

BEN HARDING

Year of call: 2005

Clerked by: Harry Young Brandon Singh

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Arbitration Banking & Finance Commercial Litigation
Company Insolvency International & Offshore Partnership
Professional Negligence Sport Technology and Construction



Sport

Ben is a member of Kings Sports.

He has acted for a number of football clubs in relation to commercial and sports matters, a recent highlight being a high-profile claim by Manchester City Football Club and the City Football Group for worldwide injunctions against persons unknown to protect their global premises from trespassers (and in particular a group of urban climbers who climbed on to the roof of the Etihad Stadium in Manchester in 2017 and put a video of them doing so on social media). Ben was led by David Casement QC, instructed by Pinsent Masons LLP, and successfully obtained far-reaching interim injunctions.

Ben has also acted in a substantial dispute between a Premiership player and his former agent.

He is keen to develop his sports law practice.

Significant Recent Cases

Manchester City Football Club Ltd & Ors v. Davies & others (2017) – Manchester Business and Property Courts - claim against group of urban climbers who had climbed on to the roof of the Etihad stadium in Manchester for worldwide injunctions against them and persons unknown preventing entry on to the Club and parent group's premises. Led by David Casement QC. Interim injunctions obtained.

Bony v. Kacou & Ors (2017) – Manchester Chancery District Registry – application to challenge jurisdiction in relation to claim by professional football player against former agents and associates for receipt of secret commissions / bribes

Frazer v. Manchester City Football Club (2016) – Manchester County Court - successfully defending ticket refund claim by claimant suspected to be or acting for a ticket tout

Re Rowellian Social Club (2016) – Northampton District Registry – application for directions in the administration of a sports social club

Hockaday v. Leeds United Football Club (2015) – Manchester District Registry – claim by former coach for £88k alleging he was sacked in breach of contract

Profile

Ben joined chambers in April 2008 after pupillage at 8 King Street Chambers, Manchester.

Ben practises in all aspects of commercial dispute resolution. Most of his work is in the Business and Property Courts and he regularly appears across the Northern, North-Eastern and Midlands Circuits and in London.

Within his broad commercial practice Ben has developed specialisms (detailed further below) in insurance, insolvency, professional negligence and construction. He also has a growing sports law practice, having acted for a number of football clubs.

Ben approaches every instruction with intellectual rigour, attention to detail, commercial pragmatism and speed. His attitude is that cases are won on the facts and lost on the law, so that it is essential to identify and analyse the key issues early to achieve the best result for his client. He is also aware of the ever-pressing need to give a firm, clear view on prospects, for the benefit of client and insurer/funder.

Ben acts predominantly as sole Counsel and has been led by chambers' silks on a number of occasions. His clients span the range from large corporations and institutions to private individuals; and the subject matter ranges from multi-million pound claims and injunctions to his client's home.

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Commercial Litigation

Company

Insolvency

International & Offshore

Partnership

Professional Negligence

Sport

Technology and Construction

Memberships

Northern Commercial Bar Association (committee member since 2015)

Chancery Bar Association

Northern Chancery Bar Association

British Irish Commercial Bar Association

Publications

Articles

- Calling time: the law of limitation directions - Counsel Magazine June 2017; <https://www.counselmagazine.co.uk/articles/calling-time>

Seminars

- Online payment fraud: a case study - in-house seminar Nov 2017 for Addleshaw Goddard LLP
- Misrepresentation: statements of opinion and reliance - NCCBA seminar June 2016
- Company Restoration: the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010 and limitation - in-house seminar Feb 2016 for DWF LLP
- "Professional negligence - Jackson and the litigator" - Kings Chambers conference series 2014
- Third party costs orders, including orders against legal representatives - in-house seminar September 2013 for Berryman's Luce Mawer LLP

Qualifications and awards

BA (Hons) Literae Humaniores - first class (Balliol College Oxford)

GDL (City University, London)

BVC (BPP Law School, London)

Major Scholar (Inner Temple)

Recommendations

"He is excellent - very good with clients, very thorough and always takes time to prepare for conferences." "He is hard-working and his written work

is a delight. His advice is succinct and easy for clients to understand." - **Chambers UK 2020**

'A brilliant barrister.' - **Legal 500 2018**

"He is an exceptional intellect and a skilled advocate." - **Chambers UK 2015**

"He is as bright as a button; he has a great delivery and a good courtroom presence."- **Chambers UK 2014**

