

## Christopher Greenwood

Call: 2009

DD: +442078222085 c.greenwood@4newsquare.com

Clerk: Dennis Peck

d.peck@4newsquare.com

+442078222040 +447912405149



*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

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### Insurance & Reinsurance

Chris has developed a substantial practice in pure insurance matters, principally in the context of coverage disputes and claims against insurance brokers where an insured's entitlement to an indemnity is disputed.

Chris' knowledge and experience in advising insurers on coverage matters has been enhanced by the combined six months spent on secondment at three leading City firms, undertaking professional indemnity and construction work.

Chris also deals with a wide range of claims against insurance brokers, particularly in respect of allegations of material non-disclosure, misrepresentation or failure to comply with the terms of an insurance policy. Further details of this work may be found under the appropriate 'Professional Liability' tab.

### Cases

- **Claim against major insurer in respect of block notification**  
Led by Roger Stewart QC, acting on behalf of a major international insurer in a dispute concerning the alleged block notification of circumstances or claims against financial advisers.
- **Business Interruption claim by a dentist**  
Quantum dispute in respect of Business Interruption to a dentistry practice following a fire, concerning to the extent to which a reduction in business profits was attributable to the consequences of a fire as opposed to other commercial influences.
- **Claim by uninsured prior practice against successor practice**  
Advising an uninsured solicitor in respect of the obligation of a successor practice to procure run-off cover in respect of a prior practice under the Solicitors Regulatory Authority Minimum Terms & Conditions ('MTCs').
- **Broker's negligence claim concerning major fire at a warehouse in Tottenham**  
Acting as sole Counsel in a multi-million pound Commercial Court claim against an insurance broker, brought by a business which is alleged, by a third party, to be responsible for a large fire at a warehouse in Tottenham. The claim includes issues of pure insurance law, including the interpretation of a public/product liability insuring clause, and whether certain correspondence from the third party gives rise to a notifiable circumstance.
- **Broker's negligence claim concerning a fire at premises in Scotland**



NEW SQUARE

Acting as sole Counsel in a Commercial Circuit Court claim against an insurance broker for over £500k, brought by the owners of a well-known Scottish fast food chain in respect of the declinature of cover following a fire. The claim includes issues of pure insurance law, including the materiality of certain previous claims, the interpretation of the duty to notify “immediately” and alleged non-cooperation following the fire.

- **Broker’s negligence claim concerning hotels in Blackpool**

Acting as sole Counsel in a Commercial Court claim against an insurance broker for over £1m, brought by the former owners of two beachfront hotels in Blackpool. The claim includes issues of pure insurance law, in particular the meaning of a question in respect of the ‘occupation’ and ‘closure’ of a hotel.

- **Claim concerning waste processing plant**

Drafting Points of Claim in an arbitration between the operator of a waste processing plant and its insurer. The dispute concerned the proper interpretation of the insuring terms of the policy, and the interpretation and alleged non-compliance with the policy’s co-operation clause.

- **Claim for declaration concerning interpretation of a ‘joint insurance’ clause in a commercial lease**

Acting as sole counsel in a High Court claim for a declaration, brought by the tenant under a commercial lease, concerning the interpretation of a clause requiring the insured to procure insurance in the joint names of the landlord and tenant, and the destination of any insurance proceeds in the event of a claim.

- **Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010**

Advising multiple insurers of one of the UK’s largest construction companies, recently entering into liquidation, in respect of the applicability and application of an insurance policy’s arbitration clause in a claim under the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.

## **Qualifications & Memberships**

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### **Memberships**

London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

### **Education & Scholarships**

LLB (Warwick) (First Class)

BVC Major Scholarship (Inner Temple)