
CHRIS QUINN

Call: 1992



General

Chris Quinn is an established Employment practitioner and is recognised as such by Legal 500 and by Chambers & Partners where he is named as one of its Band 1 Leading juniors.

Chris' practice is predominantly either High Court work arising out of the breakdown of an employment or similar contractual relationship or non-statutory capped Employment Tribunal work. He has been instructed in some of the highest profile City discrimination and whistle-blowing cases.

His central expertise is in complex business disputes where either the employment relationship is complicated by fiduciary or other directors' duties, shareholder rights and post-termination obligations or where the issue is not one solely of employment law but involves some other area such as a derivative claim or a section 994 petition.

However his expertise in all aspects of urgent relief work sees him instructed across a broad spectrum of work and he is able to draw upon expertise gained in many different areas of practice.

Chris has a very loyal client base and has been described in the directories as being "often the first port of call in high-value City disputes" and as being "particularly recommended for injunctive relief cases". He has appeared in a large number of reported cases and appears regularly at appellate level.

Injunctions

According to Chambers and Partners, Chris "is often the first port of call in high-value City disputes and is particularly recommended for injunctive relief cases".

His reputation has been gained over many years and sees him instructed in a large number of such applications.

Chris has extensive experience of both applying for and opposing applications for freezing relief, search orders and enforcement of restrictive covenants and fiduciary duties. His work regularly involves intellectual property and other tangential areas.

Many but by no means all of these cases will result in speedy trials. In respect of these, Chambers and Partners describe him as being "A tremendous cross-examiner and effective fighter" who "produces clear, crisp and persuasive arguments"

High Court

Chris' recent High Court trials include *Utopia v Wright* and others, *Tullett-Prebon v El-Hajjali* and *G Attwood Holdings v Woodward*. He will represent the First Defendant in a sizable trial featuring allegations of breach of contract in a team-move context this term.

Such trials often, but not always, result from an initial application for injunctive relief: as to which please see "Injunctions". The exceptions to this are illustrated by cases such as *El-Hajjali* which involved consideration of penalty clauses in contracts of employment.

Many of Chris' cases arise from a commercial relationship other than one of employment. He recently acted for a management company against a celebrity chef and was also instructed in the first case to consider the status of monies paid under a telephone direct debit scheme.

Chris also has extensive experience before the Court of Appeal. In 2009 he succeeded in the land-mark case of *Booth v Oldham MBC* which is now the leading authority on the inter-relationship between the Disability Discrimination Act and the Local Government Pension Regulations.

Discrimination Cases in the Employment Tribunal

Chris has been instructed in many of the most noteworthy City discrimination claims on behalf of both Claimants and Respondents. The most well-known of these is probably the "Gay Banker" case (*Lewis v HSBC*) in which Chris was instructed alone against both Andrew Hochhauser QC and Thomas Linden QC. This may be followed closely by his successful appeal in *Serco v Redfearn* which established that members of the British National Party could not rely upon the Race Relations Act.

He is frequently instructed in such high-value claims and has acted both for and against many of the leading City institutions.

Chris' credentials in discrimination cases are reflected by his instruction in *Booth v Oldham MBC* (inter-relationship between DDA and Local Government Pension Regulations) and in *GMB v Allen* where he succeeded in establishing that a trade union had discriminated against its female members on the ground of their sex.

Other Employment Tribunal claims

Chris has extensive experience in the Employment Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. He acts for both Claimants and Respondents in all areas of statutory employment claims. His most recent appellate cases reflect the breadth of his expertise ranging as they do from a successful TUPE appeal in *Nationwide Building Society v Benn* to a successful appeal against a finding of unfair dismissal in *Celebi v Compass*.

Chris has acted in a large number of whistle-blowing claims.

Other areas

Chris is regularly instructed in sports, media and entertainment cases and his experience extends to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Geneva. He has appeared in many of the domestic sporting tribunals.

Chris' commercial experience includes a large number of successful High Court trials. Recent cases have involved the Copyright and Rights in Databases Regulations 1997, the enforceability of direct debit schemes, moral rights and quantum meruit.