



Edward Sawyer

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- First class degree in Modern History from Lincoln College, Oxford
- CPE Law Conversion Course, College of Law
- Bar Vocational Course, College of Law

“He is massively in demand for a reason - he is absolutely brilliant.”

Chambers and Partners, 2020

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Association of Pension Lawyers
- Civil Fraud Lawyers Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- Property Bar Association

Practice Overview

Edward has a commercial and chancery practice, with particular experience in the fields of pensions, trusts, commercial disputes, professional negligence, international work, financial services and civil fraud. His practice encompasses litigation and advisory work across the broad range of commercial chancery cases.

Edward is regularly involved in large-scale litigation involving pension schemes, regulatory work, trust disputes, business disputes and professional liability, often with an international or offshore element. He has considerable experience of document-heavy long-running cases and working as part of multi-jurisdictional legal teams.

Edward is recommended in *Chambers & Partners* and *The Legal 500* for pensions, commercial; chancery, professional negligence and civil fraud. Recent comments from these directories include:

“Considerable insight on procedural and tactical issues, adopting a thorough and “no stones unturned” approach.” “He has a fantastic eye for detail and a Trojan work ethic.” He is “incredibly bright and hardworking, dedicated and diligent”. “Brilliant at getting to grips with incredibly complex cases.” “He is an exceedingly good draftsman who is very thoughtful and has a keen eye for detail. He’s brilliant at memorising facts which he can then pull out of a hat when he needs them.” “He’s one of the cleverest members of the junior Bar”, “tremendous”, “exceptionally intelligent, very hard-working and a pleasure to work with”, “very clever and a very good advocate”, “he can cross-examine effectively and cuts through things.” “extremely hard-working and knowledgeable”, “his attention to detail is hugely impressive”, “unimpeachable work ethic”, “an excellent draftsman with a good eye for detail”, “he has the ability to grasp the complex detail of the case”, “A good strategist who comes up with good ideas to drive things forward. He is very bright, accessible and user-friendly”, “So courteous, great judgement and an excellent advocate.”

Edward was a scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, where he obtained one of the best first class degrees in his year in Modern History. He achieved the highest mark in his year on both the CPE law conversion course and the Bar Vocational Course. He is a Queen Mother Scholar of the Middle Temple and was awarded the Eldon Law Scholarship by Oxford University.

Publications

- [Re Merchant Navy Ratings Pension Fund](#) – some things to think about. *Lexis Nexis*, 2015



Pensions

Edward is recommended as a pensions junior in *Chambers & Partners* and *The Legal 500*.

He has extensive experience of pensions litigation and advisory work, having appeared in a number of high-profile recent cases such as *IBM* (both the rectification and good faith cases), *Nortel*, *Merchant Navy Ratings and Box Clever*. He regularly deals with issues as to scheme funding, S75 debts, equalisation, rectification, trustee and employer duties, construction, insolvency, regulatory powers, PPF entry and professional liability, amongst other matters.

Edward has been involved in a number of the leading cases on The Pensions Regulator proceedings such as the Bonas Group Pension Scheme. He has particular experience of cases concerning the regulator's "moral hazard" powers, including international cases involving claims or potential claims overseas arising under those powers.

His pensions practice also comprises pensions-related professional negligence claims.

Recent cases of note include:

- *IBM v Dalgleish* – acting for the trustee in a claim to establish whether the employer had acted in good faith.
- *Bloom v Pensions Regulator* – acting for the trustee in an application to the Companies Court to determine the order of priority of a contribution notice upon insolvency.
- *Re Merchant Navy Ratings* (pending proceedings) – acting for the trustee in proceedings concerning the contribution rules of an industry-wide scheme.
- *Box Clever* – acting for the targets in a claim by The Pensions Regulator for an FSD.
- *IBM v IBM Pensions Trust* – acting for the claimant in a claim to rectify six deeds going back to 1983.
- *Stena v MNRPF* – acting for the trustee in proceedings to determine the scope of the power of amendment.
- *Bonas Group Pension Scheme* – proceedings concerning the first contribution notice issued by the Pensions Regulator.
- *Nortel* (Canadian/US/UK proceedings) – acting for the trustee and the PPF in proceedings for an FSD and other claims.
- *Hugh Mackay Retirement Benefits Scheme* – application by The Pensions Regulator for the appointment of an independent trustee.