



Paul Newman QC

Call: 1991

QC: 2009

pnewman@wilberforce.co.uk

Clerks' Details

Fraser Geddes

Rob Johnstone

Nick Redmond

+44 (0)20 7306 0102

tcsqc@wilberforce.co.uk

Qualifications and Appointments

- First Class degree in Law, Downing College, Cambridge
- LLM, Harvard Law School

“He is a very impressive advocate, who is extremely good on his feet and very persuasive.”

Chambers & Partners, 2015

Memberships

- Association of Pension Lawyers

Publications

- Paul is a contributor to leading practitioners' works on pensions law and on the law of corporate receivers (Lightman & Moss)
- He has written several articles on pensions and financial services topics, including an influential analysis of rectification issues as they relate to pension schemes, published in *Trust Law International*.

Practice Overview

Paul's practice focuses mainly on pensions and financial services law, acting for employers, trustees and members across the full spectrum of litigation and advisory work in those fields. As well as representing some of the highest profile pension schemes in the UK and several major life insurers, Paul acts regularly for The Pensions Regulator, and has previously acted for OPRA, the Pension Protection Fund and the Pensions Ombudsman.

Paul has advised the Royal Bank of Scotland in connection with its successful recovery of pension benefits from Sir Fred Goodwin. He has also advised the Department of Work and Pensions on the age discrimination regulations, and has recently advised the senior UK judiciary on the effect of the reforms to public sector pensions on the judicial pension schemes.

Paul has been heavily involved in advising on, and appearing in cases relating to, various provisions of the Pensions Act 2004. Paul also has extensive experience of advising and litigating on various public sector and industry-wide pension schemes. A substantial proportion of Paul's practice involves advising on and acting in negligence disputes involving pensions professionals.

One of Paul's most notable recent cases was *HR Trustees Ltd v Wembley*, in which Paul successfully argued for the validity of an amendment to a pension scheme, notwithstanding its failure to comply with the scheme's amendment powers.

Paul also acts in contentious private trust disputes.

Paul is recommended in the legal directories for his pensions work. *Chambers & Partners, 2014* describe him as being, "*fantastically robust and good on his feet*" and *The Legal 500, 2014* as being, "*the counsel to go to if you want a clear opinion.*"



Professional Liability

Paul has extensive experience of acting for and against professionals in claims concerning the failure to equalise the retirement ages of pension scheme members, relating to schemes operated by companies such as Group 4, Harland & Wolff, MFI, Fujitsu, Life Sciences International, IMG, Hewlett-Packard, BNP Paribas, Alders and Siemens. Paul has been consistently recommended as a leading silk in *Chambers & Partners* for Professional Negligence. He is described as "**commercial and thorough**" and wins praise for the "**strength of his practice and the quality of his advice**".

Other recent/notable cases include:

- Acting for a firm of consulting actuaries defending a claim for several million pounds from an employer following the failed conversion of a final salary scheme to a money purchase arrangement, which resulted in a very favourable settlement for the firm.
- Acting for the trustees of a scheme against benefits consultants over the failure properly to implement proposed pension increases, resulting in a settlement worth several millions of pounds to the scheme.
- Acting for the trustees of the Royal Doulton Pension Scheme in a claim for negligence against the scheme actuaries relating to anti-franking legislation.
- Acting for trustees of settlements in negligence proceedings arising out of a failed attempt to secure Beddoe directions for proceedings against former trustees.
- Acting for a policyholder in a £1m dispute with the Prudential Plc, concerning the validity of a deferred annuity contract taken out when the policyholder earned no UK-taxable income.
- Acting for a firm of insurance brokers in a £6m dispute with the actuary of its pension scheme, relating to his mis-calculation of the scheme's FRS 17 liabilities.
- Acting for Stagecoach Group in a dispute with a firm of solicitors regarding advice given on the pension scheme liabilities of a target company.