



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 11th Edition \(2018\)](#)

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, property and financial/tax litigation, for example the high profile £1 billion *Ingenious* litigation.

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:

- Chancery - traditional
- Charities
- Pensions
- Real estate
- Private client - tax
- Private client - trusts and probate
- Private wealth
- Tax

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)



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".

Commercial

Jonathan is greatly experienced in the commercial sphere. This is based both on his commercial dispute practice at the Bar and his time in business in the UK, continental Europe and the USA prior to coming to the Bar.

Jonathan took silk in 2016, before which he was shortlisted for "Chancery Junior of the Year" at the Chambers Bar Awards 2015 on the basis of his exceptional commercial chancery work.

Jonathan's commercial practice is broad. This reflects his "**impressive breadth of his expertise**" (Chambers & Partners) and the fact that he is recommended in the legal directories across a range of fields (including real estate; private client / tax; private wealth). Jonathan's commercial practice embraces disputes involving partnerships, companies, joint venture agreements and high value property transactions. It also includes disputes involving rare artwork and other cultural items. Many of Jonathan's commercial and business cases involve complex financial and/or tax issues.

Some representative cases include:

- A number of high value arbitrations concerning complex contractual disputes between well-known UK business entities [2015-2016].
- *Ingenious and Others v HMRC* [2015]: £1bn dispute regarding proper commercial and tax analysis to apply in respect of partnerships involved in the film and games industries (with Malcolm Gammie QC).
- *Camden Market Holdings Inc v IBRC* [2014]: Dispute concerning rights under complex security arrangements in respect of assets worth £400m. Jonathan acted for the liquidators of the mortgagees (with Antony Zaccaroli QC).
- *Icebreaker and Others v HMRC* [2014] UKFTT 416 (TC): £400m dispute regarding proper commercial and tax treatment of limited liability partnerships involved in the creative industries. Huge press interest. Reported in The Times under the headlines "Taxman versus Take That" and "Take That, Barlow" (with Peter Blair QC).
- *Century Projects Limited v Almacantar (Centre Point) Limited* [2014] EWHC 394 (Ch): High value commercial property dispute in respect of rights relating to iconic central London property, Centre Point Tower on New Oxford Street. Jonathan acts for the tenants (with Jonathan Gaunt QC) against the freehold owners. Injunction application currently before Court of Appeal.
- *Secretary of State for Justice v Topland Group and others* [2012]: £23m commercial fraud dispute in respect of a transaction involving substantial central London business premises. Jonathan acted for the Secretary of State for Justice (with Simon Browne-Wilkinson QC and Philip Brook-Smith QC).
- Acting for the defendants in Cayman-based *Re Jahre* litigation involving claims for US\$250m alleged to belong to Norwegian shipping tycoon. Case described in The Independent as 'truly epic litigation' of "mind-numbing complexity" (with Camilla Bingham).
- *Re Mazarelli*: High value international dispute concerning rights of ownership in respect of allegedly stolen medieval Italian literature and artwork.