



Robert Ham QC

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QC: 1994

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- BCL, BA (Oxon)
- Former Deputy High Court Judge

“A very clever and creative barrister with exceptionally deep knowledge, [he] offers superbly pragmatic advice every time”

Chambers & Partners, 2021

Memberships

- Association of Pension Lawyers
- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- STEP

Publications

- Thy will be done: construction and rectification of wills in the Supreme Court (2014) *Trusts & Trustees* 20 (9): 988-970

Practice Overview

Robert has a litigation and advisory practice, largely related to trust law. It covers not only traditional private client work, and associated tax law, but also pension schemes together with professional negligence in those fields.

He enjoys devising complex transactions and drafting the documents to give effect to them, as well as sorting out the legal effect of complex transactions for which others were responsible.

Robert Ham has been ranked as a leading silk in the areas for Pensions, Trusts and Traditional Chancery in Chambers & Partners for many years. He is described as *“incredibly charming, extremely receptive, relaxed and easy to work with”*. He combines this amiability with a skill for providing *“clear, concise advice”* that brings him instruction after instruction. *“able to refine issues in a commercial way”*, he creates *“a very reassuring atmosphere for the client and gets to the heart of the matter in a non-technical way”*.

The Chambers & Partners 2021 edition describes Robert as a *“top-notch trusts silk”*, *“fantastically knowledgeable and provides very clear and concrete advice on trust and other matters.”* and *“a very clever and creative barrister with exceptionally deep knowledge, [he] offers superbly pragmatic advice every time”* The Legal 500 2021 edition hails him as *“absolutely wonderful - user-friendly, always keen to provide a helpful opinion wherever possible, creative, and willing to take a position and stick to it”* The previous Chambers & Partners 2020 edition describes Robert as *“a leading authority for years; he is very forceful and persuasive without overstepping the mark”*. *“He has a great aura and presence about him whatever he does”*. The Legal 500 2020 edition hails him as *“an intellectual giant, who always finds a pragmatic solution and is brilliant with clients”*. He *“has a superb mind and provides wonderfully clear advice”*.

Chambers & Partners, 2021 (Trusts): Robert offers significant expertise in trusts law as part of his broad private client law practice. He handles both contentious and non-contentious mandates in the UK and abroad. Ham is particularly adept dealing with offshore disputes for wealthy families and trust companies. *“a very clever and creative barrister with exceptionally deep knowledge,”* he *“offers superbly pragmatic advice every time.”*

Chambers & Partners, 2021 (Pensions): An experienced silk with a very strong reputation in the field of chancery and associated trusts work, both at home and overseas. He is frequently sought out to provide counsel on complex pension scheme matters. He also offers expertise in associated professional negligence issues. *“he doesn't skirt around issues and cuts through the information easily.”*



Trust, Tax, Probate and Estates

Robert Ham is experienced in all areas of trusts and private client law, both contentious and non-contentious. In England a judge has called him a "*leading expert in the law of trusts*".

In 2013 he appeared in both private client cases heard by the UK Supreme Court: *Futter v Futter*, joined with and reported as *Pitt v Holt* [2013] 2 AC 108, about the rule in *Re Hastings-Bass*, and *Marley v Rawlings* [2014] 2 WLR 213, the first probate case to go to the highest court in England since 1958, about the correct approach to the construction of wills and rectification.

He has been described as "*a heavyweight figure in international trusts litigation*" and has appeared in trust cases all over the world, from Borneo to the BVI. He is a bencher of the Middle Temple and a deputy high court judge.