



Jonathan Chew

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- BCL, Brasenose College, Oxford (Distinction) (2008-9)(Restitution, Conflicts of Laws, Advanced Property and Trusts papers)
- MA (Law), Emmanuel College, Cambridge (2004-8)(University prizes awarded for top mark in year in Land Law and Public International Law (both 2006))
- Maitrise en Droit, mention assez bien, Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas (2006-8)(French equivalent of a Master's degree in law)
- Queen Mother Scholarship (Middle Temple) and Outstanding BVC

Memberships

- COMBAR
- Chancery Bar Association
- Registered Advocate of the DIFC Courts

Publications

- ['Rules of the DIFC Courts'](#) (2016) *Wilberforce Chambers, 4th edition*
- ['Phillips v Francis'](#) (2015) *Wilberforce Property Update (Issue 1)* May 2015
- [Rules of The DIFC Courts 2014](#) (2014) *Wilberforce Chambers, 3rd Edition*
- 'What Price Trespass' (2013) *Conveyancer* 439

Practice Overview

Jonathan is a property, pensions and commercial chancery barrister. He has a specialist professional negligence practice on matters arising from his core work.

He has been repeatedly recommended in the directories:

"He is excellent at rolling up his sleeves and getting stuck in, he really knows his stuff and he inspires confidence in both solicitors and clients." (Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2018)

"His opinions and written submissions were excellent" (Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2017)

"He's very hard-working, bright and a really good team player." (Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2017)

Jonathan is as comfortable acting as sole counsel as being led as part of a wider team. He has particular experience of substantial High Court trials. As sole counsel he has appeared in the Court of Appeal, regularly appears in the High Court (Chancery Division, QBD, Comm Court and TCC), and before various tribunals including the FTT, UT or Pensions Regulator DP, often against silks or senior juniors. He is regularly instructed to appear before the DIFC Courts in Dubai, and acts in mediations and arbitrations.

Current ongoing matters include:

- A pending appeal before the Court of Appeal as sole counsel on questions of damages for disrepair and the landlord and tenant consultation regime.
- A major pensions dispute, led by Michael Tennet QC and Edward Sawyer, on rectification, RPI/CPI, and the validity of amendments.
- Acting for the victims of a major property investment fraud relating to development land in central London.

Recent reported cases include:

- *Tavira Securities v Point Ventures* FCZO [2017] CFI 26: acting as sole counsel against a silk in a jurisdiction challenge in the DIFC in litigation relating to an alleged share transaction.
- *Knapper v Francis* [2017] L&TR 20, appearing as sole counsel before the Upper Tribunal on the operation of on-account demands under the terms of the lease and the 1985 Act consultation regime.
- *Matchmove v Dowding* [2017] 1 WLR 749, led by Jonathan Seidler QC on a leading recent case relating to constructive trusts.



- **MASNOL v Cripps Harries Hall** [2016] EWHC 2483 (Ch), led by Jonathan Seitler QC successfully defending two solicitors accused of fraud in a major Chancery Division trial.
- **Pollock v Reed** [2016] Pens LR 129, led by Robert Ham QC, acting for the employer on an attempted scheme restructuring through a bulk transfer without member consent.

Property

Jonathan's practice spans the range of property work: in substance, from City skyscrapers to Cornwall holiday parks; in type from landlord and tenant through registration and mortgage issues to questions of titles and easements; and from tribunals from the Court of Appeal to the FTT. He also has experience of obtaining injunctions against squatters and protestors.

In addition to his litigation work, he often advises on matters which may become contentious, such as the interpretation of covenants, the scope of easements, or the extent of rights of light.

He often acts for major institutional clients, whether major London estates or substantial tenant companies (such as high-street supermarkets, pub chains, or fast food chains).

