

LESLEY ANDERSON QC

Year of call: 1989
Year of silk: 2006

Clerked by: Gary Young Harry Young

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Arbitration Banking & Finance Company Civil Fraud Dispute
Resolution Professional Negligence International Insolvency
Mediation Partnership Property



Company

Lesley acts and advises in relation to all aspects of company law but especially in connection with disputes between shareholders and in breach of trust/fiduciary duty claims. Current and recent work includes advising the Board of a long-established family company in connection with interpretation of its articles of association and advising majority shareholders of a chain of nursing homes in connection with the meaning of provisions in a debenture.

Significant Reported Cases

Court of Appeal

Strahan v Wilcock [2006] 2 BCLC 555 – successfully defended appeal against decision that a company was a “quasi-partnership” and that the minority shareholder who had been excluded from management was entitled to have his shares purchased by the majority without any discount.

Other

Jennifer Lee v Futurist Developments Ltd [2010] EWHC 2764 (Ch) – company director acted in breach of fiduciary duties he owed to a second company in which he was a shareholder for failing to account for introduction fee on development land owned by second company and paid by the ultimate purchaser of land.

Amparo Castilla Bateman (Widow & Executrix of the Estate of Brian Bateman, Deceased) v Danks Holdings Ltd & Bristol & Babcock Ltd [2009] EWHC 2082 (QB) – in interpreting a transfer agreement between two wholly-owned subsidiaries of the same parent company the natural conclusion to be drawn from the words of the agreement was that all liabilities would transfer unless specifically concluded.

Profile

Lesley practises in all aspects of chancery and commercial litigation with a focus on companies, corporate and personal insolvency and commercial property. She is head of Kings Chambers Business & Property Group.

In 2014, she was named as one of The Chambers 100 UK Bar which ranked the top 100 silks practising in England & Wales.

She has twice appeared in the Supreme Court.

Recommended as a leading Band 1 silk in six practice areas for Chambers UK Guide for 2016: Chancery; Commercial Dispute Resolution; Partnership; Real Estate Litigation, Restructuring/Insolvency and Professional Negligence and in the Legal 500 for 2015 as a leading silk in Commercial, Banking and Insolvency and Property.

Clients include banks, multinationals and major public companies as well as a number of smaller manufacturing and e-commerce companies and professional firms. She has acted for and against the Government including on public interest winding up and directors’ disqualification.

Known for her expertise in complex and sensitive shareholder/unfair prejudice disputes, breaches of trust and fiduciary duties and share and asset sale claims.

Sits regularly as a Deputy High Court Judge of the Chancery Division. She acts regularly as mediator and offers Early Neutral Evaluation.

Former legal academic and training manager for Norton Rose M5 Group and contributes regularly to legal and professional conferences and in-house training for solicitors and other professionals and to books and journals.

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Areas of Expertise

Arbitration
Banking & Finance
Civil Fraud
Company
Dispute Resolution
Insolvency
International
Mediation
Partnership
Professional Negligence
Property

Memberships

Benchers of The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
Chancery Bar Association (including co-opted member of Committee)
Northern Chancery Bar Association (immediate past Chairman)
Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association
Northern and North Eastern Circuit

Appointments

Recorder (2006)
Authorised to sit as Deputy High Court Judge of the Chancery Division (2008).
Head of Business & Property Group (2017)

Qualifications

LLB - University of Manchester (1984)
CEDR Accredited Mediator (2000)

Recommendations

Since being in practice Lesley has received consistent recommendations in Chambers Guide where she is ranked as a Band 1 silk in six areas and the Legal 500:

Legal 500 2018:

‘A tenacious, forthright and perceptive advocate.’
‘Very experienced in commercial landlord and tenant cases.’

Legal 500 2017:

Shortlisted for ‘Regional Silk of the Year’.
‘She is very commercially minded and provides a realistic view of a case’s merit.’
‘A tenacious advocate, who is thorough in her approach; every stone is turned over and fully analysed.’

Chambers UK 2018:

"Extremely academic, extremely good on her feet and expressive without being aggressive." "Exceedingly able, experienced and client-focused. Her advocacy is second to none."

