

**Overview**

Charities  
Court of Protection  
Professional Liability  
Property  
Trusts  
Wills and Estates

## Profile: Overview

Tom is one of the most in-demand juniors at the Chancery Bar. He has been Advocate of the Year at STEP's Private Client Awards, one of the Lawyer's Hot 100, Charities and not for profit - Barrister of the Year 2016 by Lawyer Monthly, and is among City Wealth's Most Highly Regarded Figures in Private Wealth Management. He is equally at home in court, or advising clients.

## Experience and Expertise

Tom Dumont has three decades of experience to draw on. He has appeared in most courts in the land, winning cases in the Supreme Court, the Administrative Court and the Court of Appeal, as well as his more usual stamping-ground, the Chancery Division of the High Court. He is known for his client-centric approach, forming an easy and efficient working relationship with solicitors and clients. He seeks solutions rather than obstacles. His practice covers the booming sector of contentious probate, family provision and other private client litigation and advice. He has a particular strength in professional negligence where it overlaps with the private client world, such as tax-planning by solicitors and accountants. He is recognized for his expertise in advising and acting for charities. His clients range from landed families and trust companies on and offshore, to entrepreneurs, national charities and Russian oligarchs.

## Cases and Work of Note

Recent cases include: acting successfully for Bernard Matthews' long-term companion in a dispute over his very substantial estate in the High Court; representing two firms of solicitors in dismissing, in the Supreme Court, a negligence claim against them; acting on behalf of a church in defeating the claims of a tennis club, where the grounds were in dispute; representing Sir Malcolm Arnold's carer in a dispute over his Estate; representing a firm of accountants in defeating at trial a claim that they had acted negligently in his tax-planning; revoking probate granted previously to a solicitor, where the judge referred the papers to the DPP on Tom's suggestion. In most of these cases, Tom has been against QCs, and beaten them. Tom has acted in leading cases in various fields including the development of constructive trusts, and the rule in Hastings-Bass. He is currently instructed on behalf of a family with substantial land interests valued in 9 figures, on a variation of their trusts to cover the next two generations.

## Recommendations

Tom is recommended by the legal directories as a leading practitioner for traditional chancery, charities and professional negligence matters. Selected quotations are set out below:

- "His technical knowledge is excellent and the quality of his advice is top-notch. He is responsive, available and always reassuring. It gives you tremendous confidence having him in your corner." "A Go-to guy for particularly complex trusts matters and excellent if you need someone who thinks outside the box." (Trusts, Chambers UK 2018)
- "Fun to work with, and has a wonderful turn of phrase. He gives straightforward advice." (Professional Negligence, Chambers UK 2018)
- "He is charm personified. He makes clients feel so at ease in what is usually a turbulent time for them, and clearly has the expertise and technical skill to handle the most complex cases. I can guarantee if I go to him for advice I won't get any questions from the Charity Commission." (Charities, Chambers UK 2018)
- "Excellent at technical and intricate trust work. He fully understands some very

- obscure aspects of trust law and has real in-depth legal knowledge." (Chancery: Traditional, Chambers UK 2018)
- "Very user-friendly." (Professional Negligence, The Legal 500, 2017)
  - "He has a particular flair for the high-value and complex cases." (Charities & Private Client, The Legal 500, 2017)
  - "Clear, robust and incisive. He's approachable, very ready to work collaboratively and it is always a pleasure to work with him. In a scrap, he is a great friend to have at our side." (Trusts, Chambers UK, 2017)
  - "He has a practice balanced between professional negligence and chancery, which is a rare thing. He's an experienced advocate but he's also fun to work with and makes our clients feel relaxed." (Professional Negligence, Chambers UK, 2017)
  - "His advice is always intelligent and clear, and he has excellent judgment." (Charities, Chambers UK, 2017)
  - "He is prompt and clear, and gives practical advice." (Charities, Chambers UK, 2017)
  - "He is absolutely expert and he's very good with clients. He builds a good relationship with them. We are often dealing with stressed situations and he is very good at empathising with clients without letting them stray off track." (Chancery: Traditional, Chambers UK, 2017)
  - "A great advocate, who is fun to work with and has a wonderful turn of phrase." - (Professional negligence, The Legal 500, 2016)
  - the most charming barrister; clients absolutely adore him.
  - he is extremely pragmatic, clear in his advice and client-friendly.
  - on his feet, he shows a good sense of humour, is straight down the line and commands the attention of the room.
  - one of the best names to have on your side.
  - his wealth of experience is invaluable when you're looking to get to the bottom of difficult technical questions.
  - a heavy weight junior for the more complex cases, whose wealth of experience is invaluable in getting to the bottom of difficult technical questions.
  - clients feel very reassured when they hear him speak, he gets straight to the heart of the matter and provides firm advice.
  - has a very nice style in court, he clearly understands his market and who is he dealing with, which allows him to give tailored advice..
  - known for his ebullient style, he is in great demand.
  - outstanding ability.
  - hugely experienced in the Supreme Court.
  - his terrific sense of humour endears him to those he works with.
  - brilliant with excellent knowledge of the law.
  - blessed with an abundance of common sense and talent.
  - advises in a refreshingly straightforward, empathetic and concise way.
  - a blue sky thinker who conjures effective, quirky solutions.
  - upfront, lively and positive.
  - wins over any courtroom that he enters with his calm and poised demeanour.
  - his opinions are crisp and to the point.
  - a marvellous courtroom performer with a good brain who is known for expressing himself with clarity
  - a joy to work with.

## Other Points of Interest

Tom ran the 400m, boxed and played fives at Cambridge, where he also studied law. He loves playing cricket (recently luring an instructing solicitor onto the field after a gap of 20 years), and enjoys Art, poetry and the myths and cultures of Ancient Greece and Rome. He is a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. In a rare example of uncertainty, he is not sure whether he prefers Shiraz or Cabernet Sauvignon, but is still working on it. Tom Dumont recently appeared playing guitar behind Gwen Stefani on The Jonathan Ross Show. Admittedly, it was another Tom Dumont.

This Tom is, rather more prosaically, vice-chair of the Bar's Law Reform committee, drafting the Bar's responses to Government consultations on the reform of trust and land law. He is a member of the ACTAPS committee, and chair of the STEP Journal Editorial Board. He is a frequent lecturer and commentator on legal matters, and presents the Lexis Nexis' Private Client webinars.

He is married with two children. His wife is a consultant ergonomist and teacher. His

daughter works for UNICEF. His son is in the Army. His father was a solicitor, but the legal line seems to have come to an end.

## Reference Details

VAT Registration Number: 362357648

Bar Membership Number: 13369

## For More Information

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

