

## William Harman

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**Will Harman has a practice that encompasses all areas of business dispute resolution, with a particular focus on commercial litigation and arbitration, civil fraud, professional liability and insurance. He is also ranked as a "Rising Star" in sports law by the Legal 500.**

*"Strengths include exceptional advocacy skills and in particular highly persuasive written work; he also has a remarkable ability to build rapport with the judge or tribunal."* The Legal 500 (2022)

*"Highly intelligent, articulate and sharp. Has a pragmatic approach in dealing with a variety of issues. Quickly grasps key evidential points."* The Legal 500 (2021)

Will's experience includes high-value disputes with an international dimension before both courts and arbitral tribunals. He also has a growing offshore practice having spent three months on secondment in Jersey following instructions in Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Alongside his busy practice, Will co-authored the latest edition of *Toulson & Phipps on Confidentiality*.

For examples of his recent and ongoing work, please see the individual practice areas below.

### Privacy Policy

Click here for a **Privacy Policy** for Will Harman.

### Transparency Statement

Click here for the **Transparency Statement** for Will Harman.

## Areas of Expertise

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### Commercial Dispute Resolution

Will receives instructions on a range of complex commercial disputes before courts and arbitral tribunals. He co-authored the Banking and Arbitration chapters in the latest edition of *Toulson & Phipps on Confidentiality* and has particular expertise in the use of confidentiality clubs and other methods of partially protecting confidential material.

Examples of his current and recent work include:

- Acting for the first defendant, led by Justin Fenwick QC, in a complex fraud claim relating to the collapse of a Russian bank pleaded at more than £1bn. There have been numerous hearings in the proceedings including in connection with a worldwide

freezing order and search order.

- Acting for a group of institutional investors, led by Peter de Verneuil Smith QC, in substantial claims under section 90A FSMA alleging dishonesty in connection with information and statements published to the market by a major issuer of securities.
- Sole counsel for the defendants in London Circuit Commercial Court proceedings relating to the purchase of a high-end residential construction business.
- Acting in a counsel team led by Justin Fenwick QC challenging an arbitration award relating to the beneficial ownership of a significant Moscow-based company under section 67 of the Arbitration Act 1996.
- Part of a counsel team led by Jamie Smith QC for defendants to a Commercial Court claim for conspiracy pleaded at c. £130m.
- Sole counsel for a Premier League football club in a contractual claim arising from matches being played behind closed doors as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Sole counsel for the claimant in proceedings in the Manchester Circuit Commercial Court arising from the purchase of a national manufacturing company.
- Acting in a counsel team defending an Isle of Man trust in a high-value, multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of fraud by creditors to a personal guaranty.
- Acting as sole counsel for a South Korean university in a successful claim in the Chancery Division for *Norwich Pharmacal* relief in connection with a substantial fraud relating to the purchase of aircraft from an Austrian manufacturer.
- Acting for a Russian distribution business claiming compensation in the London Circuit Commercial Court pursuant to a chain of contracts relating to the commission of machinery by the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.
- Sole counsel defending a claim for unlawful means conspiracy by the organisers of a prestigious sports event against ticketing companies.
- Representing Danish insurers, led by Jamie Smith QC, in multi-party proceedings before the Commercial Court.
- Part of a counsel team defending multi-million pound litigation concerning the sale of the share capital of Nottingham Forest Football Club.
- Sole counsel in proceedings relating to the breach of an endorsement contract by a Premier League footballer.
- Instructed by the Government Legal Department in respect of a complex procurement claim against a government department.

Will is a member of COMBAR and the Young International Arbitration Group.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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Before joining 4 New Square, Will undertook the Bar Professional Training Course (graded Outstanding) and the Graduate Diploma in Law (with Distinction) at City Law School. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn as a Lord Denning Scholar, Hardwicke Scholar and Buchanan Prize winner.

Will previously worked as a journalist in Rome covering the 2013 Italian election. He also holds a first class degree in Modern and Medieval Languages from the University of Cambridge, where he received the prize for the best performance in Italian.

**Education** – BA, Cambridge (First Class Honours); GDL, City (Distinction); BPTC, City (Outstanding)

**Memberships** – COMBAR; PNBA; TECBAR; CFLA; Government Legal Department Junior Junior Scheme; Young International Arbitration Group; British Association for Sports Law

## Insights

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### Sport and anti-doping – the year in review 2018/19v

16 May 2019

Richard Liddell and William Harman of 4 New Square wrote an anti-doping update for Law In Sport on 16th May 2019. Its primary focus is UK anti-doping, decisions in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and developments relating to the major international anti-doping bodies.



## **GDPR and Sport: make sure that you're on the ball!**

11 May 2018

Richard Liddell, Kendrah Potts and William Harman look at some of the principal enforcement risks facing sporting bodies under the new regime described by the ICO as a “game-changer” and consider how the GDPR might feed into existing facets of sports dispute resolution.

## **Englehart CTP (US) LLC v Lloyd's Syndicate 1221 and others [2018] EWHC 900 (Comm): all risks marine cargo insurance and fraud on the insured**

27 April 2018

After being provided with fraudulent bills of lading for a shipment of non-existent copper ingots, Englehart's attempt to recover its losses under an all risks Marine Cargo and Storage policy was rejected by the Court on the basis that the alleged damage was economic loss to which an all risks cargo insurance policy did not respond. Sir Ross Cranston's decision is considered by Will Harman of 4 New Square.

## **Moonlighting: the latest word on vicarious liability**

16 March 2018

The run of recent appellate decisions on vicarious liability continues in the case of Frederick and others v Positive Solutions (Financial Services) Limited [2018] EWCA Civ 431. On this occasion, the Court of Appeal has decided that a financial adviser was not vicariously liable for fraudulent “moonlighting” by one of its registered agents. Click to see Will Harman's case note.