



Gilead Cooper QC

Call: 1983

QC: 2006

gcooper@wilberforce.co.uk

Clerks' Details

+44 (0)20 7306 0102

practicemanagers@wilberforce.co.uk

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.

“A piercing intellect and a highly imaginative approach to the issues thrown up in trusts disputes make Gilead one of the top ranking, go to barristers in this area. It has always been a very great pleasure working with him.”

The Legal 500 2022

Memberships

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

Publications

- [Virtual property: trusts of cryptocurrencies and other digital assets](#), Trusts & Trustees (2021)
- [The British Museums: book review](#), Trusts & Trustees (2021)

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 2021 edition ranks him in Band 1 for both Traditional Chancery and Trusts and in Band 2 for Offshore and Art and Cultural Property. The guide describes him as *"an experienced and hard-hitting trial lawyer"*. *"He clearly relishes getting his teeth into cases."* He has *"an incredible mind"*, *"he knows his stuff inside and out, and gets it right first time around"*. Further, *"he is excellent with clients"* and *"can handle very complicated cases involving a lot of different jurisdictions with real ease"*. In The Legal 500 2021 edition he is ranked Tier 1 for Offshore work and is described as having *"an incredibly quick mind, great intellectual powers, and at the same time a wonderful capacity for creative, strategic thinking"*. *"An excellent courtroom advocate"* and *"a powerful intellect"*. He is also featured in Legal Week's Private Client Global Elite and the CityWealth LeadersList *"Top 10 Trust Litigation Barristers"* list. He has been described in Who's Who Legal 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.



Publications continued

- 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)
- [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

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.

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.

Charities

- *Re St Andrew's (Cheam) Lawn Tennis Club Trust* [2012] 3 All ER 746. Gift of land intended to provide tennis club for members of Presbyterian Church; trust deed held void for perpetuity; land held on resulting trust for estate of the settlor.
- *Re Horley Football Club* [2006] WTLR 1817. Validity of gift to unincorporated association. Construction of rules of amateur football club.