

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

Sports Law

Will is ranked as a "Rising Star" in sports law by the Legal 500.

He receives instructions in a range of matters involving the sports industry with a particular focus on anti-corruption charges and financial fair play. Will is also regularly instructed in commercial disputes with a sports context and he is currently part of a team conducting a governance review for a major national governing body.

Recent and ongoing examples of his work in this area include:

- Acting for the International Tennis Integrity Agency, led by Kendrah Potts, in multiple match-fixing cases under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program. Will has obtained convictions and provisional suspensions on behalf of the ITIA (and, previously, the Professional Tennis Integrity Officers) in numerous cases at first instance. Will has also represented the ITIA (with success) before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 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.
- Representing Birmingham City Football Club, led by Kendrah Potts, in financial fair play proceedings before an EFL Disciplinary Commission and on appeal to a League Arbitration Panel.
- Sole counsel representing an athlete charged with bullying offences by the British Judo Association following a substantial independent investigation. All of the charges against the athlete were dismissed following a hearing.
- Junior Counsel acting for an international football agent in a substantial dispute involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty.
- Part of a counsel team defending multi-million pound litigation in the Chancery Division concerning the sale of the share capital of Nottingham Forest Football Club.
- Junior counsel in the successful defence of charges of evading, refusing and/or failing to provide a urine sample for anti-doping testing. Following a two-day hearing, the NADP found that the athlete, who is a former Olympian, reasonably believed that they had retired and had not deliberately evaded the anti-doping personnel. This represents a rare instance where no anti-doping rule violation was found despite the athlete knowing that testers were at the door.
- Sole counsel for a professional boxer disputing the jurisdiction of the UK Anti-Doping Agency.
- Sole counsel for a Championship footballer in confidential proceedings before an EFL Player Related Dispute Commission arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Representing a Scottish Championship footballer at a sanction hearing before a Scottish FA Disciplinary Tribunal in respect of charges of gambling on football.
- Part of a solicitor and barrister team conducting a governance review on behalf of a major national governing body.
- Sole counsel for the successful claimant in a claim for breach of an endorsement contract against a Premier League footballer.
- Acting for a youth football coach facing violent conduct charges by the Football Association. After hearing evidence from more than ten witnesses, the Disciplinary Commission unanimously dismissed the charges.
- Acting for the respondent in confidential proceedings brought under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.
- Sole counsel defending a claim for unlawful means conspiracy by the organisers of a prestigious sporting event against ticketing companies.
- Giving urgent advice to British Shooting in relation to its selection policy and procedure.
- Acting as independent legal adviser to Table Tennis England at its selection meeting for the Commonwealth Games 2018.

Will is a member of the British Association for Sports Law.

Qualifications & Memberships

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

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.](#)