His ongoing work includes:

- A pending appeal before the Court of Appeal relating to consultation under the 1985 Act regime, making good, and the proper approach to damages. Jonathan succeeded as sole counsel on an 11-day trial at first instance.
- Acting for investors victims of a property fraud in relation to a major development site in central London.
- Acting for the supermarket tenant on an ongoing dispute in relation to one of its premises, having successfully agreed an interim solution having applied for an interim injunction.

Reported cases include:

- **Knapper v Francis** [2017] L&TR 20, appearing as sole counsel before the Upper Tribunal on the operation of on-account demands under terms of lease and 1985 Act. This case gave landlords certainty that an on-account demand would not subsequently be rendered unrecoverable by later events.
- **Matchmove v Dowding** [2017] 1 WLR 749, led by Jonathan Seitler QC, on a leading recent case relating to the continuing questions around constructive trusts, informal agreements to sell, and section 2 of the 1989 Act.
- **Wensley v Persons Unknown** [2017] EWHC 872 (Ch): acting for Cuadrilla and associated farmers on injunction proceedings relating to protests against fracking.
- **MASNOL v Cripps Harries Hall** [2016] EWHC 2483 (Ch), led by Jonathan Seitler QC successfully defending two conveyancing solicitors accused of fraud arising out of lending made months before the credit crisis hit.
- **Phillips v Francis** [2015] 1 WLR 741, led by Jonathan Seitler QC for the successful appellant on the leading case on the meaning of 'works' for landlord and tenant consultation purposes under the 1985 Act.
- **Century Projects v Almacantar** [2014] EWHC 394 (Ch), led Jonathan Seitler QC, on a number of related disputes over the restaurant at the top of the Centre Point Tower on Oxford Street in the course of its proposed redevelopment. Jonathan and Jonathan successfully resisted an interim injunction.

Pensions

Jonathan is listed as an "**up and coming**" junior in Chambers and Partners for his pensions work.

He has acted for and advised a range of institutional and pensions professional clients. He has been involved in disputes affecting major schemes such as Nortel and the Sea Containers 1983 schemes. His pensions work includes not only litigation but also advisory work on transactional and regulatory matters. Jonathan's work spans the full range of pensions issues covering both the trusts aspects (including RPI/CPI and equalisation issues) and regulatory matters including section 75 debts and pensions liberation.

As well as acting for and against the Pensions Regulator, Jonathan has acted as clerk to the Pensions Regulator's Determination Panel.



Pensions continued

Jonathan's ongoing and recent contentious work includes:

- Acting for the trustee on a dispute relating to the ability of an employer to set pension increase levels, leading to disputes over rectification, RPI/CPI, and the validity of amendments, led by Michael Tennet QC and Edward Sawyer.
- Acting as clerk to the DP on a recent regulatory request arising out of alleged pensions liberation and misselling.
- **Re London Quantum Retirement Benefit Scheme** (Determinations Panel, 8 Feb 2016). Acting as sole counsel (against Jonathan Evans QC and Fenner Moeran QC), for the Original Trustee who had been removed by the Regulator facing allegations of misconduct, breach of trust, and pensions liberation.
- **Pollock v Reed** [2016] Pens LR 129. Led by Robert Ham QC in a High Court trial acting for the employer in a proposed scheme restructuring, raising issues of the interpretation of the Preservation of Benefit Regs, the role of the PPF, and non-consensual member transfers.
- Acting with Michael Furness QC for the trustee on a claim to recover a £5m section 75 debt from a former participating employer. The claim, raising issues of trustee decision-making and consultation, settled shortly before trial in 2015.
- Advising in relation to alleged overpayments to members.

Jonathan's ongoing and recent advisory work includes:

- Advising a successor scheme employer on its liabilities and duties under an existing scheme in the context of a substantial deficit.
- Advising a major product provider on the various rights and duties arising from its obligations under the schemes it offers, including FSMA issues.
- Advising a major insurer on how to structure its internal procedures to avoid potential unwitting participation in pension liberation.
- Advising an employer on a proposed restructuring and covenant issues arising.
- Advising an American scheme employer on scheme amendments and statutory and regulatory best practice in relation to member-nominated trustees.

