Steven Fennell

Call 2014

Clerks

Ian Spencer
0113 203 1971

Nicole Luna
0113 203 1975

Max Cotterill
0113 203 1973

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Northern Business and Property Bar Association

Education

- University of Bristol (LLB)
- Merton College, Oxford (BCL)
- Accredited Mediator (CEDR)

Professional Negligence

Steven has extensive experience of professional negligence actions involving solicitors, accountants, insolvency practitioners and valuers, both as a solicitor and at the Bar.

Steven qualified as a solicitor in 1996, as an insolvency practitioner in 1999, and a solicitor advocate in 2013. He became a CEDR-accredited mediator in 2012. He transferred to the Bar in 2014.

As a former solicitor, Steven understands the pressures and time constraints that are an everyday part of the solicitor's life and brings a unique depth of experience to his practice.

In addition to professional negligence litigation, Steven regularly acts for insolvency practitioners and accountants in relation to non-contentious regulatory and compliance matters, complaints to their professional bodies, and proceedings before professional disciplinary tribunals.

Professional Negligence Cases

Illustrative cases include:

Forster v Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP [2023] EWHC 1150 (Ch) (solicitors' duties to follow clients' instructions in CFA cases).

Defending professional negligence actions against insolvency practitioners, including challenges to levels of remuneration and allegations of deliberate overcharging;

Defending insolvency practitioners in regulatory proceedings before their professional bodies, including a recent 5 day hearing before the ACCA disciplinary tribunal leading to the dismissal of all charges against the respondent;

Negligence claims against solicitors and barristers arising from both contentious and non-contentious work;

Claims against valuers brought by financial institutions;

Claims against financial advisors.

Recommendations

"Steven is very astute and a great tactician."

"Because of Steven's previous solicitor career and experience, he's able to pick up really complex insolvency matters. He's an excellent choice for high-profile, complex insolvency matters."

"Steven is a very talented barrister whose knowledge and experience is exceptional. He is great to work with."

"Previously a solicitor, Steven Fennell is well regarded for his expert handling of insolvency matters. He acts for a range of clients including liquidators, trustees and receivers and has addressed the Court of Appeal. He is also a CEDR-accredited mediator."
Chambers and Partners 2026

"Steven is a go-to junior and a real all-rounder. He is down to earth with clients and offers practical advice."
The Legal 500, 2026

"Steven is very senior and very experienced. He was an insolvency solicitor so he has a ridiculously large technical arsenal. His advocacy is always clear and considered."

"Steven is very good counsel who distils issues into language clients can understand. Clients gain confidence and he keeps them calm."

"Steven has excellent technical knowledge, as well as good commercial awareness and appreciation of the client's work."
Chambers and Partners 2025

Tier 1 – Company and Insolvency
The Legal 500, 2025

"Steven has significant experience of insolvency law and an appreciation of the client's position."

"Steven really knows his stuff and brings admirable tactical clarity when advising on case progression."
Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Steven's advocacy is always clear, concise and noticeably appreciated by the presiding judge and instructing solicitor."
The Legal 500, 2024

Ranked Band 3 for Restructuring/ Insolvency
Chambers and Partners, 2023

"He is clear on all the details and has an excellent grasp of the technical aspects of the matter at hand. A polished performer in court."
The Legal 500, 2023

"Steven has a real understanding of the practical aspects of insolvency work, and he has the ability to make complex technical insolvency issues understandable."
The Legal 500, 2022

"His background as a solicitor means he is able to understand our aims and goals when dealing with insolvency litigation which often has a number of stakeholders, and he knows how to build up an excellent rapport with our insolvency practitioner clients."
The Legal 500, 2021

"Provides excellent service on urgent and difficult instructions."
The Legal 500, 2020

"He has a calm and measured court demeanour."
The Legal 500, 2018/19

"He has a wealth of technical insolvency knowledge."
The Legal 500, 2017

Beyond the Bar

Steven is a keen supporter of the arts with a particular interest in the Theatre, Opera and Music – where enthusiasm partly compensates for lack of natural talent. He is also a keen cook.