



## Michael Furness QC

Call: 1982

QC: 2000

### Clerks Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- First Class degree in Law from Cambridge
- Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford

### Memberships

- Association of Pension Lawyers
- Chancery Bar Association
- Revenue Bar Association

*“He is highly analytical and gives a clear steer”*

Chambers & Partners 2016

## Practice Overview

Michael's practice has three main strands:

- Contentious trust litigation
- Advice and litigation concerning occupational pension schemes
- Tax litigation

He also undertakes professional liability litigation in areas related to the three main areas of his practice.

Michael has wide litigation experience, at all levels and in a variety of jurisdictions.

In this jurisdiction he has appeared several times in the House of Lords and in the Supreme Court (in the revenue case of *DCC Ltd v HMRC*). His appearances in the House of Lords include the leading tax cases of *Ingram*, *McNiven v Westmoreland Investments and Arctic Systems*, and the important pensions case of *National Grid v Mayes*.

Overseas, he has a substantial contentious and non-contentious trust practice mainly in Bermuda, and involving large family trusts. He also appears regularly in the courts of Hong Kong, including three appearances in the Court of Final Appeal.

The recent 2016 edition of Chambers & Partners describes him as **"an extremely good performer on all levels"**. Handles occupational pensions work and trusts and tax litigation to a very high standard. He regularly appears in offshore jurisdictions. **"He is a good choice for highly technical matters, particularly those involving pensions tax."** **"He is highly analytical, he gives a clear steer and he gets stuck in."**

He is an experienced litigator, who has a strong focus on work relating to both onshore and offshore trusts and is well equipped to deal with matters concerning clients from overseas. **"He is extremely good. He is a core chancery practitioner who has very great knowledge of private client and inheritance tax law."** Chambers & Partners, 2016



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## Professional Liability

A substantial part of Michael's practice involves professional liability litigation, mainly in the areas of occupational pension schemes and tax, making and defending claims against accountants, lawyers, actuaries, tax advisers and benefit consultants.

### Recent UK cases include:

- Appearing for the successful appellant in *Barker v Baxendale Walker* (CA) [2017] – an important case on the duty to warn on risk.
- Representing a firm of actuaries accused of giving negligent advice regarding sex equalisation in a pension scheme.
- Representing a firm of solicitors sued for failing to advise pension scheme trustees of the unlawfulness of their investment strategy.
- Representing a pension scheme trustee suing a previous trustee for damages arising out of negligent scheme administration.
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