

Overview

Company
Commercial Disputes
Insolvency
Professional Liability
Trusts
Wills and Estates

Mediation and
Arbitration

Profile: Overview

Christopher has a primarily contentious Chancery practice with particular expertise in insolvency, company and private client work. He has extensive trial experience and as Junior Counsel to the Crown acts for central government as well as corporations, insolvency practitioners, other professionals, charities and private individuals.

For information in respect of particular practice areas please see the links to the left.

Cases and Work of Note

- *Re Caledonian Commodities Ltd; Re Caledonian Ltd* [2016] EWHC 2854 (Ch); [2016] All ER (D) 89 (Nov) acting for the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy seeking the winding up of Caledonian Commodities Ltd and Caledonian Ltd in the public interest on the basis they had had mis-sold investments, including precious metals, carbon credits, rare earth metals and coloured diamonds, to members of the public;
- *Taylor v Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills* [2016] EWHC 1953 (Ch); [2016] 2 BCLC 350 acting for Mr Taylor seeking to reduce the period of a disqualification undertaking given by him pursuant to section 8A of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. Only the second reported application under such section;
- advising the Charity Commission in respect of its new discretionary power to disqualify charity trustees;
- advising a group of approximately 200 claimants in respect of the impact of the T&N/Federal-Mogul restructuring and their rights in respect of the trusts established as part of such restructuring;
- advising the Treasury Solicitor as to the domicile and applicable law for the administration of the estate of a well-known artist who lived in France but was in the process of returning to England;
- *Young v Young* - representing HMRC in relation to insolvency applications brought by the wife in heavily contested ancillary relief proceedings in the Family Division;
- advising the liquidators of a charity as to the rights the charity had in respect of a multi-million pound will trust;
- advising as to the impact of the UK Coal restructuring;
- all aspects of directors' disqualification, including acting for the Secretary of State/Official Receiver and defendant directors; applications under section 8A; permission to act applications under both sections 11 and 17; appeals; and claims asserting personal liability for a company's debts as a result of acting in breach of a disqualification;
- acting for a broker on its applications for late registration of a number of charges granted by different companies which secured several million pounds of lending by its clients;
- advising the liquidator of a company that had been wound up in the public interest as to the obtaining of a freezing injunction against the director;
- acting on behalf of the Official Receiver in proceedings seeking a bankruptcy restrictions order arising out of the Defendant's conduct leading up to and following the commencement of enforcement proceedings against him by the (then) FSA. Such proceedings were for breach of the general prohibition in FSMA and resulted in the FSA obtaining a judgment for in excess of £17M and the Defendant being committed to prison for contempt for breaching interim injunctions and freezing orders;
- acting on behalf of a Plc in a dispute as to the legal and beneficial ownership of 40 million of its shares;
- advising as to the relationship between the provisions in the Insolvency Act 1986 as to the ending of administration and the courts powers to restore a company in the

Companies Act 2006;

- advising the Public Trustee as to the charitable status of a relief fund established following a naval disaster;
- acting on behalf of the Official Receiver in ancillary relief proceedings in the Family Division to which he had been joined in his capacity as the husband's trustee in bankruptcy;
- advising a wife who had obtained a substantial award in matrimonial proceedings as to whether she could enforce such award against various assets owned by offshore trusts and foreign registered companies believed to be connected with her former husband;
- advising a well known charity as to whether a legacy left to it failed by reason of a condition which could not be fulfilled, whether the legacy could be saved for charity and the prospects of it successfully arguing that under any cy-près scheme the failed legacy should be paid to it free of conditions;
- *Stormonth v Stormonth* (25/09/12), ChD - appearing on behalf of the Attorney General in a will construction dispute. Arguing that a gift to "good causes" was charitable and that a gift of "all other monies" included the deceased's real, as well as her personal, estate;
- *Phillips v RSPB* [2012] EWHC 618 (Ch); [2012] WTLR 891 - appearing on behalf of the Attorney General arguing that a failed legacy should be saved for charity and applied cy-près.

Publications

Challenges to a Voluntary Arrangement in Sweet & Maxwell's *Insolvency Litigation: A Practical Guide* (2016)

The "Insolvency" title in LexisNexis' The Civil Court Practice (the Green Book) (2006 - 2016)

Failed charitable legacies - Executors beware (2013) PCY, 106-108

Contracting 'as trustee': a trap for the unwary (2009) JIBFL 24(6), 347-349

Qualifications

MA (First Class), Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Junior Counsel to the Crown (HM Attorney General's B Panel) (2014 - date)

Junior Counsel to the Crown (HM Attorney General's C Panel) (2009 - 2014)

Lord Denning scholar, Lincoln's Inn

Hardwicke scholar, Lincoln's Inn

Bateman scholar, Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Ian Malcolm Lewis prize, Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Law Studentship, Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Other Details

VAT Number: 867 2945 75

Bar Membership Number: 46918

Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund Number: 2250/051

For More Information

Please click on the links to the left or contact a member of the clerking team