

Christopher Greenwood

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A talented, level-headed and hard-working barrister who gives plain, direct advice

- Chambers & Partners

Christopher Greenwood specialises in professional liability, insurance, mortgage and banking litigation, and construction and engineering disputes with a professional liability angle. He is also actively developing his practice in sports work.

"He stood out in a complex accountants' tax mitigation scheme matter. He's got a real understanding of the underlying tax matters, and produces very thorough written advice. He's excellent in conference and is a real team player" – *Chambers & Partners, 2021.*

"A very tenacious opponent" – *Chambers & Partners, 2021.*

"Extremely detailed in his advice, both in writing and in conference. His particulars of claim are comprehensive and miss no point. He is extremely empathetic with clients and able to build rapport. His service to solicitors is excellent" – *Legal 500, 2021.*

"A talented, level-headed and hard-working barrister" who "gives plain, direct advice" – *Chambers & Partners, 2020.*

"A really skilled strategist and a valuable team player" – *Legal 500, 2020.*

"He is very hardworking and clever, with a great legal mind" - *Legal 500, 2019.*

Chris is ranked as a leading professional negligence junior by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, and is frequently instructed in significant High Court claims. Those instructions have most recently included, in 2020, acting as sole counsel on behalf of financial advisers in *Ingenious Litigation* [2020] EWHC 235 (Ch), concerning film schemes, and (led by Neil Hext QC) the 'test case' of *Jago v Mortgage4YouLtd* [2019] EWHC 533 (QB), concerning mortgage brokers' duties in respect of interest-only mortgages.

Chris has also been involved in several high profile professional liability disputes in recent years, including (led by Justin Fenwick QC and Graham Chapman QC) *Gemini (Eclipse 2006-3) Plc v CBRE Limited and Warwick Street (KS) LLP*, a lender claim for damages in excess of £230m named in The Lawyer's 'Top 20 Cases of 2016', and (led by Graham Chapman QC) the series of claims beginning with *Halsall v Champion Consulting Ltd & Ors* [2017] PNLR 32, now a leading case on accountants' liability in respect of tax avoidance schemes.

Since, 2019, Chris has also been instructed in various unreported High Court claims. These include claims against tax advisers and financial advisers concerning remuneration trusts, film schemes and the CWMFX forex fund, numerous claims against insurance



brokers, solicitors and construction professionals, and (led by Jamie Smith QC) a high value claim brought by the landlord of a large agricultural property against a leading national firm of surveyors and property managers. He also appeared as sole counsel in the successful defence of a £10m claim against an insolvency professional.

In mortgage and banking litigation, Chris frequently acts as sole counsel for lenders in commercial and higher value residential matters, including claims concerning alleged interest rate hedging products, and was formerly part of the team acting for RBS in *Property Alliance Group v RBS*. And in construction, Chris is currently instructed on two large claims concerning commercial property, including acting on behalf of the insurers of a British multinational construction company which recently entered into liquidation, concerning the windows of a large skyscraper in Manchester, and acting on behalf of main contractors in a multi-million pound dispute concerning defective design and engineering of a retractable seating system.

Immediately before joining 4 New Square, Chris spent 6 months at the Court of Appeal, working as a Judicial Assistant to Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Rix.

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise

Banking & Financial Services

Chris has considerable experience of banking disputes, and is instructed by major high street lenders in respect of both commercial and consumer banking matters, including claims on guarantees, refinancing disputes, and alleged transactional errors. Chris has also been instructed in numerous claims concerning swaps, interest rate hedging products and stepped fixed rate loans.

In addition, Chris has a substantial practice acting on behalf of lenders in respect consumer and commercial mortgage litigation, and he is frequently instructed in professional liability claims by lenders against solicitors and valuers, and by consumers against financial advisers. Details of this work may be found under the “Real Property” and “Professional Liability” tabs respectively.

Chris has also been instructed in various applications for freezing injunctions and Norwich Pharmacal orders against banks, often at short notice.

Cases

- **Property Alliance Group v RBS**
Instructed as part of the legal team led by Tim Lord QC in *Property Alliance Group v RBS*, a banking dispute in the Chancery Division, involving issues as to mis-selling of swaps, LIBOR-rigging, and the Global restructuring Group within RBS.
- **Claims in respect of alleged interest rate hedging products**
Acting on behalf of a major high street lender in a Commercial Court claim, brought by a borrower engaged in the property development business, concerning contractual formation, stepped fixed rate loans alleged to be interest rate hedging products, arguments concerning contracts for differences and various alleged breaches of the FSA Rules. Further, acting on a lender claim involving in an allegation of contributory negligence in respect of the mis-selling of alleged interest rate hedging products.
- **Claim in respect of ‘loan-switching’**
Advising a major lender in relation to ‘loan-switching’ and the contractual incorporation of the lender’s standard rates, terms and conditions.
- **Guarantee claim against director-shareholders of liquidated company**
Successfully representing a major high street bank in a 3-day trial against two guarantors of company borrowing, alleging inter alia **undue influence, duress, estoppel, mistake, misrepresentation, fraud, non est factum and unfairness under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977**

- **Claim against guarantors alleging non-delivery and relying on the Insolvency Act 1986, s.127**
Acting on behalf of a major high street bank enforcing guarantees against guarantors alleging non-delivery of an executed deed, and relying on an alleged defence under the Insolvency Act 1986, s.127.
- **Claim against guarantor alleging defective service of letter of demand**
Successfully representing a major high street bank in a claim against a guarantor, concerning the interpretation and application of a 'last known address' clause in a deed of guarantee.
- **Claim in respect of alleged contractual agreement to capitalise arrears**
Successfully representing a major high street bank in respect of an alleged contractual agreement to capitalise arrears.
- **Claim in respect of alleged fraudulent payments**
Successfully representing a major high street bank in respect of the making of allegedly fraudulent payments from a customer's bank account, and damages in respect of consequent losses alleged to have arisen thereafter.
- **Claim in respect of alleged identity fraud**
Successfully representing a major high street bank in a claim against non-domiciled borrowers denying liability on the basis of alleged non-service outside the jurisdiction, and alleged identity fraud.

Qualifications & Memberships

Memberships

London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

Education & Scholarships

LLB (Warwick) (First Class)

BVC Major Scholarship (Inner Temple)