



## Jonathan Davey QC

Call: 2003

QC: 2016

jdavey@wilberforce.co.uk

*“Incredible eloquence,  
reassuring client manner  
and impressive breadth of  
expertise”*

### Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Property Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- Commercial Fraud Lawyer's Association
- Association of Pension Lawyers
- Bar Pro Bono Panel

### Publications

- [Butterworths Property Law Handbook](#), 10th Edition 2013

### Practice Overview

Jonathan was appointed QC in 2016.

He was shortlisted for "Chancery Junior of the Year" at the Chambers Bar Awards in 2015.

He was shortlisted for "Property Junior of the Year" at the Chambers Bar Awards in 2014.

Jonathan is a highly respected litigator with a broad commercial chancery practice encompassing areas including property, commercial, tax and trusts. Prior to taking silk, Jonathan served on the Attorney General's A Panel of Counsel to the Crown, the most senior of the 3 Crown Panels.

Jonathan has considerable experience, in particular, of large-scale and high-value litigation in cases which involve more than one field of law. He is regularly instructed in complex commercial and financial/tax litigation, for example the current high profile Icebreaker litigation referred to in the national press as *"Taxman vs Take That"*.

Jonathan is a highly persuasive advocate, with considerable experience both as a trial lawyer and as an appellate advocate. As well as appearing in the higher courts, Jonathan frequently appears across a range of tribunals including the Tax and Chancery Chamber of the Upper Tribunal.

Jonathan regularly appears in the legal directories (*Chambers & Partners*, *Chambers Global* and/or *The Legal 500*) as a leading practitioner in the following areas:

- Real estate
- Private Wealth
- Private client – tax
- Pension
- Private client – trusts and probate
- Charities
- Chancery: Traditional
- Pensions

### Clerks' Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- First Class Honours degree, Philosophy, University of Nottingham
- Distinction, International Relations MA, University of Nottingham
- MPhil, Downing College, Cambridge University
- CPE, City University, London
- Denning, Mansfield, Bowen and Hardwicke Scholarships, Lincoln's Inn
- Commercial experience in United Kingdom, Europe and United States prior to being called to the Bar
- Attorney General's Panel of Counsel to the Crown (B Panel)



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## Practice Overview continued

Comments that have been made of him in the directories include: "a key figure", "hugely respected", "extremely impressive", "phenomenally intelligent", "charming and effective", "user friendly", "a pleasure to work with", "a real team player", "practical", "an accomplished advocate", "incredibly eloquent", "an excellent draftsman", "reassuring client manner", "very calm", "impressive breadth of expertise", "in massive demand for good reason", and "handles complex litigation matters with aplomb".

## Property

Jonathan was appointed QC in 2016.

He was shortlisted for Chancery Junior of the year for the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2015, and Property Junior of the Year for the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2014.

Prior to taking silk, Jonathan served on the Attorney General's A Panel of Counsel to the Crown, the most senior of the 3 Crown Panels.

Jonathan is a highly experienced and respected property litigator. His practice extends across the full range of issues that arise in respect of both commercial and residential property, including complex financial disputes.

He is recommended as a leading property practitioner in Chambers & Partners where he is described as "extremely impressive", "phenomenally bright", "an accomplished advocate", "user-friendly" and "a pleasure to work with" in relation to complex and high value real estate litigation.).

He is the editor of Butterworths Property Law Handbook (with [Joanne Wicks QC](#) and [Ben Faulkner](#)).

Jonathan's clients range from individuals to corporate entities to government departments.

While acting in his capacity as a member of the Attorney General's A Panel of Counsel to the Crown, Jonathan has regulated acted for the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport and other departments in respect of complex property matters.

### Some representative cases include:

- *Project Blue Limited v HM Revenue and Customs* [2018] UKSC/2016/0137: Dispute before the Supreme Court regarding £1 billion sale of Chelsea Barracks by the Ministry of Defence. The case raises a number of important issues including that of the relationship between English mortgage law and Islamic finance principles. Judgment of the Supreme Court awaited.
- *Re real estate portfolio of leading UK University* [2017]: Multi-million pound dispute concerning the basis upon which a major UK University holds its real estate portfolio.
- *Nicholas v Secretary of State for Defence* [2015] EWCA Civ 53: Human rights / property test case concerning compatibility of landlord and tenant legislation in respect of Crown tenancies with European Convention on Human Rights. Jonathan acted successfully for the landlord in the Court of Appeal. The tenant's application for permission to appeal is currently before the Supreme Court.
- *Phillips v Francis* [2014] EWCA Civ 1395: Key landlord and tenant test case concerning the obligations of landlords to consult with tenants in respect of works of repair. Jonathan acted successfully for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in the Court of Appeal.
- *Camden Market Holdings Inc v IBRC* [2014]: Dispute concerning rights under complex mortgage arrangements in respect of assets worth £400m. Jonathan acted for the liquidators of the mortgagees (with Antony Zacaroli QC).
- *Century Projects Limited v Almacantar (Centre Point) Limited* [2014] EWHC 394 (Ch): High-value commercial property dispute between landlord and tenant in respect of iconic central London property, Centre Point Tower on New Oxford Street. Jonathan acted for the tenants (with Jonathan Gaunt QC). Injunction application went to the Court of Appeal.



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## Property continued

- *Secretary of State for Transport v Blake* [2013] EWHC 2495 (Ch); Human rights / property test case concerning compatibility of landlord and tenant legislation in respect of Crown tenancies with European Convention on Human Rights, and the proper construction of contractual notices. Jonathan acted successfully for the landlord.
- *Secretary of State for Justice v Topland Group and others* [2012]; £23m dispute involving alleged fraud in respect of a transaction involving substantial central London commercial premises. Jonathan acted for the Secretary of State for Justice (with Simon Browne-Wilkinson QC and Philip Brook-Smith QC).