

Benjamin Wood

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He thinks around a situation beautifully and comes up with well-crafted arguments and strategies.

- Legal 500

Benjamin Wood specialises in commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on cases with a financial or fraud angle, especially those in the Chancery or professional liability fields.

Ben is rated in Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 for his Professional Liability work. Described by recent editions as “a fearsome advocate, with a keen intellect”, “he is extremely intelligent and very easy to deal with. He is very quick in grasping the issues, and provides commercial advice”, “an incredibly safe pair of hands. Obviously hot on the law, but he sees it through the commercial prism”; “extremely sound on the law, brilliant on his feet in court and fantastically commercial”, “excellent – he provides a friendly service and is tenacious in court” and “a really good sounding board who provides very pragmatic advice”; “he thinks around a situation beautifully and comes up with well-crafted arguments and strategies”. In past years, he was noted as “brilliant in cross-examination” with “a real depth of knowledge in the area, which adds real value” and “very bright and user friendly, with an ability to get to grips with the key issues quickly”.

Ben has been appointed as a Deputy District Judge with a Business and Property authorisation. He accepts instructions to act as an expert or arbitrator and has particular experience of determining disputes between insurers and policyholders regarding the conduct of a defence or coverage issues.

Ben also has experience of foreign jurisdictions and has acted as part of the offshore team.

Before coming to the Bar, Ben worked at Procter & Gamble and then joined NM Rothschild & Sons, where he worked as a corporate finance adviser. Whilst at Rothschild in the European Mergers and Acquisitions team, Ben was involved in numerous transactions, notably the £2bn Marks & Spencer restructuring and European store disposals and the ECJ determination of the Competition Commissioner’s prohibition of the takeover of Sidel by Tetra Laval.

Outside Chambers, Ben enjoys diving, skiing and sailing - at least when his (self-inflicted) dodgy knee permits.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a **Privacy Policy** for Benjamin Wood.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation



Commercial advisory work and advocacy comprise the majority of Ben's practice.

Ben has acted in a wide range of commercial disputes, including those arising from finance agreements, partnerships, tax schemes and SPAs, together with a variety of other contractual claims. They have covered numerous sectors, including banking and financial services, retail, consumer goods, manufacturing and professional services.

With a background in the commercial and financial sectors, including three years as a corporate financier at NM Rothschild & Sons, Ben is particularly sensitive to the issues arising out of commercial or corporate transactions. He aims to give practical and strategic advice, albeit with a keen eye on the legal realities of the case.

Ben's cases involve a variety of commercial legal issues, including contractual matters, commercial fraud, interim relief, shareholder and partnership disputes, allegations of wrongdoing and negligence, breach of directors' duties and breach of trust.

With his judicial experience, Ben has been instructed to act as an adjudicator or provide expert determinations in commercial and insurance matters. He is often instructed to represent clients at mediation and to advise on litigation strategy. Both at trial and beforehand, Ben is particularly adept at identifying and capitalising upon vulnerabilities in the other party's case.

In addition to his work in the UK, Ben has also worked as part of an offshore team and is very happy to act either as the advocate or as support to the local expert team.

Cases have included:

- In relation to Covid-19, a dispute arising out of the cancellation of a large public event, including allegations of contractual frustration.
- Junior counsel in multi-party insurance dispute arising out of the Madoff fraud.
- Junior counsel in multi-party dispute arising out of Far East metals warehousing and finance fraud.
- Junior to Nicholas Davidson QC in *Newcastle International Airport Ltd v. Eversheds* [2014] 1 WLR 3073, at first instance and in the Court of Appeal. The case raises questions of authority in relation to an executive negotiating his own service contract and acting as agent of the employer (in this case, the airport) at the same time.
- Numerous claims arising out of SPA, tax, trading and other warranties and alleged non-disclosure.
- Instructed for the fund intermediary in an alleged multi million pound Ponzi scheme involving investment in overseas property. This raised cross-border issues.
- With David Halpern QC, £26 million bank fraud conspiracy.
- Supply dispute arising out of a solus agreement for robotic manufacturing equipment.
- Claim in relation to wrongly paid commission/bribes in a worldwide agency agreement.
- Fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy claims.

Qualifications & Memberships

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Combar
- Professional Negligence Bar Association

Education – BA (Hons), Classics from St John's College, Oxford; Graduate Diploma in Law, City University