

John Dickinson



YEAR OF CALL: 1995

INN: MIDDLE TEMPLE

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
(ACA): 1991

“ John’s attention to detail is second to none. He is forensically superb – he can unpick a case extremely well. He’s extremely knowledgeable and has an excellent grasp of complex matters.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2022
CHANCERY

Practice Overview

John is a barrister specialising in contentious probate, Court of Protection, all areas of real estate work including conveyancing disputes, boundaries and easements, landlord & tenant, partnership, banking, pensions, insolvency, company law and shareholder disputes. John’s commercial practice includes local authority procurement claims, breach of contract, restraint of trade, sale of goods, consumer credit and fraud. He has been described by peers as having an amazing knowledge of the law, and an ability to carry out in-depth analysis of complex facts and issues.

John also has a practice in professional negligence work in relation to solicitors, accountants and financial advisors. He spent seven months in 2002-2003 acting as counsel assisting Lord Penrose’s inquiry concerning Equitable Life. John draws on skills acquired from his background as a Chartered Accountant in the banking sector and secondment to the Serious Fraud Office in the BCCI inquiry.

John has also trained as a mediator at the London School of Mediation, was accredited in 2015 and now serves as both a mediator and as a representative at mediations.

He has recently been identified as one of the six barristers ‘ranked in Band 1’ as a leading professional adviser to the Private Wealth market (outside London), where he is featured in the High Net Worth Guide 2021.

Areas of Expertise

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

John's specialism in real estate work includes conveyancing disputes, boundaries and easements, in particular disputes over easements and rights of way in both civil and tribunal proceedings. John has dealt with many such cases in a rural context. John's commercial and partnership practice has included numerous agricultural and rural affairs cases.

Commercial

John is a barrister specialising in commercial, banking, company, insolvency and chancery law. His commercial practice includes local authority procurement claims, breach of contract, restraint of trade, sale of goods, consumer credit and fraud. John has been involved in complex interim remedy applications including freezing orders and search and seizure orders.

Peers describe him as having a very sharp mind, and provides comprehensive, considered and commercial advice. He also provides superb service and is very client-focused.

He covers all aspects of company law including shareholder disputes and applications to restore companies and correct entries to the register at Companies House. John is recognised for his extensive background in accountancy, and is a popular choice by financial clients who instruct him on a range of company matters.

His partnership practice includes disputes concerning partnerships for solicitors, accountants and other professionals as well as general partnerships. John's financial expertise is particularly valued in this area where he understands the commercial implications of the legal and accounting issues.

John's banking practice focuses on mortgage enforcement disputes. John has acted for and against the main clearing banks and in disputes and third tier lenders. Sources praise John's particular skill in cases that involve complex numbers, and he regularly receives instructions in banking matters. He is recognised by clients to be the most astute finance barrister on the Western Circuit.

Court of Protection

John is a barrister specialising in Court of Protection work, he has appeared in the Court of Protection both in London, Bristol and other regional hubs. John brings his trust law experience and knowledge of financial issues to the help in property and affairs cases including challenges to remove attorneys and applications in relation to LPAs. His financial background has proved useful in cases concerning allegations of the misappropriation of funds. John has dealt with the approval of gifts, statutory wills and applications concerning Health & Welfare LPA and Deputyship issues. Other areas of John's practice include contentious probate, real property and professional negligence cases; all of which can prove helpful in matters spinning off from Court of Protection work.

Prior to his career at the Bar John qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1991, working for five years at what is now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its litigation support department. He was seconded to the Serious Fraud Office to assist in the BCCI investigation.

Mediation

John trained as a mediator at the London School of Mediation, was accredited in 2015 and now serves as both a mediator and as a representative at mediations. His approach to facilitative mediation is to control the process to help the parties be creative in constructing possible solutions. John sees his role as helping the parties use their own positions and interests to work towards a solution, leaving the parties respective lawyers to evaluate their case and offer any legal advice. John uses his extensive legal and commercial experience to help principled negotiations reach a resolution based on reason and objective criteria. If necessary John will test those positions. His experience as a mediator includes probate actions which better helps him to understand the parties' positions. John finds mediation to be a very stimulating and rewarding part of his practice.

