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Chris Dunk

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Year of Call: 2014

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Clerk: Joanne Caunt

Clerk: Ellen McInall

PRACTICE AREAS

Company

Insolvency & Restructuring

Commercial

Wills, Trusts and Probate

Property

PROFILE

Chris is a specialist chancery barrister who practises across the full spectrum of commercial and chancery work. His experience includes commercial disputes, company, partnership and insolvency law, trusts, probate and estates litigation, and property and real estate litigation.

Chris appears regularly in the High Court and County Court throughout the country.

Chris is ranked by the legal directories as a leading junior in chancery, probate and commercial dispute resolution, where he is described as a “go-to barrister for commercial disputes”, with “absolutely fantastic” attention to detail and “superb” all-round knowledge.

PRACTICE AREAS

Company

Chris acted as junior to Hugh Jory QC during a two-week trial, representing a defendant director in respect of alleged breaches of fiduciary duty during the re-structuring of a group of companies: **LRH Services Ltd (In Liquidation) v Raymond Arthur Trew and ors** [2018] EWHC 600 (Ch).

Chris also assisted Hugh Jory QC and Hugo Groves on a successful three-day strike out/summary judgment application on behalf of defendant directors, in respect of claims against them for wrongful trading, transactions at an undervalue, preference and transactions defrauding creditors: **Brian Johnson (as Liquidator of Strobe 2) v Christian Arden and ors** [2018] EWHC 1624 (Ch)

Un-led, Chris has:

- Regularly appeared in the Companies Court on behalf of petitioning and supporting creditors and company directors.
- Represented petitioners, respondents and supporting creditors in a variety of bankruptcy petitions.
- Acted on behalf of and advised administrators and CVA supervisors.
- Drafted an unfair prejudice petition.
- Advised on recovery of assets in a liquidation and breach of directors' duties.
- Advised on a share register rectification claim.

Insolvency & Restructuring

Chris acted for the successful respondent in an appeal before Zacaroli J concerning trusts of land and a bankrupt's estate: **Bulathwela v Thomas and anor** [2019] EWHC 3511 (Ch).

Chris acted as junior to Hugh Jory QC during a two-week trial, representing a defendant director in respect of alleged breaches of fiduciary duty during the re-structuring of a group of companies: **LRH Services Ltd (In Liquidation) v Raymond Arthur Trew and ors** [2018] EWHC 600 (Ch).

Chris also assisted Hugh Jory QC and Hugo Groves on a successful three-day strike out/summary judgment application on behalf of defendant directors, in respect of claims against them for wrongful trading, transactions at an undervalue, preference and transactions defrauding creditors: **Brian Johnson (as Liquidator of Strobe 2) v Christian Arden and ors** [2018] EWHC 1624 (Ch)

Chris has also:

- Regularly appeared in the Companies Court on behalf of petitioning and supporting creditors and company directors
- Represented petitioners, respondents and supporting creditors in disputed bankruptcy petitions
- Represented applicants and respondents in applications to set aside statutory demands
- Acted on behalf of and advised administrators and CVA supervisors

- Advised on the Insolvency Act 1986 provisions regarding requests for information and public examination of directors and third parties
- Represented directors and administrators on applications for administration orders and seeking the extension of administrations

Commercial

In the last two years Chris has acted or advised in relation to:

- Credit hire agreements
- Mortgage disputes
- Carriage of goods
- Agricultural contractual disputes
- Enforcement of an adjudicator's award in a construction dispute
- Claims under guarantees and indemnities
- Debt recovery and enforcement

Wills, Trusts and Probate

Chris has acted and advised on a range of matters, including:

- Inheritance Act claims, including advising the representatives of a minor
- TOLATA claims by co-habitees, spouses and trustees in bankruptcy (as to the latter, see *Bulathwela v Thomas and anor* [2019] EWHC 3511 (Ch))
- An application to revoke letters of administration
- An application for an account by will trustees
- The proper interpretation of a will drafted by the deceased
- Representing an executor at a probate registry summons

During pupillage Chris gained experience of a wide range of domestic and international trust structures, will disputes and probate matters.

Property

Chris is developing a broad property practice, and in the last two years has:

- Acted on behalf of a commercial sub-tenant seeking relief from forfeiture
- Advised on commercial lease forfeiture, notices and renewal proceedings
- Represented and advised landowners in boundary disputes
- Acted on behalf of landlords and chargeholders in a variety of possession claims, including mortgage and

trespass claims

- Appeared for trespassing protestors in a mining dispute
- Advised on rights of way and other easements in domestic and commercial contexts
- Acted and advised on a variety of TOLATA claims

SIGNIFICANT CASES

LRH Services Ltd (In Liquidation) v Raymond Arthur Trew and ors [2018]
EWHC 600 (Ch)

Bulathwela v Thomas and anor [2019] EWHC 3511 (Ch)

CAREER AND ASSOCIATIONS

Member of the Chancery Bar Association

Member of the Northern Eastern Circuit Commercial Bar Association

Member of the North Eastern Circuit

Tenancy at Enterprise Chambers, 2017

Pupillage, XXIV Old Buildings & Enterprise Chambers, 2016 – 17

Paralegal, Mishcon de Reya LLP (Trusts and Succession Disputes team), 2015 – 16

LLM, Commercial Specialism (Distinction), London School of Economics, 2014 – 15

BPTC (Very Competent), University of Law

Bloomsbury Kennedy Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn), 2013 -14

GDL (Distinction), University of Law, York, 2012-13

Lord Haldane Scholarship, Hardwicke Award (Lincoln's Inn), 2012-13

BA, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Oriel College, Oxford, 2009-12

Leeds Grammar School, 1997-2008

PUBLICATIONS

Contributor to the Rural Law Notebook

Contributor to The Landlord and Tenant Factbook



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