



NEW SQUARE

## John Williams

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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

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## Professional Liability

John is frequently instructed (as junior counsel, and alone) in a range of disputes involving allegations of professional negligence. These have included:

- In pupillage and in practice, high value claims for professional negligence against accountants and auditors.
- Claims against legal professionals.
- Claims against a variety of other professionals: including IT professionals, recruitment consultants, architects, interior designers, and others.

John has also advised on ancillary matters – including pre-action conduct in professional negligence claims, and elements of the cause of action in negligence: in particular principles of causation, loss, and “loss of a chance”.

## Publications

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### 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.