"She is the full package; excellent on paper and a tenacious advocate." "She is extremely thorough and fantastic in court."

"A tough fighter in partnership cases who is certainly very well regarded in the field." "Recommended for high-end work in this space."

"She's excellent, reliable and very professional."

"A phenomenal silk who is excellent in court." "She's in a world of her own in terms of quality and strength. She's fantastic." "Very incisive, very intelligent and very effective in court."

"She is highly intelligent, good on paper, and a very strong advocate." "She is committed to her cases and gets on well with clients."

Chambers UK 2017:

"She is fantastic. A very formidable advocate and she instils a sense of confidence in you when advocating on your behalf. Really top-drawer."

"She has a formidable presence as an advocate and shows softer skills with clients." "A very bright individual, very focused and always on top of papers."

"She advises on complicated partnership disputes and is excellent in her field."

"Lesley Anderson QC is a joy to instruct on a variety of issues. She is a very impressive and powerful advocate who is also extremely approachable." "She has great ability in conference and is fantastic with our clients."

"She exhibits an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law." "Very good on her feet, unstoppable, very responsive and always offers a strategic angle."

"She is very bright, good with clients and tireless in getting the right result."

Chambers UK 2016:

"A tenacious Chancery counsel who is excellent in cross-examination. She is able to dissect cases quickly and is first class in conference. She adopts a real common-sense approach".

"She is very thorough, tactically very astute – a big personality in negotiation". "An excellent advocate who is very empathetic with clients".

"Well respected by clients and judges". "A ferocious advocate and a very good lawyer".

"She's top drawer when dealing with professional negligence issues. She's an exceptional silk at the Northern Bar".

"A great and intelligent advocate: really well prepared and good on her feet".

"She is also razor-sharp and incredibly nice; she's very good with clients." "She is very user-friendly but she doesn't take any nonsense – she's an iron fist in a velvet glove".

Legal 500 2015:

"A tenacious, combative yet measured advocate who always impresses clients".

Chambers UK 2015:

"She's got a first-class mind. She's great with clients, solicitors and juniors." "She's probably one of the most respected silks in Manchester. She is a very punchy cross-examiner."

"A forthright advocate who doesn't miss any points."

"She is very, very strong in everything she does. She's excellent." "Lesley Anderson has a fantastic and well-earned reputation."

"She is very hands-on and the quality of her advice is excellent." "She is as impressive as ever and works on high-profile cases." "A truly exceptional silk." "If there's anything difficult or complex you need your number-one team on, she's your first port of call."

The Chambers 100 UK Bar 2014:

"Combines approachability, technical ability and excellent tactical judgement."

Chambers UK 2014:

"She is tremendously commercial and has an easy confidence which is infectious. She is robust but adaptable in her approach."

"She is exceedingly thorough; a fantastic team player who really gets on with clients and puts her heart and soul into the case."

"She commands considerable respect and authority in the courtroom."

"She is exceedingly thorough and a fantastic team player. She really gets on with clients and she puts her heart and soul into a case."

"She has a tremendous courtroom ability – she can just scythe through the other side's witnesses and evidence."

"She is hard to beat at the regional Bar for insolvency matters; she is great on paper and even better on her feet."

"She is exceedingly thorough, a fantastic team player and really gets on with clients."

Legal 500 2014:

"Extremely thorough and very user friendly"

"Meticulous on paper and devastating on her feet"

Chambers UK 2013:

Is "extremely methodical and very professional."

"A great advocate who presses every point until it gets home." and "effective at drawing out of witnesses answers which they may have resisted giving."

"Is a calm and collected" barrister who is both "proactive and knowledgeable." "She gets to grips with the matter at an early stage in order to overcome difficult issues from the off."

Is "hard to beat at the regional Bar for insolvency matters; she is great on paper but even better on her feet." Anderson is widely respected by fellow barristers, who appreciate her experience and preparation in proceedings, "I think her main characteristic is her ability to foresee the potential problems at an early stage," say those that use her.



Lesley Anderson QC

