

OUR PEOPLE

John Williams

CALL 2017



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John's practice encompasses commercial litigation, professional negligence, insurance work, commercial arbitration, and sports law.

John's work has included:

- Acting for both claimants and defendants in complex and high-value professional negligence disputes: with a focus on claims against lawyers, IT professionals, accountants and auditors.
- Claims of professional negligence arising out of alleged corporate fraud, including defending a claim against auditors valued in excess of \$300 million, and advising on a claim against auditors following the fraudulent misappropriation of assets by company officers (led by King's Counsel).
- Instructions on complex commercial disputes, including (recently) disputes relating to property developments (against professional advisors, and contractual counterparties) and claims relating to the implementation of IT contracts and commercial software.
- Acting in commercial arbitrations from the pre-action stage onward, including drafting arbitration pleadings, conducting interim hearings, advising on procedural matters, and drafting arbitration claims in the Commercial Court.
- Insurance disputes, including recent work on behalf of a consortium of claimant businesses claiming for business interruption losses (led by George Spalton KC), and instructions to act on direct claims against insurers under the Third Party (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.
- Acting in a wide range of costs proceedings, including consequential hearings concerning the application of contractual costs clauses, the effect of Part 36 offers, and giving advice or acting on other matters relating to costs: including costs budgeting, issues relating to assessment and billing under the terms of the Solicitors Act 1974, and in the context of allegations of legal professional negligence.
- Acting as sole counsel (in County Court and High Court proceedings) in a wide range of claims involving gambling operators, including claims alleging negligence and breach of contract, cases involving the offence of "cheating", disputes concerning mistaken odds and the calculation of winnings, and alleged breaches of duty relating to self-exclusion agreements.

Prior to taking tenancy, John was called to the bar by the Middle Temple and received a Queen Mother Scholarship. John was also awarded a Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition, and a BPTC Excellence Award.

Before coming to the bar, John graduated with a first in Law from University College London, following a degree in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Oxford. He went on to read for the Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford, graduating with one of the highest Distinctions in his year.

Prior to pupillage, John spent a year at the Law Commission, where he was involved in preparing the Commission's proposed reforms to the Bills of Sale Acts. John is also on the Steering Committee of the Northern Legal History Group.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for John Williams.

Expertise

General Commercial

John is frequently instructed (as junior counsel, or alone) in commercial disputes. These have included:

- In practice and during pupillage, high value professional negligence claims against accountants and auditors.
- Claims involving allegations of fraud and conspiracy.
- Claims against a variety of professionals. In particular, John is regularly instructed in disputes involving allegations of professional negligence against lawyers: recent cases have included claims against a firm of solicitors for the negligent conduct of settlement negotiations, and disputes arising out of property work and advice.
- Claims against IT professionals for breach of contract. John has recently been instructed as sole and junior counsel in disputes concerning website design (both back and front end), data migration, and the integration and implementation of third party software.
- A variety of contractual claims – both between business, and those involving issues of consumer law.
- More generally, claims involving specialist areas of contract, tort and property law, and the law of unjust enrichment.

John also appears regularly in a range of interim hearings. Recent work (as sole counsel) has included applications for pre-action disclosure, allocation hearings, applications to amend, strike out/summary judgment applications, and applications to set aside default judgment. He is also commonly instructed to appear at Case and Costs Management Conferences in substantial claims: and is familiar with issues arising out of the costs budgeting process. John also has experience of appearing at judge-led mediations in the County Court.

John has advised on the merits of appeals – and has drafted grounds of appeal. During pupillage, John also observed and assisted in preparations for a hearing before the Court of Appeal.

Professional Liability

John is frequently instructed (as junior counsel, and alone) in a range of disputes involving allegations of professional negligence. These have included:

- In pupillage and in practice, high value claims for professional negligence against accountants and auditors.
- Claims against legal professionals.
- Claims against a variety of other professionals: including IT professionals, recruitment consultants, architects, interior designers, and others.

John has also advised on ancillary matters – including pre-action conduct in professional negligence claims, and elements of the cause of action in negligence: in particular principles of causation, loss, and “loss of a chance”.

Insurance

John is frequently instructed on behalf of insurers: both to appear at trial and in interim hearings, and to settle pleadings and give written advice.

John has also had experience of a variety of disputes involving insurance law: including where the relevant insured is insolvent, and claims against insurance brokers. Recent work has included giving advice as to the effect of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.

Costs

John is frequently instructed to appear at Costs and Case Management Conferences, and is familiar with the principle applicable to the costs budgeting and costs management process: including applications to revise costs budgets.

During pupillage, John assisted in preparing for detailed assessment hearings, and as sole counsel, John has been instructed to advise on disputes involving issues relating to solicitors bills of costs, and the statutory assessment process.

Arbitration

John has been instructed in relation to arbitral proceedings under the LCIA, ICC and CIMAR rules (as junior counsel, and acting alone).

These have included:

- A contractual dispute between a number of commercial entities relating to the interpretation of a commercial contract.
- Disputes arising out the provision of services under an IT contract.
- The appeal of an arbitral award arising out of allegedly defective building works under section 69 of the Arbitration Act.