald is the safest pair of hands you could wish for in a barrister."

"Lawrence has great legal knowledge and is also very commercially astute."

"Lawrence is a very great support when it is most needed."

"Quick, efficient, good with clients and very knowledgeable."

"Lawrence McDonald is great, and very responsive."

"He is thorough, creative and excellent at cross-examination."

"Approachable and good to work with."

"A pragmatic lawyer who always has an eye on the most effective way of resolving disputes."

"He has a very sensible approach."

"He gets things done without making a meal of it."

Beyond the Bar

In the summer of 2016, Lawrence sailed from New York to London via Ireland and Holland as a crew member on the final leg of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. He also enjoys throwing himself down mountains on either skis or a mountain bike. Lawrence has competed nationally or internationally in areas as diverse as chess, judo and debating.

Other than that, Lawrence spends most of his time as an unpaid driver for his three daughters' various sport, music and social engagements.