



David Halpern QC

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He's a first-rate analyst of the facts, and an impressive authority in chancery law. He provides excellent, clear delivery to clients.

- Chambers & Partners

David Halpern QC has been rated for many years in the legal directories as a leader in the fields of property litigation and professional liability claims.

Since taking Silk in 2006, his practice has broadened to include a wide range of Chancery and commercial work.

He enjoys working as part of a team with other lawyers and experts in a broad range of disciplines, in relation to both litigation and advisory work. He relishes cases involving difficult questions of law but is also very alive to the client's requirement for clear advice and commercial solutions. He accepts appointments as an arbitrator and is regularly instructed to participate in mediations. He also sits part-time as a deputy High Court judge in the Chancery Division.

"Very knowledgeable and gives good strategic advice. He's good on some of the more complex areas of professional indemnity law." "If I want a binding opinion on a complicated issue of law, he is a go-to." (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"Immensely knowledgeable and always gets on well with clients." "He has particular expertise in solicitors' negligence, and is very hands-on and extremely approachable." "He's an imaginative advocate." (Chambers & Partners, 2021)

"He is a walking fountain of knowledge with case law references to match. He is commercially aware and focuses on achieving the outcome the clients are seeking." "A charming man with an agile and creative mind, a great person to have on your team. There is nothing which fazes him." (Legal 500, 2021)

"He has fantastic insight, is immensely knowledgeable and is brilliant with clients." "He has an impressive knowledge of property and professional negligence law, and his drafting is quick, excellent and concise." "He is charming in his advocacy, but it's also underpinned by a real intellectual strength." (Chambers & Partners, 2019)

"His advocacy is strong and to the point, and he is quick to raise relevant points in cross-examination." "He can find and sustain a cause of action where lesser barristers would fail." (Legal 500, 2019)

"David is amazing; he is a fount of legal knowledge and his ability to pinpoint issues and form an early view is invaluable." "Very intelligent, pragmatic and commercial." "Very personable and extremely knowledgeable with great technical skills and a great turnaround. He pays very close attention to detail." (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

"His knowledge is encyclopaedic, and he attacks even the most intractable legal problems with zeal and gusto." (Legal 500, 2017)

"A highly experienced silk whose broad commercial chancery experience feeds into his sophisticated professional negligence practice. He handles a broad range of claims arising from business and property disputes, and also takes on cases involving insurance elements. He's a first-rate analyst of the facts, and an impressive authority in chancery law. He provides excellent, clear delivery to clients." (Chambers & Partners, 2017).

"He adopts a client-friendly and very practical approach, and is a terrific strategic thinker." "Never more at home than when dealing with tricky cases" (Legal 500, 2016).

"A very sound and meticulous advocate who is very good at what he does." "He is extremely intelligent with excellent client-handling skills" (Chambers & Partners, 2016). "A very bright guy, who gets all the angles of a case. He's diligent and conscientious." "He is very thorough, as well as good-humoured and approachable" (Chambers & Partners, 2015). "Unbelievably brilliant. He is the advocate for all seasons, and fantastically easy to deal with. He's incredibly direct in terms of identifying the problem, fantastic on his feet and a huge amount of fun." "A master tactician," "fantastic on complex areas of law and extremely collaborative in his approach. The lawyer's lawyer." (Chambers & Partners, 2014).

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise

Wills, Trusts and Probate

Although much of David's work is more commercial in nature, he has a thorough grounding in the traditional Chancery fields of wills, trusts and probate. He is experienced in contentious and non-contentious probate and in the construction and rectification of wills and trusts, and he advises trustees, fiduciaries and personal representatives on all aspects of their functions.

Cases

- **Dreamvar Ltd v. Mishcon de Reya** (reported under *P&P Ltd v. Owen White & Catlin* [2018] 3 WLR 1244)
Acting for successful claimant in claim that a trustee should not be relieved under s. 61 of the Trustee Act 1925, even though the trustee was held to have acted honestly and reasonably.
- **Hamilton v. Hamilton** [2016] WTLR 1699
David successfully defended the trustee of a will in a claim by her brother for maladministration. The brother claimed that a Liechtenstein Stiftung created by their late father had been a sham and that the assets in the Stiftung formed part of the father's estate. The case involved a detailed examination of Liechtenstein law.
- **Shergill v. Khaira** [2015] AC 359
David acted (with Mark Herbert QC) for the successful appellant in the Supreme Court. The case concerned a power to appoint trustees of a Sikh Temple. Under the Trust Deed, the power was given to the "Holy Saint". The Supreme Court held that the issue as to whether one of the parties was indeed the Holy Saint was justiciable under English law.
- Acting for a beneficiary of a trust of heirlooms seeking to set aside for undue influence a deed of covenant made with the trustees
- Acting for a solicitor-trustee defending a £95m claim in Jersey for negligent investment

- Acting on the rectification of a disability trust which had previously been approved by the Court of Protection
- **Cattley v. Pollard** [2007] Ch 353
This was the first reported case on the limitation period for claims against a defendant for assistance in a dishonest breach of trust. David argued that s 21 of the Limitation Act 1980 did not apply. His argument was accepted by the court and was subsequently approved by the Supreme Court in **Williams v. Central Bank of Nigeria** [2014] AC 1189.

Qualifications & Memberships

David is a member of of the Chancery Bar Association and is a former chairman of its International Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Property Bar Association, the Professional Negligence Bar Association and COMBAR.

Other activities:

- He sits part-time as a deputy High Court judge in the Chancery Division. He previously sat as a Recorder in crime.
- He is a Bencher of Gray's Inn and an advocacy trainer for the Inn.
- He has chaired disciplinary proceedings for the Bar Standards Board.
- He is on the panel of the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

Education

M.A. (Oxon)

Insights

Sevilleja v Marex: Reflective Loss Restated

18 July 2020

David Halpern QC writes on the recent Supreme Court judgment in **Sevilleja v Marex** restating the doctrine of reflective loss in company law.

COVID-19 and remote trials

14 April 2020

The first judgment has now been reported on the effect of COVID-19 on a forthcoming trial. In **Re One Blackfriars Ltd, Hyde v. Nygate** [2020] EWHC 845(Ch), John Kimbell QC, sitting as a Deputy High Court judge, refused to adjourn a trial due to start in June but ruled that it should proceed remotely by video-link.

Unfair Prejudice Petitions: what makes prejudice “unfair”?

3 July 2019

Unfairness is an essential ingredient in minority shareholder petitions. Prejudice alone is not enough. This article explores just what it is that a petitioner needs to prove to make prejudice “unfair” in order for a petition to succeed.

Former editor of Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability

1 December 2016

He edited the chapter on Accountants and Auditors in **Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability** between 2002 and 2015 and wrote a new chapter on Actuaries.

Casnote on Stone & Rolls v. Moore Stephens in Modern Law Review 73 MLR 487 (cited by Lord Neuberger in the Supreme Court in Bilta v. Jetivia [2016] AC 1 at [21]).



Exoneration Clauses for Trustees and Directors and Statutory Relief from Liability (an analysis of the law in Guernsey with reference Spread Trustee v. Hutcheson), 2012 Trust Law International 32.

“Negligent Investment: Claims against Trustees and Agents”: in (2009) 15 Trusts & Trustees 602