

## John Dickinson



YEAR OF CALL: 1995  
INN: MIDDLE TEMPLE  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
(ACA): 1991

“ An intellectual force to be reckoned with, producing detailed advice which is nothing short of bomb-proof.”

LEGAL 500, 2020

COMMERCIAL, BANKING, INSOLVENCY AND CHANCERY LAW

## 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.

## 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.

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

- ▶ [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

- ▶ [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

"Well-regarded chancery practitioner. 'He stands out as a result of his previous accountancy experience, which makes him particularly well qualified to deal with partnership and other commercial disputes.' 'He is very persuasive and has an authority about him that judges listen to.' 'He has a good relationship with clients.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2020  
CHANCERY

"Noted by sources as a fantastic choice for contentious probate and chancery matters. He finds the answers to questions on the most obscure subjects, and the thoroughness and clarity of his analyses are very impressive.' 'He is an extremely good communicator with clients and an able advocate who ensures that his constructive and helpful advice is turned around quickly.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2020  
COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

"Advises on professional negligence claims in the accountancy and legal sectors. He is approachable, meticulous, excellent with clients and most likeable. 'His advice is thorough and easy to follow, even when the underlying issues of a case are very messy and complicated. He is always willing to discuss his advice and goes beyond what is expected in providing recommendations to progress the matters.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2020  
PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

John advises on breach of company registration issues, warranty claims and shareholder disputes. 'His advice is very thorough and prompt, and he is always friendly and helpful.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2020  
COMPANY

"Well-regarded chancery practitioner. 'He has that sort of brain, which I suppose everybody wants, where he can just look at things and get them immediately. He makes the client feel at ease. He is just very quick – if you give him an instruction it is normally done within a couple of days.' 'He is really, really thorough. You can send him a truckload of papers and he will absorb the lot. He will give you very thorough advice with no stone left unturned.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2019  
CHANCERY

"Noted by sources as a fantastic choice for contentious probate and chancery matters. He regularly receives instructions in cases that involve banking and company law. 'He's very well prepared and thorough – he brings a concise thought process and financial acumen to his cases which puts him above many others of a similar year of call.' 'He's very easy to contact and is able to quickly grasp the relevant points of a case.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2019  
COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

"Advises on professional negligence claims in the accountancy and legal sectors. He is regularly instructed in claims against engineers. He is also known for his expertise in chancery law and commercial dispute resolution. 'He is extremely talented and his retention of case law is unrivalled.' 'He is thorough and very effective.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2019  
PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

"Recognised for his wide-ranging practice which includes chancery work and commercial litigation, with a specialism in company disputes. He advises on breach of warranty claims and shareholder disputes as well as professional negligence cases. 'He's thorough and is a great and effective mediator thanks to his abilities. He can dispense with disputes and concentrate with the salient points.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2019  
COMPANY

"He has superb attention to detail."

LEGAL 500 , 2018  
COMMERCIAL, BANKING, INSOLVENCY AND CHANCERY LAW

### 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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### Contact the clerks:

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