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Benjamin Williams KC

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CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“Stellar advocate - very sharp, on the ball and straightforward”



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Ben has a general civil practice with a particular emphasis on insurance related disputes. He is also well known for his expertise on the law relating to solicitors, litigation funders, claims management companies and costs, as well as consumer and regulatory law, for which he has been recommended by the major legal directories. For costs and funding disputes, he is Chambers and Partners “Star Individual”.

Ben is also often instructed in group litigation (including follow-on claims in the Competition Appeal Tribunal), and in general matters of civil procedure, especially at an appellate level. He has a reputation as a problem-solver who solicitors can turn to when a case is in trouble, regardless of its subject matter.

Ben is frequently instructed in cases with an international dimension, and also works closely with lawyers in the other UK jurisdictions and the Channel Islands. He is a member of the Bar of the British Virgin Islands.

Comments from the legal directories include:

‘[his]...advocacy is masterful.’

‘Very intelligent and forceful with his arguments.’

‘[his]...advocacy skills are second to none and he can make costs sound simple even though it is absolutely not.’

‘Benjamin has great tenacity on his cross-examination, and his commercial and legal nous is invaluable.’

‘Stellar advocate... very smart, on the ball and straightforward’

‘Quickly gets to the heart of the issue, often coming up with a novel argument or approach ... exceptionally intelligent and fantastic on his feet.’

‘Exceptionally bright... a stand-out advocate’

‘Extremely sharp witted, very good with clients and very accommodating.’

‘A tenacious cross-examiner, who quickly gets on top of the facts... there is no one brighter at the Bar’.

'Very approachable and collaborative while also being ferociously intelligent'

'A quick-witted, brave and eloquent advocate who continually impresses with his general brilliance.'

'As good as it comes. If you're looking for somebody who'll get to the heart of an issue at warp speed, he's your man.'

'Legally he's without compare, and he's also shrewd and a very determined advocate.'

'... known for the depth of his research and his ability to come at things from a fresh angle. He always adds something to a case.'

'His paperwork is very lucid and compelling.'

'An absolute genius in terms of his eloquence and ability to react to issues when in court.'

'He can take on anything and do it to a high standard.'

'Mesmerising in court... [and] very difficult to defeat.'

Ben is an editor of Blackstone's Civil Practice. He has previously edited *Cordery on Legal Services*, and is a former member of the editorial panel of the White Book and *Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts*.

Reported cases include:

- *Tonstate Group v Wojakovski* [2022] 1 WLR 4653 (CA)
- *Armstead v Royal Sun Alliance Insurance* [2022] Lloyd's Rep IR 574 (CA)
- *West v Burton* [2022] 1 WLR 742 (CA)
- *Ho v Adekun* [2021] 1 WLR 5132
- *XDE v North Middlesex Hospitals* [2020] 1 WLR 2680
- *Horne v Prescott* [2019] 1 WLR 4808 (QBD)
- *Cameron v Liverpool Victoria Insurance Co* [2019] 1 WLR 1471 (SC)
- *Page v RGC Restaurants* [2019] 1 WLR 22 (QBD)
- *Cartwright v Venduct Engineering* [2018] 1 WLR 6137 (CA)
- *Irving v Morgan Sindall* [2018] Lloyd's Rep IR 614 (QBD)
- *Surrey v Barnet & Chase Farm Hospitals* [2018] 1 WLR 5831 (CA)
- *Glasgow (Harlequin Property) v ELS Law* [2018] 1 WLR 1564 (ChD)
- *Howe v MIB* [2018] 1 WLR 923 (CA)
- *Cameron v Hussain* [2018] 1 WLR 657 (CA)
- *Merricks v MasterCard* [2017] 5 CMLR 16 (CAT)
- *McBride v UK Insurance* [2017] Lloyd's Rep IR 352 (CA)
- *Merrix v Heart of England* [2017] 1 WLR 3399 (QBD)
- *Bird v Acorn Group* [2017] CP Rep 8 (CA)
- *Howe v MIB* [2016] 1 WLR 2751 (QBD)
- *Eurasian Natural Resources Corp v Decherts LLP* [2016] 1 WLR 5027 (CA)
- *Webb v Liverpool Women's NHST* [2016] 1 WLR 3899 (CA)
- *Broadhurst v Tan* [2016] 1 WLR [1928] (CA)
- *Coventry v Lawrence* [2015] 1 WLR 3485 (SC)
- *Eurasian Natural Resources Ltd v Decherts* [2015] 1 WLR 462 (ChD)
- *Dalton v British Telecom* [2015] ICR 901 (QBD)
- *Jones v Secretary of State for Energy* [2014] 3 All ER 956 (CA)
- *Ali v Ali* [2014] RTR 6 (QBD)
- *Jones v Secretary of State for Energy* [2013] 3 All ER 1041 (CA)
- *Singh v Yaqubi* [2013] Lloyd's Rep IR 398 (CA)
- *Bent v Highways & Utilities Construction* [2012] Lloyd's Rep IR 577 (CA)
- *Mulcaire v News Group Newspapers* [2012] Ch 435 (ChD)
- *Sayce v TNT* [2012] 1 WLR 1261 (CA)
- *Motto v Trafigura* [2012] 1 WLR 657 (CA)
- *W v Veolia Environmental Services* [2012] 1 All ER (Comm) 667 (QBD)

- *Sousa v Waltham Forest LBC* [2011] 1 WLR 2197 (CA)
- *Drew v Whitbread PLC* [2010] 1 WLR 1725 (CA)
- *O'Beirne v Hudson* [2010] 1 WLR 1717 (CA)
- *Copley v Lawn* [2010] 1 All ER (Comm) 890 (CA)
- *Aehmed v LSC* (2009) *The Times* 4 May (CA)
- *Roach v Home Office* [2010] QB 256 (QBD)
- *C v W* [2009] 4 All ER 1129 (CA)
- *Tankard v John Fredericks Plastics Ltd* [2009] 1 WLR 1731 (CA)
- *McCall v Poulton* [2009] *Lloyd's Rep IR* 456 (CA)
- *Hall v Stone* (2008) *The Times* 1 February (CA)
- *Bee v Jenson (No 2)* [2007] 4 All ER 791 (QBD & CA)
- *Bee v Jenson (No 1)* [2007] *Lloyd's Rep IR* 451 (QBD)
- *Rogers v Merthyr Tydfil CBC* [2007] 1 WLR 808 (CA)
- *Garrett v Halton BC* [2007] 1 WLR 554 (CA)
- *Kearsley v Klarfeld* [2006] 2 All ER 303 (CA)
- *U v Liverpool City Council* [2005] 1 WLR 2657 (CA)
- *Lagden v O'Connor* [2004] 1 AC 1067 (HL)
- *Hollins v Russell* [2003] 1 WLR 2487 (CA)
- *Crosbie v Munroe* [2003] 1 WLR 2033 (CA)
- *King v Daltray* (2003) *The Times* 15 January (CA)
- *Clark v Ardington; Burdis v Livsey* [2003] QB 36 (CA)
- *Sarwar v Alam* [2002] 1 WLR 125 (CA)

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Awards



Qualifications

Ben is a member of COMBAR, the PNBA and the London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association

Ben was educated at Exeter College, Oxford, where he was awarded a Stapeldon scholarship (the College's senior scholarship), and graduated with a BA in Modern History (1st class honours in all public examinations). He obtained his post-graduate Diploma of Law from City University London, winning the Inns of Court Studentship Award from the Council of Legal Education. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1994, where he was awarded a Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, CPE Scholarship and the Droop

Scholarship. He has practised full time in London since 2000, and took silk in 2015.
