

Georgina Thompson



YEAR OF CALL: 2017

INN: INNER TEMPLE

Practice Overview

Georgina is a commercial and chancery practitioner and a qualified mediator. She accepts instructions in all of the main areas of commercial and chancery law. Her main areas of expertise lie in commercial litigation, insolvency matters and contentious probate disputes.

Georgina joined chambers in October 2019 following the successful completion of her pupillage. Her pupil supervisors were Alex Troup and John Dickinson. During her pupillage she gained experience in all aspects of commercial and chancery law.

Since taking tenancy in October 2019, Georgina has appeared in the High Court on matters varying from construction adjudication and enforcement in the Technology and Construction Courts, to contentious probate disputes in the Business and Property Courts. Georgina also regularly appears in the County Court dealing with both trials and interim procedural hearings; such as applications to strike out, injunctions and applications to set aside default judgments. Georgina has also developed a busy paper practice advising on matters relating to company and contract law, sale of goods issues and insolvency proceedings.

Alongside her court practice, Georgina has attended a range of mediations acting on behalf of clients; such as beneficiaries in 1975 Act claims, companies involved in sale of goods and supply of services disputes, and trustees in complex, multi-party trusts and probate litigation. Georgina welcomes instructions to attend meditations concerning commercial and chancery disputes.

Commercial

Georgina's main area of expertise lies in commercial litigation. Since taking up tenancy at St John's Chambers in 2019, Georgina has gained a wealth of experience in advising on matters concerning both individual consumers and businesses.

Georgina has advised on, and drafted pleadings in relation to, a variety of matters affecting consumers; such as Building Regulation compliance, the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Sale of Goods Act 1979.

Within her first year of practise, Georgina successfully negotiated a settlement on behalf of a consumer in relation to a claim premised upon principles of contractual construction and unjust enrichment. In addition, Georgina has succeeded at trial when acting for a consumer in relation to a business' failure to exercise reasonable care and skill when undertaking vehicle repairs. In this respect, Georgina has dealt with a number of claims made by both consumers and businesses relating to defective vehicles; including defective repairs, warranty claims, unpaid repair invoices and liens over vehicles.

Georgina has experience in advising, drafting pleadings, and acting on behalf of businesses where the quality of workmanship and/or goods supplied is called into question. She has acted for a number of businesses in relation to claims made by, and against, businesses regarding the sale of defective machinery and faulty installation of goods. Georgina has recently acted as sole counsel in relation to a dispute between businesses relating to defective workmanship. In addition, Georgina has dealt with matters affecting and arising out of disputes between businesses, such as allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and unjust enrichment.

More recently, Georgina has been instructed to deal with PPI "top up" claims which have been making their way through the County Courts. Such claims involve claimants seeking compensation pursuant to the unfair relationship provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in addition to that which has already been paid out by the lender in accordance with FCA guidance.

Along with Nick Pointon and Daniel Soar, Georgina recently provided a webinar dealing with Covid-19 business interruption claims following the Supreme Court's decision in *FCA v Arch Insurance* and others. Georgina accepts instructions from both insurers and businesses in relation to such claims.

Company

Georgina has been instructed to advise on, and draft pleadings in relation to, a number of company law matters. Since taking up tenancy at St John's Chambers in 2019, Georgina has gained experience in drafting applications to restore a company to the Companies' House Register and attending the hearings which follow on from such applications. Georgina has also been successful in making applications to extend the time to register a charge with the Companies House, and in applications rectifying errors on the register.

Georgina is due to give a seminar on the subject of applications to restore companies the Companies' House Register.

Insolvency

Georgina has a developing insolvency practice dealing with both corporate and personal insolvency matters.

Her experience includes:

- ▶ Advising on injunctions for the restraint against the advertisement of petitions
- ▶ Successfully petitioning for bankruptcy at a final hearings of bankruptcy petitions on behalf of petitioners
- ▶ Attending final hearings of winding up petitions on behalf of creditors; both in the regional courts and in the winding up court in London
- ▶ Dealing with interim applications, such as application for the adjournment of a petition on the basis of genuinely disputed debts

Construction & Engineering

Shortly after taking tenancy in October 2019, Georgina was instructed on various matters concerning construction disputes. In this respect, Georgina has appeared in the High Court (TCC) on a number of occasions seeking the enforcement of adjudicators' awards through the summary judgment procedure on behalf of claimant companies. She has successfully resisted arguments put forward by defendants relating to a stay of execution, and a want of jurisdiction on the part of the adjudicator to make the decision sought to be enforced.

Outside of court, Georgina has advised on the prospects of enforcement of an adjudicator's award through the summary judgment procedure, on the construction and interpretation of adjudicator's awards and on procedural matters; such as consequential directions listing a matter for trial in respect of which summary judgment was not granted.

Her experience includes:

- ▶ Defective building works generally; including claims regarding the exercise of reasonable care and skill, compliance with Building Regulations etc.
- ▶ Application for non-party costs order against director of building company threatening insolvency after undertaking defective works
- ▶ Enforcement of adjudicators' decisions
- ▶ Validity of pay less notices

Georgina is developing her practice in this area and welcomes instructions to advise and attend hearings.

