Christopher Edwards



Year of Call: 2008
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Commercial

Chris' practice encompasses the whole spectrum of high-value business and commercial disputes. He regularly advises and represents businesses and individuals in the County Court, High Court and Court of Appeal, across matters including contractual claims, guarantees, misrepresentation, shareholder and company disputes, including unfair prejudice petitions under section 994 of the Companies Act 2006 and just and equitable winding up, the interpretation of commercial agreements and disputes arising in the construction sector. He also has extensive experience of alternative dispute resolution.

Alongside his broader commercial disputes practice, Chris has particular expertise in professional negligence. He regularly advises and represents Claimants in high-value claims against a range of professionals, including solicitors, surveyors, architects and financial advisors, with particular expertise in claims for professional negligence arising from construction projects. His experience extends beyond litigation to strategy and tactics in the successful prosecution of such claims, including advocacy at mediation.

Recent and Notable Commercial Cases

- B&D Clays & Chemicals Limited v Castle Water Limited [2026] EWCA Civ 171, junior for David Parratt KC (Scot). Second appeal relating to the evidence admissible to challenge commercial water meter readings.
- Representing contractor in dispute over quality of installation of castables in hot flue gas ducts in the oil industry.
- Advising a hotel in respect of the liabilities of its franchisor following from the latter's purported termination of its contract due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Successfully appealing a judgment that an informal IOU given by a husband to a wife was a promissory note within the meaning of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882.
- Advising and drafting in respect of enforcement of a legal charge given by a third-party guarantor to a company's debts. Issues of interpretation of the charge and knowledge of the guarantor.
- Advising and drafting in respect of a claim arising out of loans to a property development company by a private bank. Issues of economic duress and conduct by the bank.
- Representing guarantors under claim for monies due under a personal guarantee arising from hire purchase and hire contracts. Penalty clauses and automatic termination. Interpretation of damages clause in agreements.
- Numerous cases arising from misrepresentations in property purchases.
- Advising on the construction of share purchase agreements, particularly in relation to the sale of companies in the construction sector.
- Winding up a family company on the just and equitable ground on behalf of the minority shareholders after a breakdown of trust and confidence with majority shareholder.

Recent and Notable Professional Liability Cases

- Advising developer on quantum in respect of failure by conveyancing solicitor to properly negotiate a deed of easement that provided access to the public highway.
- Solicitor's negligence in respect of failure to properly value High Court claim until immediately prior to trial.
- Architect's negligence in respect of duty to warn in relation to VAT rates chargeable by a contractor.
- Multiple claims in respect of architects' negligence in respect of payment provisions under JCT contracts.
- Solicitor's negligence in respect of failing to properly draft the escalator clause in a lease.
- Architect's negligence for wrongly designing reservoir situated on farm.
- Architect's negligence for providing wrong advice as to permitted development rights on a residential property in a green belt location.
- Architect's negligence for failure to correctly supervise installation of new heating in a listed church. Issues of contractual and tortious assumption of duty.
- Solicitors' negligence in respect of conveying wrong land in sale of part.
- Numerous claims against surveyors arising from pre-purchase surveys of residential properties.

Articles

Commercial barrister Christopher Edwards analyses the Court of Appeal decision in Times Travel (UK) v Pakistan International Airlines Corporation and its impact on the criteria of lawful economic duress and reasonableness in commercial contracts.

View Article

Christopher Edwards considers the case of First Tower Trustees Ltd and Intertrustees Limited v CDS (Superstores International) Limited [2018] EWCA Civ 1396 and the role of basis clauses in avoiding liability in contracts.

View Article

Commercial update: Claim notification clauses in SPAs

When notifying a claim under a claim notification clause in a Share Purchase Agreement, what level of detail does the purchaser need to give? Christopher Edwards analyses the Court of Appeal's most recent consideration of the issue (Teoco UK Ltd v Aircom Jersey 4 Ltd [2018] EWCA Civ 23).

View Article

Christopher Edwards provides an overview of the law relating to the Commercial Agents Directive and its latest developments in Webinar for Lexis Nexis.

View Article

Continuing breach is an area of law that has suffered from a level of uncertainty. In the context of professional risk, it is often important to limitation arguments, in order to determine when a breach of duty has occurred. Christopher Edwards (Call 2008) analyses the most recent contribution of the Court of Appeal, in Capita (Banstead 2011) Ltd v. RFIB Group Ltd [2015] EWCA Civ 310.

View Article

If a contract for work and materials is performed badly, can there be a total failure of consideration? By what 'performance' is that question to be addressed? And can there also be a claim for damages? Christopher Edwards analyses the most recent contribution of the Court of Appeal to the question of total failure of consideration and damages, in Gartell & Son (a firm) v. Yeovil Town Football & Athletic Club Limited [2016] EWCA Civ 62, [2016] BLR 206, 164 ConLR 28

View Article

Recommendations

"Christopher has an eye for detail and a charm in his advocacy. He delivers information in a calm but effective manner. He is impressive to watch."
"Christopher is very approachable and has a commercial approach to claims."
Chambers UK 2027/Construction/Western Circuit

"He is very user-friendly counsel."
"Chris has an eye for detail and a charm in his advocacy that teases out information in a calm-but-effective manner. He's very impressive to watch."
"He's always praised by solicitors for his work and intellectual rigour. He gets on very well with clients and solicitors, and they like the short, concise, clear advice that he provides."
Chambers UK 2027/Professional Negligence/Western Circuit

'Chris's drafting and understanding of complex manufacturing issues were excellent and greatly assisted in delivering an outstanding result for the client. Chris was able to identify key issues that turned the case in the client's favour.'
Legal 500 2027/Commercial litigation/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Christopher is very thorough in his advice to clients and is meticulous in terms of his attention to detail. His advice is sound, and you can be confident in receiving it. He is also good with clients and has a very calm demeanor. Christopher is also very effective in trial, having witnessed him undertake cross-examination.'
Legal 500 2027/Professional Negligence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Chris' intelligence enables him to grapple with the trickiest issues, but he is then able to explain his findings in a way that makes complex matters simple for the client.'
Legal 500 2026/Commercial litigation/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Chris has a very good eye for detail and is a very able and tenacious advocate. He is also very approachable with clients and easy to work with.'
Legal 500 2026/Professional Negligence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Christopher is a very effective and measured advocate. He grasps issues quickly and is extremely thorough.'
Legal 500 2025/Professional Negligence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

Academic qualifications

- BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics, St Peter's College, Oxford
- MPhil International Relations, St Antony's College, Oxford

Professional bodies

- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)