



Joanne Wicks QC

Call: 1990

QC: 2010

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- First Class degree in Jurisprudence and Gibbs Prize in Law, Oxford University
- Bachelor of Civil Law degree, Oxford University
- Kennedy and Hardwicke Scholar of Lincoln's Inn

“Has a fine reputation as a top real estate QC”

Chambers & Partners 2019

Memberships

- Property Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Women in Property
- Bar Pro Bono Unit panel
- ARBRIX

Practice Overview

Joanne has a broad commercial chancery practice with an emphasis on property litigation and related professional negligence. She was listed as one of The Lawyer's Hot 100 in 2020, which recognises 100 "lawyers of the moment who are shaping the legal profession right now". Furthermore, she was the winner of **Real Estate Silk of the Year** at both The Legal 500 UK Awards 2020 and the Chambers Bar Awards 2019, and is ranked as a Band 1 property silk in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500. The 2020 edition of Chambers & Partners says *"her service is exceptional and the quality of her advice always hits the spot"* and also that she is *"very good with clients, always concise and commercial, and has an incisive mind"*. The same guide also describes her as *"extremely helpful and proactive in complicated matters"*. Meanwhile, the 2020 edition of The Legal 500 notes that *"she has dealt with the most high-profile property disputes"* and is *"very focused and detail-orientated"*. She is recommended as a real estate *"global leader"* and *"national leader"* in Who's Who Legal 2019 and other advocates describe her as *"a court opponent I would treat with the utmost caution and respect"*. Joanne was named The Times' 'Lawyer of the Week' in March 2019 for her work on the case of *Canary Wharf (BP4) T1 Ltd v European Medicines Agency*.

In 2019, Joanne was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge.

Joanne's strength is the ability to combine intellectual rigour with a good understanding of her clients' commercial interests and a determination to find the best way to serve them. She is recognised for the quality of her courtroom skills and her ability to deliver advice on the most complex of problems in a clear and client-friendly manner.

As well as appearing in courts and tribunals at every level, Joanne has very considerable experience of arbitrations and expert determinations, having acted in a substantial number of cases resolved by these means in recent years. She accepts instructions to act as an arbitrator or an independent expert in her specialist practice areas and also advises non-lawyer arbitrators and independent experts, as well as routinely acting as an advocate in arbitration or expert determination proceedings. Joanne is also an accredited mediator.



Commercial

Almost all of Joanne's work is, in the broadest sense, commercial, involving business clients engaged in resolving disputes about commercial issues. The focus is always on achieving corporate goals, whether through litigation, alternative dispute resolution or transactional advice.

Joanne advises on and acts for clients in relation to litigation about commercial contracts, joint ventures and other business structures and issues arising out of the acquisition or disposal of corporate interests. Her chancery expertise and property specialism enable her to advise on banking and financial transactions and act in related disputes, particularly those concerning property finance, mortgages and guarantees.

Joanne's business and commercial practice includes:

- Asset tracing
- Banking and finance
- Civil fraud
- Commercial arbitration
- Joint venture and partnership disputes

Recent/notable cases include:

- Acting for Canary Wharf Group in successfully resisting the claim by the European Medicines Agency that the Agency's 25-year lease of premises in Canary Wharf will be frustrated when the UK leaves the EU (*Canary Wharf (BP4) T1 Ltd v European Medicines Agency* [2019] EWHC 335 (Ch)).
- A claim for breach of warranty in respect of a sale of mortgage assets as part of a securitisation (*Lehman Commercial Mortgage Conduit Ltd v Northern Rock (Asset Management) Plc*).
- Acting in a series of adjudications between a PFI contractor and its subcontractor in relation to disrepair claims totalling more than £10m in respect of a portfolio of 300+ properties occupied by government departments.
- Advising a company on its potential liability to a prospective joint venture partner once the relationship soured.
- Advising on the effect on creditors of conversions of limited companies to industrial and provident societies/co-operative and community benefit societies and transfers of engagements between those entities.