Real Estate

Since taking tenancy in October 2019, Georgina has gained a wealth of experience dealing with residential property matters. She has been regularly instructed to attend residential possession proceedings on behalf of landlords and has dealt with a number of technical issues arising in such cases; including cases falling under the Rent Act 1977.

Georgina is also increasingly dealing with ToLATA cases as part of her practice. Recently Georgina has advised on, and drafted pleadings in relation to, a complex ToLATA case involving multiple properties acquired for investment purposes.

Her experience includes:

- ▶ Residential possession proceedings
- ▶ Possession proceedings against trespassers (including beneficiaries occupying a deceased's property after their death)
- ▶ Enforcing orders for possession through writ or warrant of possession
- ▶ Obtaining and enforcing charging orders
- ▶ Obtaining and enforcing an order for sale (under ToLATA and following the making of a charging order)
- ▶ Enfranchisement of freehold interest in property using the 'absent landlord procedure'
- ▶ Trust disputes and ToLATA claims concerning matters such as constructive trusts, resulting trusts, occupation rent and knowing receipt
- ▶ Adverse possession trial the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Land Registration Division
- ▶ Trial before a Circuit Judge regarding the construction of the terms of a commercial lease

Property Damage

Georgina is developing her practice in this area and has been instructed to advise on, and draft pleadings in relation to, a variety of property damage cases. In particular, she has dealt with a number of cases on behalf of insurers in relation to tree-root induced subsidence.

Further examples of Georgina's experience in this area include:

- ▶ Water ingress from adjoining properties
- ▶ Dry rot through party walls
- ▶ Defective works

Wills & Trusts

Since taking tenancy in October 2019, Georgina has gained a wealth of experience in wills, trusts and probate matters.

Georgina is regularly instructed to advise on, and attend mediations in respect of, claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 where she has acted for claimants and defendants.

Georgina was sole counsel instructed to attend a multi-track trial concerning allegations of a lack of testamentary capacity, a want of knowledge and approval and raised issues regarding the construction of a will.

Georgina has recently attended a mediation on behalf of a defendant trustee involved in a multi-party dispute with an estate regarding the beneficial ownership of company shares and allegations of knowing receipt. She successfully negotiated a discontinuance of the estate's claim against her client.

A summary of Georgina's experience in this area includes:

- ▶ Breach of trust claims
- ▶ Devastavit claims
- ▶ Claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 by adult children, partners and spouses; including applications under s10 of the Act and approval hearings for settlements in respect of minors
- ▶ Claims against personal representatives; including applications for their removal
- ▶ Claims dealing with the construction of a will
- ▶ Testamentary capacity challenges
- ▶ Operation of will trusts
- ▶ Lifetime gifts
- ▶ Claims based on constructive trusts and resulting trusts (including ToLATA)
- ▶ Allegations of wilful default and knowing receipt
- ▶ Claims seeking declarations as to the beneficial interest in property, company shares etc.

Georgina is developing her practice in this area and welcomes instructions to advise, and to attend mediations and hearings.

Professional Memberships

- ▶ Chancery Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ University of Law (London) – BPTC (VC)
- ▶ University College London (UCL) – LLM in International Commercial Law (Distinction) (Highest overall mark in her specialisation, ranked sixth overall in her cohort)
- ▶ University of Bristol – LLB (2.1)
- ▶ Full Exhibition Award BPTC Scholarship – The Inner Temple
- ▶ BPTC Advocacy Scholarship – The University of Law (London)
- ▶ Academic Achievement Award for the highest mark in the drafting examination – The University of Law
- ▶ Mayor's Commendation for voluntary work with the British Red Cross

Additional information:

Whilst undertaking her LLM at UCL, Georgina was a Research Assistant to her dissertation supervisor focusing on commercial and maritime law. Amongst other things, Georgina was tasked with assisting in the organisation of UCL's annual Commercial and Maritime Law conference. Georgina contributed to the content of one of the papers which was published by a speaker at the conference. During her studies, Georgina was selected to represent UCL at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot which took place in Hong Kong and Vienna. Georgina was a speaker in the Hong Kong round of the moot where UCL reached the quarter finals out of 132 teams; UCL ranking 8th in the competition.

During the BPTC year Georgina was employed as a tutor to LLB and LLM students; tutoring in specialist areas such as contract, commercial, shipping law and arbitral procedure. Georgina was also appointed as the External Moots Coordinator for the Inner Temple as a result of her skills gained during her time at the University of Bristol and UCL. As an Advocacy Scholar at the University of Law, Georgina sat on the Advocacy Committee during her BPTC year and was responsible for organising mooting competitions and tutoring GDL students.

In the year between graduating from the Bar course and commencing pupillage, Georgina gained advocacy experience working as an Advocate for a company acting on behalf of families; appearing at appeal panels at local Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England. During this time Georgina continued to tutor undergraduate and postgraduate law students.

In her spare time Georgina enjoys hiking in the Brecon Beacons and post-walk pints in local pubs. Georgina is also a qualified First Responder and puts her skills into use as a member of the Medical Response Team at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

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