

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 Chancery

Ben's interest in this area comes from having completed part of his pupillage at a leading commercial Chancery set. He has encountered a wide range of cases, ranging from those before the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and the Adjudicator to the Land Registry to others involving negligent advice to pension trustees, rights of way and directors' fraud.

Ben has established a reputation as a sought after junior in property work, and particularly claims involving mortgages. Reported cases include *Thompson v. Foy* [2010] 1 P&CR 16 (undue influence, proprietary estoppel, actual occupation, overriding interests). He has acted in numerous claims involving allegations of forgery and an appeal on the effect of the Human Rights Act 1998 on mortgage possession claims. More esoteric instructions have included advice and advocacy in respect of an injunction and a warrant of committal against a mortgagor with a parrot, a python and an assortment of exotic spiders.

Ben has experience of freezing injunctions and other forms of interim relief. He has been instructed several times on claims under Section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Other cases include:

- Instructed as a junior (to David Halpern QC) in a high value solicitors' negligence action in the Chancery Division involving a dispute over a 20 year old land swap agreement.
- Disputes over leasehold enfranchisement, suspected mortgage fraud, drafting of Wills and administration of estates.
- Acted for the successful defendant solicitors in a claim that raised issues of insolvency and conveyancing practice: *Kandola v. Mirza Solicitors LLP* [2015] EWHC 460 (Ch).
- Appeared for the successful lender in *Jumani v. Mortgage Express* [2013] EWHC 1571 (Ch), in which questions of compromise and the role of LPA receivers were raised.

Instructions in the traditional Chancery sphere have included:

- Claim arising out of an *ultra vires* transfer from a family trust (and the tax fallout therefrom)
- *Devastavit* claim arising out of the maladministration of an estate,
- Dispute over the common parts rights enjoyed by leaseholders in a residential development,
- Claim arising out of disputed rights of way and a claim arising out of ineffective succession planning.
- Instructed by the mortgagee in a claim brought by a third party asserting a right to redeem the mortgage (which is disputed by the mortgagor).
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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