



Joanne Wicks QC

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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 the winner of Real Estate Silk of the Year at 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*.

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.



Professional Liability

A significant proportion of Joanne's work concerns allegations of professional liability and she acts for claimants, defendants and their insurers. She is ranked as a Leading Silk for professional negligence by The Legal 500 which says "*she is very commercial as well as being technically excellent, and clients like her approachable style*". Joanne's expertise in property law and litigation give her a sound understanding, and practical experience of, the issues which underlie the claim of liability. She is often asked to advise, not only on the claim against the professional, but also on how the problems which gave rise to the claim may be resolved or the losses mitigated. She deals with insurance coverage issues and gives guidance on professional ethics and conflicts of interest.

Her professional liability practice includes claims against:

- Lawyers (barristers, solicitors)
- Property professionals (surveyors, valuers, managing agents and other consultants).

Recent/notable cases include:

- Advising a commercial tenant which lost the benefit of a valuable option to purchase the freehold of its property by virtue of its solicitors' failure to register the option, including as to whether it should pursue litigation against the landlord to seek to reinstate the option.
- Acting for solicitors alleged to be personally liable to an opposing party on a remortgage transaction by virtue of the answers given to pre-contract inquiries, including on hard-fought interlocutory applications (*Mortgage Agency Services Number One Ltd v Cripps Harries Hall LLP* [2016] EWHC 387 (Ch)).
- Advising individuals whose professional negligence action against former solicitors was itself struck out by reason of the negligence of the solicitors representing them in that action.
- Acting for a mortgage lender on a surveyor's liability claim involving a portfolio of over 40 properties and including complex contributory negligence allegations.
- Advising on the professional liability of solicitors in relation to a defective leasehold enfranchisement process.
- Acting for the Crown Estate in relation to a claim of negligence against managing agents arising out of a serious fire in a building on Haymarket.