

# The Pensions Group

WILBERFORCE  
CHAMBERS



We pride ourselves on providing the best quality advice available, which seeks to be both technically sound and commercially realistic.

# Excellence



'Boasting considerable strength in depth, Wilberforce is well populated by pension specialists who are universally of the highest quality'

**Chambers UK 2009**

## The Pensions Group

Wilberforce Chambers is widely renowned as the leading chambers in the field of occupational pensions, both in terms of the number of specialist practitioners and the depth of experience available. Of the 10 QCs and 17 juniors who practice in this field, 12 of them belong to the Association of Pension Lawyers. Some of them have served on APL committees and many members of chambers have delivered talks at the APL conference or in workshops.

Our clerks pride themselves on providing an efficient service tailored to the needs of individual clients. The number of pensions practitioners within chambers allows them to offer a barrister, or team of barristers, with the appropriate experience and seniority for each job. We act for all types of client – employers, trustees, members, regulatory bodies, professional advisers and central and local government.

We combine knowledge of the statutory regime with an in-depth understanding of the working of trust law, a combination of expertise which we believe is essential to the proper understanding of many issues which affect pension schemes today. We pride ourselves on a practical approach to the needs of employers and trustees, who need commercially realistic and cost effective solutions to the problems which face them.

## The Pensions Group

Members of chambers have wide litigation experience on which to draw when acting in litigious pensions disputes. As well as appearing in cases concerning the interpretation of the legislation and scheme documentation we regularly act in professional negligence disputes involving legal, actuarial and investment advisers and benefit consultants. We also have considerable experience within chambers of undertaking rectification claims to correct errors in scheme documentation. All pensions specialists in chambers have experience of the sort of complex, multi-party litigation which pension schemes can throw up, and are well aware of the need both to ensure that all parties' interests are properly represented, and to ensure that unnecessary costs are not incurred in the course of doing so.

Members of chambers appear in all levels of courts and tribunals and some of us also act as mediators. We are also available to give expert determinations in disputes where that form of dispute resolution is appropriate. Members of chambers have appeared in oral hearings before the Pensions Ombudsman and the Pensions Regulator Tribunal. We have gained considerable experience of assisting clients in their dealings with both the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund. Members of chambers also act for the Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund on a regular basis, which gives them greater understanding of the way these institutions operate.

## The Pensions Group

Some members of chambers give advice on taxation issues arising out of pension arrangements, and on the tax efficacy of products designed by pension providers. We also advise both trustees and insurance companies on pensions-related issues concerning life assurance and annuity policies

Areas of work undertaken by members of chambers include:

- Winding up schemes, including the operation of section 75 and the Employer Debt Regulations
- Scheme specific funding issues, including advice on the legislation, and on the funding negotiations
- Issues concerning PPF entry
- Contribution notices and financial support directions and other interventions by the Regulator.
- Claims against professional advisers for negligent advice or drafting
- The effect of Barber and sex equalisation.
- Age discrimination
- The consequences of failing to observe the requirements for a valid amendment to the scheme.
- Making and resisting complaints to the Ombudsman and conducting appeals against Ombudsman determinations.

## The Pensions Group

- Contracting out
- Advice on trustees' investment powers
- Advice on the construction of scheme documentation.
- Dealing with disputes over the effect of bulk annuity contracts

**The members of our Pensions Group are:**

Edward Nugee QC	Jonathan Evans
Jules Sher QC	Emily Campbell
John Martin QC	Rupert Reed
Robert Ham QC	Julian Greenhill
Brian Green QC	Tiffany Scott
Christopher Nugee QC	Nikki Singla
Michael Furness QC	Edward Sawyer
Michael Tennet QC	Jonathan Davey
James Ayliffe QC	Jonathan Hilliard
Paul Newman QC	Andrew Mold
Thomas Seymour	Emily McKechnie
Mark Studer	Sebastian Allen
Gabriel Hughes	James Walmsley
Judith Bryant	

Members of Wilberforce Chambers have appeared in almost every leading pensions case in the last 25 years. Our members offer the widest range of experience of any chambers.

# Experience

'A dominant set fronted by a high concentration of leading pensions barristers who provide strength in depth.'

**The Legal 500 2008**



Wilberforce Chambers has a reputation for pre-eminence across a range of practice areas traditionally described as 'Commercial Chancery'. In addition to Pensions, we have barristers with expertise in the fields of Banking, Company, Property, Private Client, Intellectual Property and Information Technology, Professional Liability and general Commercial. More information is available on our website at [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk) and on request from our clerks.

We have an excellent clerking team who are always happy to deal with queries about the Pensions Group and our other practice areas, as well as individual members of Chambers. They approach all queries with care and attention and aim at all times to ensure that we are competitive with fee quotes.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the senior clerking team should you want further information:

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