



NEW SQUARE

Michael Bowmer

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His advice is always spot-on, clear and concise. He makes it all seem so easy.

- Chambers and Partners

Michael Bowmer is a commercial chancery practitioner specialising in commercial dispute resolution at its intersection with traditional chancery areas, such as, trusts, succession, property, company, insolvency and partnership law.

Michael's practice has at its core an expertise in claims against professionals, such as lawyers, accountants, financial advisors, insolvency practitioners, planning consultants, auctioneers, valuers and quantity surveyors, and those who owe fiduciary duties to others, such as directors, trustees, partners and agents.

Ranked as a Leading Professional Negligence Junior by the directories, Michael is described as "very good under pressure, and very good at explaining complex issues in a way that the client understands." "He has experience beyond his call and a really comforting air about him. He's incredibly clever and a proactive strategist." (Chambers & Partners, 2022). "Very good on technical issues." "He never fails to deliver and his advice is always spot on. Considered and commercial. He is amiable and respectful and very nice to work with" (Chambers & Partners, 2019). "Excellent attention to detail and technical expertise" (Legal 500, 2019).

Before being called to the Bar, Michael worked for several years in fine art publishing, an experience which gave Michael an insight into the commercial concerns of clients and an ability to see things from their perspective. Michael later studied law at King's College London where he obtained the Strand Trust Prize for the highest first class degree in his year. Michael is hands-on and approachable and combines both a rigorous approach and commercial awareness in seeking to achieve the best possible results for his clients. Michael is also an accredited mediator with a growing mediation practice, and, given his background, has a strong interest in claims involving art law and cultural property. Outside work Michael is usually to be found in an art gallery or museum, in a cinema, on a road bike or with some form of six-stringed instrument in his hands.

Michael is married with two sons and lives in Cambridge. He is a member of the Chancery Bar Association, the Commercial Bar Association, the Professional Negligence Bar Association, the Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association and the Institute of Art and Law.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Michael Bowmer.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Michael acts in a wide range of commercial disputes ranging from more straightforward claims for breach of commercial contracts to sale of goods claims, claims for rescission of contracts for misrepresentation, claims arising out of business or share sale agreements and warranties and claims to enforce guarantees and other security. Michael also advises in cases where the issue concerns contract formation or the true construction of commercial documents or the operation of exclusion clauses. Many of the commercial disputes in which Michael is instructed have a chancery-related element for example following the commission of a civil fraud where a proprietary claim is made in respect of the beneficial ownership of assets or where questions of rectification of documents arise. Michael is experienced in seeking injunctive relief, including freezing injunctions and other interlocutory orders under the *Norwich Pharmacal* and *Bankers Trust v Shapira* jurisdictions. Michael is also interested in claims with an international dimension. Some examples of Michael's recent commercial cases are:

- the enforcement of a covenant in a contract between a haulage company and a supplier of transport services to the company prohibiting the solicitation of business by the supplier from the company's customers
- acting for the buyer of a £700,000 property who was defrauded by a fraudulent seller and a fictitious firm of solicitors in connection with a proprietary claim against assets held by various banks and other third parties
- acting for a Dubai software distributor in connection a claim brought against it by an English reseller over the supply of parallel imported computer software
- acting in connection with a breach of a joint venture agreement concerning the development of a wood fuel power station in Wales
- a claim against a utility procurement consultancy in relation to the failure to negotiate appropriate contracts for the supply of electricity to a substantial office block in the City of London
- advising a university department on claims arising from the breach of a joint venture agreement with a healthcare company concerning the development of a veterinary treatment for horses
- acting on behalf of an English printer software company on an application by a US corporation for voluminous disclosure under the Evidence (Proceedings in other Jurisdictions) Act 1975 for use in a US patent dispute with a well-known manufacturer of computer printers
- acting in a dispute between a web-site designer/computer programmer and an e-commerce business over web-hosting and web-site maintenance arrangements
- acting for a design studio defending a claim of alleged economic damage caused by defective photography for a catalogue and promotional material intended for use at a trade fair
- advising turf growers in a sale of goods dispute with seed suppliers over the supply of defective grass seed

Qualifications & Memberships

King's College London (LLB Hons First Class).

Insights

Clerical Error across the Border: Application of the English Law of Rectification to Irish Will: *Kelly v. Brennan* [2020] EWHC 245 (Ch)

25 February 2020

In the context testamentary succession, it is well-established under the rules of private international law that the court can apply domestic law to a foreign will of a testator who was domiciled in this jurisdiction where the court is concerned with issues of capacity, formal validity, material validity or interpretation. However, no authority one way or the other has ever determined whether the law of rectification should be applied in the same way.

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.

Dealing with surplus assets in voluntary winding up (*Qureshi v Association of Conservative*)



Clubs Ltd) – Lexis PSL Restructuring & Insolvency article by Michael Bowmer of 4 New Square

24 May 2019

Following his appearance for the successful liquidator in *Qureshi v. Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd* [2019] EWHC 1165 (Ch), Michael Bowmer was asked by Lexis@PSL Restructuring & Insolvency to give an e-interview about the case. A copy of the interview, which was first published on 20 May 2019, can be found [here](#).

On a Handshake: the Gauguin and the Ten Million Dollar Commission

13 February 2018

Offering a glimpse into the world of high-end art deals, and the position of trustees and fiduciary agents, Michael Bowmer considers the recent decision of Morgan J in *ACLBDD Holdings Limited v. Staechelin* [2018] EWHC 44.