



## Gilead Cooper QC

Call: 1983

QC: 2006

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### Clerks' Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- BA in English, Christ Church, Oxford
- Dip. Law, The City University
- He is an CEDR Accredited Mediator and has been called to the Bar of the BVI.

*“The Rolls-Royce silk of the Chancery Bar. He is a master strategist and a star advocate.”*

The Legal 500 2020

### Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- PAIAM (Professional Advisers to the International Art Market)
- ACTAPS
- LCIA
- [CAfA](#)
- [Fellow, The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel \(ACTEC\)](#)

### Publications

- Contributor to Trusts, Artistic Estates and Collections (2019), ed. Marta Cenini, ([reviewed in Trusts & Trustees, Volume 26, Issue 4, May 2020, Pages 377-379](#))
- [The adoption issue: the illegitimate logic of Hand v George](#), Trusts & Trustees (2020)
- [Open \(in\)justice: privacy, open justice and human rights](#), Trusts & Trustees (2019)

### Practice Overview

Described in Chambers & Partners as *"an unsurpassed advocate at the Chancery Bar"*, Gilead has appeared in many high-profile cases in recent years, both in the UK and abroad. He receives praise for *"his ability 'to pull rabbits out of hats' in fiendishly difficult cases"* (HNW Guide), and is consistently recommended in the major legal directories. The recent Chambers & Partners 2020 edition ranks him in Band 1 for both Traditional Chancery and Trusts and in Band 2 for Offshore and Art and Cultural Property. *"He has a great strategic mind", "a brilliant advocate and a thorough practitioner. He is very hands-on and responsive". "He is exceptionally bright. He is regularly instructed on the more complex claims in this area."* In The Legal 500 2020 edition he is ranked Tier 1 for Offshore work and describes him as *"an incredibly quick mind with great intellectual powers, he is an excellent courtroom advocate"*. He *"is the Rolls-Royce silk of the Chancery Bar. He is a master strategist and a star advocate"*. He is also featured in Legal Week's Private Client Global Elite and the CityWealth LeadersList *"Top 10 Trust Litigation Barristers"* list. He was described by Who's Who Legal 2018 as *"one of the top silks in our research this year"*, and is one of five silks in the *"Most Highly Regarded"* category. Gilead was the winner of the Antiquities Law Barrister of the Year Award in the Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards 2016.

Gilead's practice has a strong international element. He has appeared in the courts of Hong Kong, the BVI, Bermuda, Cayman and Nevis, and has been involved in litigation in Jersey, Guernsey and Gibraltar. Last year he provided expert advice in relation to the Panama Papers in Imran Khan's action against Nawaz Sharif in the Pakistan Supreme Court which led to Sharif being removed as prime minister.

Gilead specialises in complex, high-value disputes, often involving allegations of fraud, breaches of trust and fiduciary duties, and professional negligence. He also has "a notable specialism in matters involving art and antiquities" (Chambers & Partners). He has been involved in a number of restitution claims before the Spoliation Panel, and often advises and represents major national museums and galleries. He acted for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in a dispute over some human remains that formed part of the collection of the Natural History Museum.

Gilead recently represented the trustees in In the Estate of the Eighth Earl of Bathurst, in which the Dowager Countess, as life tenant of a trust of family heirlooms, unsuccessfully claimed the right to enjoy the chattels in specie. He also acted for the Earl of Cardigan in his dispute with the trustees of the Savernake Estate: in one action, which went to the Court of Appeal, the trustees sought the court's sanction for a sale of the trust's prize asset, Tottenham House; in a separate action, the Earl of Cardigan succeeded in removing one of the trustees, and obtained repayment of unauthorised remuneration as well as compensation for breach of trust.



## Publications continued

- [Trusts and Modern Wealth Management book review](#), *Trusts & Trustees* (2019)
- "Cultural Divisions: the rivalry between family and chancery", *Trusts & Trustees* (2014) Vol 20, Issue 8, 815
- "Lost in translation: community property and the common law trust", *Trusts & Trustees* (2013)
- Case Note: Re The St Andrew's (Cheam) Lawn Tennis Club Trust, *Trusts & Trustees* (2012) Vol 18, Issue 8, 816.
- Contributor to Palmer on Bailment
- Contributor to Tolley's Pensions Law
- "How (not) to get rich on the Internet"; (1999) NLJ
- "Negligent Valuation: Damages"; (1995) Int. I.L.R.
- "Negligence – the Surveyor and the Mortgagee"; (1991) E.G.

## Practice Overview continued

In *Slutsker v Haron*, Gilead successfully resisted the claim by Vladimir Slutsker, a former Russian Senator, to go behind the terms of a Cayman trust that had been set up by his former wife to hold (via an English company) their matrimonial home, a valuable house in The Boltons. The case involved a conflict between Russian matrimonial law and UK domestic law. Another of Gilead's cases, *Sharp v Adam*, is one of the leading modern authorities on testamentary capacity. Gilead's experience also includes appearances in the Court of Protection.

Before coming to the Bar, Gilead enjoyed a brief career in publishing, editing books on photography, popular science and astronomy. He also spent a couple of years teaching in pre-revolutionary Iran. After completing his pupillage, he worked in the Litigation Department of Freshfields before taking up a tenancy at 7 New Square. He joined Wilberforce Chambers in December 2015.

## Art and Cultural Property

Gilead has been involved in Art & Cultural Property cases since 2006, when he led Professor Norman Palmer QC in a claim by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for the return of a collection of human remains held by the Natural History Museum. He is now regularly instructed by museums and auction houses in claims for restitution or disputes over title, and art-related cases have become an important part of his practice. He has represented parties before the Spoliation Panel, and has given expert evidence in art-related cases in the US. Most recently, he was instructed to act as sole arbitrator (under LCIA Rules) in a claim by a wealthy collector to rescind the purchase of two Old Master paintings that had been bought from a major London gallery.

Gilead is recognised as one of three Leading Silks specialising in Art & Cultural Property in the Legal 500 2019 ("***an experienced advocate with real knowledge of the art market and its issues***") and is featured in Band 2 in Chambers HNW 2019 ("***He is steeped in knowledge of trusts and bailments as they relate to art matters***"). He is the author of a chapter on the limitation of actions in *Palmer on Bailment*, and recently contributed a chapter to *Trusts, Artistic Estates and Collections* (2019) entitled "Inherited Guilt and Inherited Grievance: Prescription, Limitation and Ownership of the Past" (*Trusts & Trustees review* can be read [here](#)).

### Cases include:

- *Re Claim for Beaching a Boat* [2014]. Claim before the Spoliation Panel for the restitution of a painting.
- *Schoyen v UCL*. A case concerning disputed antiquities.
- *Trustees of the Natural History Museum v Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre*. A dispute about a collection of human remains in the custody of the Natural History Museum.

Gilead is a member of the LCIA, and has recently been listed as an arbitrator and mediator in Art Law cases by the [Court of Arbitration for Art](#) (CAfA).