The feedback from clients following mediations include:

- ▶ "Thank you for acting as mediator. We're very grateful and we all thought you were brilliant."
- ▶ "Thank you very much again, especially on behalf of for your exemplary conduct of mediation. Your calm and friendly efficiency, in our difficult circumstances, made us feel welcome, ensured that the proceedings were conducted with promptness, efficiency and confidentiality, and we're grateful that this contributed to a satisfactory compromise within the time you'd allocated (just!)."
- ▶ "My clients felt engaged, they liked John's soft style and the fact he listened to them. I would use John again without fail."
- ▶ "Thank you for your invaluable help over the course of the day."
- ▶ "John was very calm, collected and quietly confident throughout the mediation offering a steady hand to guide the parties through the day to ultimately reach a sensible settlement."
- ▶ "I would be pleased to recommend him in the future."
- ▶ "The clients were pleased with John's conduct of the mediation. They appreciated the time he took to listen to their concerns."
- ▶ "You did a great job getting us over the finish line."
- ▶ "John's gentle and confident manner was ideal for a client embroiled in an unfortunate family dispute."

Professional Negligence

John is a barrister advising on professional negligence claims in relation to banking, accountancy and fraud sectors, as well as company and commercial, real estate and wills and trusts matters.

His practice includes professional negligence claims acting both for banks and for insurers of the professionals, including conveyancing solicitors and surveyors. John is able to bring his own specialist knowledge of banking law and litigation and his previous accountancy work in bank audits and working as an accountant on secondment to the Serious Fraud Office for two years on the BCCI inquiry and prosecutions.

He acts both for claimants and for insurers of the professionals, including conveyancing solicitors and surveyors. John is able to bring his own specialist knowledge of property law on boundaries, easements and rights of way, probate law and litigation.

Sources praise John's particular skill in cases that involve complex numbers, and he regularly receives instructions in banking matters. He is recognised by clients to be the most astute finance barrister on the Western Circuit.

Real Estate

John is a barrister specialising in real estate work including conveyancing disputes, boundaries and easements, in particular disputes over parking and rights of way in both civil and tribunal proceedings and representation in tribunals in relation to adverse possession and other land registry issues.

He specialises in all aspects of landlord and tenant disputes. He was recently acting in a 5-day hearing for a Landlord & Tenant 1954 Act renewal for a sewerage.

He also covers boundary disputes and related adverse possession claims. John has dealt with many such cases in the courts and tribunals.

John has been consistently recommended as a leading junior in recent editions of Chambers UK and Legal 500. Peers describe him as having an amazing knowledge of the law, and an ability to carry out in-depth analysis of complex facts and issues.

Wills & Trusts

John is a barrister specialising in wills and trusts work including administration of estates matters. He has extensive experience in resolving all aspects of inheritance related problems, both through court proceedings and alternative dispute resolution. John's work includes claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, contentious probate claims, removal of personal representatives, undue influence, rectification of wills, proprietary estoppel and constructive trust claims.

John has been consistently recommended as a leading junior in recent editions of Chambers UK and Legal 500. Peers describe him as having an amazing knowledge of the law, and an ability to carry out in-depth analysis of complex facts and issues. He has recently been identified as one of the six barristers 'ranked in Band 1' as a leading professional adviser to the Private Wealth market (outside London), where he is featured in the High Net Worth Guide 2021.

Prior to his career at the Bar John qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1991, working for five years at what is now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its litigation support department. He was seconded to the Serious Fraud Office to assist in the BCCI investigation.

