



NEW SQUARE

Patrick Lawrence QC

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A towering courtroom presence ... superb in heavyweight cases, known for razor-sharp mind and ability to take a witness apart

- Chambers & Partners

Former Chambers & Partners Professional Negligence QC of the year, Patrick has appeared in many leading cases at appellate level.

If you believe the Directories: “a wonderful advocate”, “extremely bright and very personable – a formidable opponent” [Chambers]. “He is fantastic on his feet and I have the utmost confidence in him.” “One of, if not THE best for professional negligence claims. He is calm, tactical and holds his nerve.” [Chambers] “A Rolls-Royce silk ... able and approachable in equal measure, one of the most in demand professional indemnity barristers ... a towering courtroom presence .. superb in complex heavyweight cases, known for razor-sharp mind and ability to take a witness apart.” [Chambers] “very charismatic and good with clients; he is able and approachable in equal measure” [Chambers]. “He is a brilliant lawyer with a real appreciation of the ‘human’ side of cases”, “a superb advocate, who always manages to engage the court and present arguments in a compelling fashion”, “highly persuasive” and “can make complicated arguments understandable” [Legal 500]. “He has a fantastic manner and outstanding judgement”, “Inspires great confidence and tackles problem with the minimum of stress” [Legal 500].

He practises principally in the commercial and company law sectors. This work fits well with his expertise in auditors’ negligence and his involvement in claims against pensions advisers, tax advisers, and other financial services professionals. He is numerate (as barristers go). He is retained in cases where effective cross-examination is considered critical. Many of his cases involve allegations of impropriety in the commercial world, and he is prepared to read closely large amounts of material in order to find out what really went on, and then – if necessary – to go to court to prove it. He has acted in many leading cases involving the development of equitable rules concerning fiduciary obligations in a commercial context, and the interplay between trust, contract, and fraud.

There is an obvious connection between his professional liability work and disciplinary proceedings involving professionals, and he has acted for complainants and respondents in relation to conduct issues concerning solicitors, barristers, accountants and surveyors. He has conducted a number of substantial hearings involving allegations of misconduct against auditors on behalf of the bodies responsible for investigating complaints against auditors in cases raising issues of public interest.

Patrick operates also in the field of public law, specialising in A1P1 cases. He appeared in the Supreme Court in UKIP v Electoral Commission, and in Court of Appeal in the leading A1P1 solar panel claims against DECC; Breyer v DECC.

He is a co-author of the chapter on solicitors’ negligence in the Lloyds looseleaf on Professional Negligence.

Privacy Policy



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Areas of Expertise

Commercial Chancery

Patrick is frequently instructed in cases involving issues in the Chancery field; tax, trusts, company law and real property. Present and recent cases include:

- Multi-jurisdiction litigation involving Israeli will and \$800m assets held in multiple offshore trusts; continuing
- *Shah v Forsters* [2018] PNLR 8; trusts, joint tenancies, administration of estates.
- A long-running matter (*Lexi Holdings PLC v Pannone*) before Briggs J., arising out of the frauds of Shaid Luqman. Issues arising included difficult points as to the implied actual authority and apparent authority of a director to give unconventional instructions on behalf of a company.
- *Smith v Contact Holdings Ltd*; scope of managing director's authority to instruct lawyers in connection with shareholder dispute.
- Litigation arising out of the Tax Tribunal's decision in relation to an *Eclipse* film finance scheme that the participants in the scheme were not trading.
- Litigation arising out of the failure of other film finance and container leasing tax avoidance schemes.
- *Former Queen of Malaysia v Lattey & Dawe*; trial before Hodge J. concerning tax advice given in connection with the late King of Malaysia's holdings in the UK and abroad.
- *Dore v Leicestershire CC*; 2 week trial before Sales J; issues as to trust law; charities; local government.
- £5m claim arising out of allegedly defective advice concerning rights to light.
- Probate litigation concerning allegations of undue influence in relation to a will.
- Litigation concerning delay in commercial conveyancing.
- Directors disqualification proceedings.
- *Christofi v Schubert Murphy*; claims arising out of the setting up of a bogus solicitor's practice; issues as to scope of solicitors' undertakings; jurisdiction of Compensation Fund.
- *Turpin v Brabners Chaffe Street*; allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and conflicts of interest in relation to the sale of a substantial company.
- *Pennyfeathers v Pennyfeathers Property Co Limited* [2013] EWHC 3530; acquiescence; breach of fiduciary duty; directors' obligations.

Cases

- Pennyfeathers Limited v Pennyfeathers Property Co Ltd
- Noel Edmonds v Lawson
- Dore v Leicestershire County Council
- BUXTON COUNTRY HOMES LTD v (1) SURFBUILD LTD (2) SCSC DEVELOPMENTS LTD (3) JAMES CANSDALE (LITTLE CHALFONT LTD)
- Starbibi Raja (Administratrix of the Estate of Mohammed Sabir Raja Deceased) v. Austin Gray (A Firm)



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- Mortgage Corporation Ltd v. Lewis Silkin & Anor : Same v. Marsha Shaire & Others

- Bristol & West Building Society (Plaintiff) v. Fancy & Jackson (a firm) (Defendants) : Same (Plaintiff) v. Defendants in 1995 B 2165; 1995 B 2401; 1995 B 2468; 1995 B 2858; 1995 B 3197; 1996 B 0784

- Homsy v. Searle

- Shah v Forsters

Qualifications & Memberships

Christ Church, Oxford, 1st class degree in P.P.E