

Practice Areas

Overview

Commercial Disputes

Professional Liability

Property

Trusts

Wills and Estates

Mediation and

Arbitration

Marie-Claire Bleasdale | Call 1993

Profile: Trusts

Experience and Expertise

Marie-Claire is instructed to advise on and to conduct litigation relating to a wide range of trust related issues, including the construction of trust provisions, the duties of trustees, administration of trusts, breach of duty claims, Beddoes applications, applications to vary trusts, and applications for directions from the Court.

She is praised by clients both for the effort and commitment she puts into all her cases and for the importance she attaches to communicating well with clients at every stage of the case.

She excels in the cut and thrust of advocacy in court, particularly witness actions where her skill at cross-examining witnesses and her mastery of the legal arguments and the trial bundles ensure that her clients feel that she has done everything possible to fight their corner.

In her advisory work she relishes complex legal questions, but ensures that her advice is practical, sensible, focused on the client's commercial objectives and easy to understand.

Clients commend her user-friendly approach and the fact that she is a good team-player, always prepared to help out with all aspects of the preparation of the case when time or resources are tight.

Cases and Work of Note

- Advice on the exercise by the trustees of a large family trust on the exercise of powers of appointment and advancement;
- Acting for a minor in an application to Court by the trustees for directions on whether or not the proposed use of trust funds would be for his benefit;
- Advising on whether a proposed settlement and variation of a trust was in the interests of the minor and unborn contingent beneficiaries;
- Advice on the on the consequences of HMRCs challenge to a IHT planning scheme and on how the trusts could be wound up;
- Advice on the trusts created by a trust deed where the conditions attaching to a gift were ambiguous; and
- Advice on the extent of a successive interests created by an ambiguous trust provision.