

## 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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### Real Property

Ben's practice covers all aspects of real property work including:

- Overriding interests
- Co-ownership of land
- Undue influence
- Equitable interests in property including proprietary estoppel and subrogation
- Rights in and over land including restrictive covenants, easements and licences
- Land registration and conveyancing
- Priority
- Trusts of land and applications under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996
- Boundary disputes
- Options over land
- Law of Property Act receiverships

Ben was involved at an early stage of the North East Property Buyers' litigation, which found its way to the Supreme Court. However, Ben secured a (successful) exit for his client at first instance.

Ben was the sole advocate for the successful bank in *Thompson v. Foy* [2010] 1 P&CR 16 (undue influence, proprietary estoppel, actual occupation, overriding interests) and 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.

## 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