Commercial

Jonathan has a specialised commercial chancery practice with a particular emphasis on fraud and disputes relating to complex structures, particularly with an international element. This specialism is in addition to contractual interpretation, tortious and restitutionary claims that form part of his commercial work.

He has practical experience of advising and obtaining interim relief (freezing injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal and Bankers' Trust orders) and of succeeding in hard-fought multi-week trials as part of a wider counsel team.

Jonathan is regularly instructed in matters relating to Dubai, whether in Dubai, where he appears before the DIFC Courts, or in London on matters arising out of the Middle East.

Ongoing matters include:

- Acting for investors victims of a multi-million pound fraud arising out of a major property development in North London.
- Successfully obtaining interim relief in respect of victims of fraud in support of a potential claim against fraudsters or associated advisers.
- Acting for a guarantor against whom a multi-million pound claim has been made by an offshore investment vehicle.



Commercial continued

Recent reported matters include:

- **Tavira Securities v Point Ventures FCZO** [2017] CFI 26: acting as sole counsel against a silk in a jurisdiction challenge in the DIFC in litigation relating to an alleged share transaction.
- **Matchmove v Dowding** [2017] 1 WLR 749: led by Jonathan Seidler QC, acting on an appeal relating to constructive trusts.
- **MASNOL v Cripps Harries Hall** [2016] EWHC 2483 (Ch): led by Jonathan Seidler QC, successfully defending two solicitors accused of fraud. After a hard-fought multi-week trial, the individuals involved were wholly exonerated and indemnity costs obtained.
- **Caliendo v Mishcon de Reya** [2016] EWHC 150 (Ch): led by Ian Croxford QC and Clare Stanley QC, successfully defending a firm of solicitors accused of breach of fiduciary duty and negligence arising out of the sale of QPR football club.
- **DAMAC Park Towers Company v Ward** (14 December 2015) CA 006/2015: Acting for the DAMAC Group in the DIFC Court of Appeal on a successful appeal in which the Chief Justice confirmed the contractual validity of property reservation agreements and a commercial approach to the construction of the related credit agreements
- **Dany Lions v Bristol Cars** [2014] 2 All ER (Comm) 403: a successful High Court trial as sole counsel arguing that a contractual clause was too vague to be binding, alternatively that reasonable endeavours had been used.

Professional Negligence

Jonathan's professional negligence practice is ancillary to his core area. He has particular experience with solicitors' negligence claims (both transactional and litigation), as well as acting on claims involving surveyors, accountants, trustees and trust/scheme administrators.

Examples of Jonathan's professional liability work include:

- **MASNOL v Cripps Harries Hall** [2016] EWHC 2483 (Ch). Led by Jonathan Seidler QC, Jonathan successfully defended two lawyers accused of an £11 million conveyancing fraud arising out of buy-to-let lending in 2007. The individuals involved were fully exonerated of the dishonesty accusations against them.
- **Caliendo v Mishcon de Reya** [2016] EWHC 150 (Ch). One of the Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2015." Jonathan, led by Ian Croxford QC and Clare Stanley QC, successfully acted for the defendant firm in defeating a professional negligence claim brought arising out of the sale of QPR football club to Flavio Briatore and Bernie Ecclestone in 2007.
- Advising on potential claims against scheme administrators for failed equalisation.
- Acting with Joanna Smith QC on a FRC investigation into a major audit firm and certain employees of an AIM-listed company arising out of the business' collapse and restructuring.
- **Twintec v Volkerfitzpatrick** [2014] BLR 150: A construction professional negligence claim which was one of The Lawyer's "[Top 20 Cases of 2014](#)" where a tenant was claiming over £100m against its landlord, with contribution claims against contractors and subcontractors. Jonathan was led by Joanna Smith QC in the dispute relating to a wine warehouse in the South West and successfully obtained an interim injunction in that case restraining adjudication.