Recent cases

- ▶ [Morrell v Morrell](#), 2021 EWHC 117 (Ch)
- ▶ [Mussell v Patience](#) [2018] 4 WLR 57
- ▶ [Off Site Solutions \(RT\) Ltd v Altecnic Ltd](#)
- ▶ [Cooksley v Cole](#)
- ▶ [Ann Legg and Lynn Burton v Aaron Burton, Victoria Brooks and Michael Burton](#) [2017] EWHC 2088 [2017] 4 WLR 186
- ▶ [Amiee Shannon Steed](#)
- ▶ [Robinson v Stothard](#)
- ▶ [Peter and Christine Gregory v Donald and Marion Naysmith](#)
- ▶ [Rowena Mary Elizabeth Williams \(As Executor Of The Estate Of William Stanley Batters Deceased\) v Gregory John Jones](#)
- ▶ [DL Barrett & Sons v The City Council of Bristol](#)
- ▶ [Rawlinson deceased – Kayll, Kayll, Walker v Rawlinson](#) [2010] EWHC 1269(Ch), [2010] WTLR 1443; and the judgment on costs [2010] EWCH 1789(Ch)
- ▶ [Smith v Springford](#) [2008] EWHC 3446 (Ch) [2009] WTLR 705; [2008] All ER (D) 59
- ▶ [Foley Farms Ltd v Rigby Sporting Ltd](#)
- ▶ [X v Woollacombe Yonge](#) [2001] WTLR 308
- ▶ [Bristol & West plc v Bartlett](#) [2001] All ER (D) 404

Related Articles

- ▶ [Commercial newsletter Summer 2020 edition](#)
- ▶ [Disqualifying an alleged de facto director \(Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy v Rahman\)](#)
- ▶ [Estate Accounts – what is the test for inclusion of legal fees and other expenses?](#)
- ▶ [Can a mirror will be changed?](#)
- ▶ [Mutual Wills: the case of Legg and Burton v Burton and others A proprietary estoppel solution to replace the need for a binding contract?](#)

- ▶ Wills: At Your Disposal?
- ▶ Limitation – an update on recent case law

Recommendations

"John is an absolutely meticulous barrister and gets to the core of the issue immediately. His advice is always crystal clear and I am always impressed by his drafting. John has great attention to detail and provides imaginative solutions to problems. He is also very polished on his feet."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022

COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

"He's very thorough and very good with finance. From a legal standpoint, he is methodical and thorough. He is extremely good on details; no matter how many boxes or lever arch files you throw at him, he can cut through and give you a summary."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022

COMPANY

"He is very approachable and can turn things around quickly. He is very good on paper. He is extremely knowledgeable, has an excellent grasp of complex matters and is very responsive to clients' needs. He is extremely good on details."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

"John is a calm and measured advocate, who is always very thorough, precise and clear in his written advice. Nothing is too complex for him to disentangle."

LEGAL 500, 2022

CHANCERY, PROBATE, AND TAX

"A calm and measured advocate. He is excellent on the details and goes the extra mile."

LEGAL 500, 2022

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

"He has an excellent forensic grasp of figures and is unflappable."

LEGAL 500, 2022

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

"John is a former accountant, and an instructing solicitor considers him to be 'very good with finance,' while another interviewee says that 'he is forensically superb, he can unpick a case extremely well.' Dickinson advises clients on commercial matters, as well as contentious trusts and probate cases. 'He is extremely knowledgeable and has an excellent grasp of complex matters and is very responsive to clients' needs,' says an interviewee, who continues: 'He is extremely good on details – no matter how many boxes or lever-arch files you throw at him, he can cut through and give you a summary. His bedside manner is excellent. He provides sound and practical advice. He is a good advocate, his style is quiet and understated.' "

CHAMBERS UK, 2021

CHANCERY HIGH NET WORTH

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Chancery Bar Association
- ▶ Associate member of the Association of Contentious Trust And Probate Specialists (ACTAPS)
- ▶ Western Chancery & Commercial Bar Association
- ▶ Professional Negligence Bar Association

- ▶ Financial Services Lawyers Association
- ▶ Chartered Accountant (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales) ACA
- ▶ Associate Member of the Association of Pension Lawyers
- ▶ Member of the Court of Protection Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ BA Comb Hons (Exon.) ACA (Qualified as a Chartered Accountant 1991) Dip. Law (Distinction)

Contact John:

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