

John Williams

Call: 2017

+442078222000 j.williams@4newsquare.com

Clerk: Alex Dolby

a.dolby@4newsquare.com

+442078222036 +447912405151



John joined 4 New Square in October 2018 following the successful completion of his pupillage, and is developing a broad commercial practice.

John has worked with other counsel on a wide range of contentious and advisory matters, across chambers' core areas of work. These have included:

- High value professional negligence claims against accountants, auditors, legal professionals, and others.
- A number of commercial arbitrations, under the ICC, LCIA and CIMAR rules.
- Claims with a multi-jurisdictional element, involving issues of private international law.
- A range of pre-action and interim applications, and complex settlement negotiations.

John has also been instructed as sole counsel on a variety of matters. He regularly appears at interim and final hearings in the County Court, settles pleadings across a number of areas of practice, and has advised on various issues of commercial law – including in relation to disputes involving company and insolvency law.

John was called to the bar by the Middle Temple, and received a Queen Mother Scholarship – the Inn's most prestigious major award. John was also awarded a Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition, and a BPTC Excellence Award.

Before coming to the bar, John graduated with a first in law from University College London, following a degree in classical archaeology and ancient history at the University of Oxford. He went on to read for the Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford, achieving a Distinction in all of his papers.

Prior to pupillage, John worked at the Law Commission as a research assistant, where he was involved in preparing the Commission's proposal for a goods mortgages bill, to replace the Bills of Sale Acts.

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise



General Commercial

John is frequently instructed (as junior counsel, or alone) in commercial disputes. These have included:

- In practice and during pupillage, high value professional negligence claims against accountants and auditors.
- Claims involving allegations of fraud and conspiracy.
- Claims against a variety of professionals. In particular, John is regularly instructed in disputes involving allegations of professional negligence against lawyers: recent cases have included claims against a firm of solicitors for the negligent conduct of settlement negotiations, and disputes arising out of property work and advice.
- Claims against IT professionals for breach of contract. John has recently been instructed as sole and junior counsel in disputes concerning website design (both back and front end), data migration, and the integration and implementation of third party software.
- A variety of contractual claims – both between business, and those involving issues of consumer law.
- More generally, claims involving specialist areas of contract, tort and property law, and the law of unjust enrichment.

John also appears regularly in a range of interim hearings. Recent work (as sole counsel) has included applications for pre-action disclosure, allocation hearings, applications to amend, strike out/summary judgment applications, and applications to set aside default judgment. He is also commonly instructed to appear at Case and Costs Management Conferences in substantial claims: and is familiar with issues arising out of the costs budgeting process. John also has experience of appearing at judge-led mediations in the County Court.

John has advised on the merits of appeals – and has drafted grounds of appeal. During pupillage, John also observed and assisted in preparations for a hearing before the Court of Appeal.

Publications

Recent Developments in Quasi-Partnerships

8 July 2019

Applying the same set of legal rules to all companies, regardless of their individual circumstances and characteristics, can lead to injustice. The concept of “quasi-partnership” encourages a more nuanced approach and allows courts to recognise and enforce equitable obligations which may have arisen between members of a company. In this article, Thomas Ogden and John Williams of 4 New Square review key elements of the law in this area, and consider a number of important recent decisions.

Introduction to “Demystifying Shareholder Disputes”, a series of articles by 4 New Square

2 July 2019

Throughout July 2019, 4 New Square will present a series of articles from specialist contributors on shareholder disputes.

Criminalizing Speech to Protect Religious Peace?

28 November 2018

Can Yeginsu and John Williams analyse the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *E.S. v. Austria* in an article for Just Security.

Big Brother Watch and others v. the UK

16 October 2018

Big Brother Watch and Others v. the UK: the ECtHR ruled last week that aspects of the UK’s mass surveillance programmes violate various Articles of the European Convention on Human Rights. Ian McDonald and John Williams consider the ECtHR’s decision, in which Can Yeginsu and Anthony Jones acted as counsel for Center for Democracy & Technology and PEN America.