



NEW SQUARE

## 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

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## Areas of Expertise

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### Insurance and Reinsurance

Ben advises and is instructed as an advocate in relation to issues arising on insurance policies, as well as in respect of insurance disputes.

Recent instructions include a coverage dispute between a financial institution and its crime tower arising out of losses sustained in the Madoff fraud and a claim by a metal brokerage on its cargo policy following a Far East warehouse fraud.

As well as being instructed to act on behalf of insurers, Ben has been instructed by claimants in a number of disputes where insurers have refused to pay following damage or to agree to indemnify their customers following a claim. He has also been instructed to conduct paper arbitrations between insurer and insured, arising out of the construction of the policy and/or the conduct of a claim/defence.

Ben is well placed to act in claims relating to the Covid-19 situation, having recently been instructed in relation to its contractual and financial consequences following the cancellation of a large public event.

Ben has advised on the coverage effect of policy wording in relation to professional indemnity and general insurance policies, in particular in relation to the provisions which deal with when a claim is first made and which of more than one possible insurance policy respond to the claim in question. He has experience of cases involving alleged non-disclosure or allegations of breaches of the duties of good faith and fair presentation. He has also advised in Legal Expenses Insurance disputes.

Ben is also instructed in relation to claims against insurance brokers and subrogated recovery claims.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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### 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