

Overview

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Profile: Overview

Described by those instructing him as a talented and tenacious advocate who is also thorough, clear and practical in his advisory work, William is highly regarded in the areas of traditional Chancery, commercial litigation, property law and professional negligence.

Experience and Expertise

William's practice is balanced between his advocacy and advisory work in the commercial Chancery field, and he is commended for being "diligent and incisive" in both.

He has acquired particular experience of property disputes, commercial litigation and partnership disputes in addition to his expertise in probate, wills and trusts. He also frequently acts in professional negligence claims in those areas.

Recommendations

William is recommended for Commercial Litigation, Professional Negligence and Property Litigation by The Legal 500 and Traditional Chancery and Real Estate Litigation expertise by Chambers UK. Recent editorial includes:

- "He has great technical ability and he is excellent at putting clients at ease." (Real Estate Litigation, Chambers UK 2018)
- "Very approachable and an excellent advocate, he comes across very well in court and he always gives well thought-out and easy-to-understand advice to clients." "William takes a very considered approach to the law and his written opinions are very cogent. He is very logical in his thinking and he has extremely sound and detailed technical knowledge." (Chancery: Traditional, Chambers UK 2018)
- "He has proven himself to be a tenacious advocate, who will work diligently and tirelessly for the cause. Nothing fazes him." (Professional Negligence, The Legal 500, 2017)
- "He takes a very precise and considered approach to complex litigation." (Commercial Litigation, The Legal 500, 2017)
- "Very knowledgeable and extremely helpful. He goes above and beyond when handling his cases and always expresses himself in easy-to-understand language." (Real Estate Litigation, Chambers UK, 2017)
- "Shows very good attention to detail." (Real Estate Litigation, Chambers UK, 2017)
- "He's a very good all-rounder. His drafting's very good and in mediation he is great at winning the confidence of the mediator and pressing home an advantage." (Chancery: Traditional, Chambers UK, 2017)
- "Amiable and personable yet with a fierce determination to win on behalf of his client." (Professional negligence, The Legal 500, 2016)
- "He gives thoughtful and considered advice, with boundless commitment to the cause, always going the extra mile." (Property litigation, The Legal 500, 2016)
- "He is strategic and clinical in approach."
- "He has superb attention to detail and a charming manner with clients."
- "Practical, thorough, and building a strong reputation in chancery work."
- "Always pragmatic and very personable, he is a lawyer with a real eye for detail."
- "He pays great attention to detail, and is extremely perceptive and analytical."
- "An excellent advocate, who is great with clients."
- "He is a joy to work with and clients readily accept his advice because they have confidence that he gets it right."
- "Lauded for being thoughtful and thorough is all-round traditional chancery practitioner William Moffett. He is a born problem-solver with a loyal and diverse following, one of whose key strengths lies in his ability to pitch things well to clients".

- "Solicitors flock to him as an authority on disputes concerning wills, especially those involving questions of capacity and undue influence. He is also engaged on property litigation and trust cases. He is extremely clever and gives clear, perceptive advice. As an advocate he does not get distracted by difficult opponents and focuses on building and presenting the best possible case for the client".
- "William Moffett has a classic traditional chancery practice and is lauded for the fact that he produces skeleton arguments that are very clear and show good analysis. An advocate with a good, relaxed manner, he is firm but not unduly aggressive in court".

Cases and Work Of Note

- *Vallee v Birchwood* [2013] EWHC 1449 (Ch): William Moffett appeared in the Court of Appeal on this case concerning a donatio mortis causa, a death-bed gift, made in respect of a house by handing over title deeds, by the donor to his daughter some 4 months before his death. William appeared for the 'heir hunters' who represented the interests of the donor's relatives, who had been traced to the Ukraine. In addition to the unprecedented interval between gift and death, the case also considered the position where the donor had continued to live in the house during the whole of that interval.
- *Green v Eadie & Ors* [2011] EWHC B24 (Ch), [2012] 2 WLR 510, [2012] PNLR 9: William acted for the successful first and second defendants in a claim relating to descriptions of land prior to sale, the case deciding important points on the limitation periods applicable to claims in misrepresentation and negligence, especially under the Misrepresentation Act 1967;
- *Green v Montagu (Re the Duchy of Manchester Settlements)* [2011] EWHC 1856 (Ch), [2011] W.T.L.R. 1341: William represented the successful defendants, children of the Duke of Manchester. Being the product of a bigamous marriage their entitlement as beneficiaries to trusts of the Duchy's real property in England and Northern Ireland had been questioned. William co-wrote an article on this case in the *Trusts and Estates Law and Tax Journal* December 2011, no.132 p.5;
- *Shaw v Nine Regions Ltd* [2009] EWHC 3514 (QB): William represented the successful lender in one of the few cases considering questions of the 'unfair relationship' test in consumer lending;
- *Khan v Khan* [2007] EWCA Civ 399: William appeared as junior in the Court of Appeal on a matter involving the dissolution of a property and retail partnership and included observations on the importance of understanding the cultural background to family business arrangements;
- *Dashwood v Fleurets Ltd* [2007] EWHC 1610 (QB), (2007) 34 EG 84: William acted for a successful commercial surveyor and agent acting in the sale of commercial premises establishing the correct interpretation of a sole selling rights agreement and the relevance of the 'effective cause' test. The case has been discussed in EG No.0738 p.203, P.L.J. No.198 p.6, and referred to in Chitty 13-010;
- *Caws and others v Boyce and another* [2007] EWHC 691 (Ch): William acted for the successful defendant in a trial concerning mortgage frauds and property transfers alleged to have been procured by threats of violence in the context of organised crime.

Qualifications

William was called to the Bar in 2000, having gained top awards from Gray's Inn in consecutive years and before that a double first from Cambridge University.

Memberships

William is a member of the Chancery Bar Association.

Other Details

VAT Registration Number: 792304820

Bar Membership Number: 41452

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