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Matt Barnett

Year of Call: 2017
Telephone: 0115 947 2581

Overview

Matt has quickly gained significant experience of advocating on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants on the small claims track, fast track, and multi-track, appearing on a daily basis in trials, interim hearings, and applications.

His practice focusses on all areas of personal injury, credit hire, motor claims, data protection law, consumer rights, property disputes, housing claims, commercial disputes, and counter fraud.

Before coming to the Bar, Matt had a very successful career within finance. During his 15 years working for three of the UK's major banks, he gained significant experience across many sectors of banking. This included undertaking senior roles within Retail, Mortgages, Business, Commercial, Corporate and Private Banking.

Matt's final role prior to commencing pupillage was as the Operations and Control Manager for Santander Business. He was instrumental in shaping the banks approach to dealing with financial crime. Utilising his experience across sectors, his work included designing and delivering bespoke anti-financial crime training, implementing robust prevention mechanisms and re-writing many of the internal guidance materials.

Matt studied law at the University of Derby where he obtained a first class LLB before completing his BPTC at the University of Law.

He was awarded the Harmsworth scholarship by Middle Temple for his BPTC years.

Away from work Matt is kept very busy by his young family and can often be found running along muddy touchlines with a flag in his hand. Given the chance, he loves a good book, a good meal and a great movie.

Expertise

Personal Injury

Matt is regularly instructed by both Claimants and Defendants across all areas of personal injury matters. He has experience of trial work involving claims relating to employers' liability, public liability, product liability, Highways Act claims and road traffic claims.

Matt has built a busy paperwork practice and is regularly instructed to draft pleadings and advise on issues of procedure, limitation, liability and quantum for both Claimants and Defendants.

Credit Hire

Matt developed an interest in this area of law during his pupillage rotation with Andrew Hogan, which he has subsequently carried into practice.

Quickly building a reputation within this field of work has resulted in regular and repeated instructions on claims valued at several tens of thousands of pounds, including many in excess of £75,000, on the Fast Track and Multi-Track.

Matt is well versed in all aspects of credit hire litigations including enforceability arguments, period arguments, rates evidence, impecuniosity, fleet vehicles, offers of alternative vehicles and professional drivers / lost profit claims.

Motor

Matt frequently acts on motor claims and has trial experience of matters relating to damage to property, repair of street furniture and credit hire claims. Furthermore, he has experience with claims involving the Motor Insurance Bureau.

Matt regularly appears for both Claimants and Defendants at trials arising out of road traffic accidents. He is able to advise on issues relating to liability, quantum, and causation both in conference and on paper.

Housing

Matt has experience of possession claims on behalf of both the landlord and tenant at the County Court. This includes claims in relation to Assured Shorthold Tenancies and has appeared on behalf of Councils resisting claims relating to Homelessness appeals.

Recent work has included advising a Defendant landlord in relation to a Defective Premises Act; Occupiers Liability Act; Contract; and Negligence Claim by their tenant. This included their liability in relation to work provided by a sub-contractor, through their letting agent, in an area of the property immediately adjacent to property owned by the council. As such, Matt needed to address technical questions relating to the head lease, Sublease and defining the demised premises of the separate property.

Property & Real Estate

Matt brings with him to the Bar a wealth of experience of dealing with both residential and commercial properties, together with a number of financial and mortgage qualifications, obtained during an extremely successful 15 year career within banking. This unique experience enables Matt to quickly understand the issues and interpret the language of finance, allowing him to provide both legal and practical solutions to any property dispute.

Matt has been involved in helping to advise upon and resolve matters relating to border disputes, easement claims, prescriptive rights, and repossession claims.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Matt's first career was within the financial sector. He brings to the Bar his 15 years of experience within senior roles spanning a variety of specialisms including, mortgages, business, commercial, corporate and private banking. In addition, Matt holds a number of financial qualifications in relation to mortgages and financial advice.

This background gives Matt a significant advantage within all areas relating to commercial disputes. He is able to quickly understand the financial and practical impact of the issue, enabling him to offer both commercial and legal solutions to his clients.

Matt has experience of dealing with a variety of commercial matters including, debt claims, sales of goods claims, Consumer Rights Act claims, contractual disputes, solicitor/client disputes and business sales agent disputes.

Data Protection & Information

Before coming to the Bar, Matt, as Operations and Control Manager for Santander Business Banking, was heavily involved with the bank's response to the introduction of the new GDPR requirements. This included reviewing the way customer information was held, how and when it was used and culminated in the redesign of internal systems and guidance for staff on the capturing and use of personal data in order to avoid breaches.

Matt has been providing advice and representing both Claimants and Defendants at trial for several years.

Consumer Law

Matt has specialised in claims relating to the sale of Solar Panels and Section 75 claims for a number of years. He has experience of representing Claimants and Defendants at trials, interim hearings, and applications.

Drawing upon his background in finance helps Matt deliver clear advice to clients and precise advocacy for tribunals, quickly translating very complex matters into easily understandable language has resulted in success for clients and praise from the bench.

Matt welcomes instructions from both Claimant and Defendant firms.

Counter Fraud

Matt has experience of claims involving suspected fraudulent behaviour including staged accidents, low velocity impact and phantom passengers.

Drawing on his previous experience of developing methodology for preventing anti-money laundering and tackling financial crimes within the financial world, Matt brings to the Bar an eye for detail and an ability to draw together fact patterns in order to expose fraudulent conduct.

He has quickly built a reputation for utilising these skills for the benefit of his insurer clients resulting in repeated instructions and regular findings of fundamental dishonesty.

Education

- LLB, University of Derby (First Class)
- BPTC, University of Law

Ropewalk Chambers

24 The Ropewalk
Nottingham NG1 5EF

T 0115 947 2581
E clerks@ropewalk.co.uk