



## Joseph Steadman

Call: 2015

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### Clerks' Details

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## Practice Overview

Joseph has a diverse commercial chancery practice, spanning all of Chambers' practice areas. He is regularly instructed to appear as sole counsel in High Court and County Court litigation, as well as being instructed as part of a larger counsel team. His practice also often involves advisory work.

### Notable recent instructions include:

- a four-month secondment with the Pensions Regulator, gaining experience of a wide variety of pensions regulatory matters including funding, governance, investments and scams;
- (as part of a team of matrimonial and trusts counsel) a matrimonial finance dispute involving a multi-billion dollar offshore trust and company structure;
- acting on behalf of the freeholder of a large residential development in a dispute over rights to parking spaces said to arise by proprietary estoppel; and
- successfully resisting an application for permission to appeal against a refusal to grant summary judgment in a multi-million pound civil fraud case.

### Background

Joseph studied Law at Selwyn College, Cambridge, graduating in 2013 with a first class degree. He was awarded a university prize for the best result in the Equity Tripos, as well as numerous college scholarships and prizes.

Joseph then spent a year at The Queen's College, Oxford, completing the BCL (distinction) in 2014. He studied advanced property and trusts, commercial remedies and restitution, and also produced a dissertation entitled "Remedies against Recipients from Defaulting Trustees".

Upon completion of the BPTC (outstanding) at City University, London in 2015, Joseph was awarded the William Rose Memorial Prize for Excellence in Drafting. He also holds Lord Denning, Hardwicke, and Sunley Scholarships from Lincoln's Inn.

Before starting pupillage, Joseph spent several months working with a major litigation funder, where he was responsible for assessing applications and drafting funding agreements. He is familiar with various funding models and with the effective presentation of cases to investors. Joseph has also taught and examined undergraduate courses in property and trusts at Cambridge and UCL.

Joseph joined Chambers in 2016 upon the successful completion of his pupillage. His pupil supervisors were Rupert Reed QC, Jonathan Hilliard QC, Emily Campbell, Julian Greenhill and Andrew Mold.



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## Pensions

A substantial part of Joseph's practice consists of regulatory and non-regulatory pensions work.

In regulatory matters, Joseph acts both for the Regulator and for other Directly Affected Parties. Recent instructions include:

- appearing (as sole counsel) in the Upper Tribunal on behalf of the Regulator, in relation to the appointment of an independent trustee of a pension scheme; and
- acting (as part of a team of counsel) for the Sponsoring Employer in relation to a pension scheme's triennial valuation.

He has also been instructed to act as legal clerk to the Regulator's Determinations Panel.

Joseph's non-regulatory experience includes:

giving advice as to the benefits due under a pension scheme, which included advice as to Guaranteed Minimum Pension and the anti-franking legislation; and

- (as a pupil) assisting with advice on a variety of matters, including amendment of scheme rules, equalisation of benefits, incidence of the PPF levy, and professional liability of advisors.
- In the early part of 2017, Joseph spent several months on secondment with the Pensions Regulator. His work there included:
- assisting with the preparation of pleadings and evidence in a claim concerning a multi-million pound pensions liberation scam;
- advising on the regulation of employer-related investments and employer-related loans; and
- advising and drafting in connection with several cases before the Determinations Panel and the Upper Tribunal.

## Trusts, Tax, Probate & Estates

Joseph has a busy trusts and probate practice across a wide variety of contexts, including in the context of divorce proceedings.

Joseph's trusts experience includes acting in relation to both onshore and offshore trusts, often requiring an awareness of tax concerns. Recent experience includes:

- acting (as part of a team of matrimonial and trusts counsel) on behalf of the applicant wife in ancillary relief proceedings, seeking a share of a multi-billion dollar offshore trust and company structure;
- advising in relation to the validity and construction of will trusts, and on the exercise of powers by the trustees; and
- (as a pupil) assisting with advice concerning the appointment and removal of trustees, both onshore and offshore.

Joseph's recent probate and estates experience includes:

- advising in relation to the validity of various wills and codicils;
- drafting proceedings concerning the construction of a will and the ownership of joint bank accounts in relation to an estate in Singapore; and
- advising in relation to unexplained transfers made shortly before a testator's death to one of the beneficiaries of his will.



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## Property

Joseph has a busy and varied property practice. He is regularly instructed in litigation involving commercial or residential property, as well as providing advice in non-contentious matters.

Joseph enjoys working both on his own and as part of a team of counsel.

As part of a counsel team, Joseph's recent property experience includes:

- assisting Jonathan Seidler QC and Emily McKechnie on a claim for fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy to deceive arising out of the sale of a holiday park in Cornwall (*Francis v Knapper & ors* [2016] EWHC 3093 (QB)); and
- assisting Martin Hutchings QC in resisting an appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal in a dispute over land in Nevis.

As sole counsel, Joseph's recent property experience includes:

- acting on behalf of the freeholder of a large residential development in a dispute over rights to parking spaces, said to arise by proprietary estoppel;
- acting on behalf of a residential landlord in a claim against a tenant who vacated early, alleging that the property was unsafe;
- acting on behalf of the leaseholder of a penthouse apartment in a dispute over damage caused by water ingress;
- acting on behalf of the tenant of one of the largest abattoir premises in Europe, seeking relief from forfeiture in order to allow new finance to be raised;
- acting on behalf of the freeholder of a large residential development in an adverse possession claim arising out of a boundary dispute;
- acting in numerous possession claims, including against trespassers, tenants and mortgagors; and
- acting in a number of claims involving interim and final charging orders and orders for sale.

## Commercial

Joseph has a busy commercial practice, encompassing both contentious and advisory work.

His recent contentious experience includes:

- successfully resisting (unled against a specialist commercial silk) an application for permission to appeal against a refusal to grant summary judgment in a multi-million pound civil fraud case;
- acting in a claim for breach of contract against a high-street retailer, in relation to its failure to pay subscription fees for a business intelligence software package;
- acting in several claims seeking commission on behalf of agents and introducers;
- acting for the operator of an online spread-betting platform in relation to alleged abusive trading strategies employed by one of its clients; and
- appearing in numerous applications under the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Companies Act 2006, including in relation to winding up and bankruptcy petitions.

His recent advisory experience includes:

- advising the lead claimant in a large financial services class action on the terms of a power of attorney;
- advising an isotonic sports drink manufacturer on the terms of international distribution agreements; and
- advising a leading provider of marine products as to whether its ordering processes successfully incorporated its standard terms.