



Christopher Adams

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Christopher Adams practises in all areas of Chambers' work, with an emphasis on commercial litigation and arbitration, health & safety, product liability and property. He also has also assisted Sir Alan Dashwood QC in numerous EU and competition law matters.

Christopher acted as a junior to Charles Gibson QC and Geraint Webb QC in the Supreme Court in *Vedanta Resources PLC v Lungowe*, an appeal in relation to a jurisdictional challenge arising from an environmental mass tort claim originating in Zambia. He is currently instructed as a junior to Prashant Popat QC representing a Defendant in a health and safety prosecution brought by the Office of Rail and Road.

He graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge with a Double First in English before studying at the Royal Academy of Music and working as a classical singer for several years, including with many of the world's foremost conductors, orchestras and ensembles. He speaks German and has a good working knowledge of French and Italian, and makes use of his foreign languages in his legal work.

Christopher was placed first in his year for the CPE in Legal Studies at London South Bank University, and was an Astbury Scholar of the Middle Temple.

He is also an accredited mediator.

Commercial Disputes & Chancery

Christopher is developing a practice in commercial litigation and arbitration, frequently with an international dimension. He has advised and represented corporate clients in a range of commercial disputes involving issues of contractual interpretation, fraudulent misrepresentation, economic torts, conflict of laws, jurisdiction and foreign law. He has recently co-authored an article in the *Journal of International Arbitration* on compelling evidence from witnesses located abroad in support of arbitration proceedings seated in London.

Instructions include

- Applications for interim freezing injunctions and third party disclosure.
- Insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.

- Applications to restore dissolved companies.
- LCIA arbitration proceedings on behalf of 4 corporate carry vehicles in a £23 million dispute with a bank (as a junior, details confidential).
- An application to compel German witnesses to give evidence in support of arbitration proceedings seated in London pursuant to the Arbitration Act 1996 and the Taking of Evidence Regulation, including attending hearings in Germany (details confidential).
- Advising on jurisdiction in respect of a tortious claim for pure financial loss pursuant to the Rome II Regulation involving companies registered in both EU Member States and non-Member States (details confidential).
- An LCIA arbitration for breach of a settlement agreement (as a junior, details confidential).
- Advising in relation to implied contractual terms and the admissibility of foreign evidence of previous convictions in civil claims.
- *Abbey Forwarding (In Liquidation) v HMRC* [2015]: assisting Leigh-Ann Mulcahy QC and Adam Heppinstall in an inquiry as to damages on a cross-undertaking given by HMRC as part of a provisional liquidation order (as a pupil).

Health & Safety, Inquests and Public Inquiries

Christopher has a breadth of experience in health & safety matters including court proceedings and pre-trial advice, submissions and investigations. Having worked as a paralegal at an international firm of solicitors, he has experience of advising a range of clients on all aspects of the health & safety investigation and trial process, including those from the education, restaurant, transport and construction industries. Christopher has supported clients in interviews with the HSE and local authorities.

Instructions include

- Representing a defendant at a Crown Court sentencing for a breach of s3(1) HSWA involving a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning arising from the accidental removal and bricking up of a live gas flue.
- Acting as a junior to Prashant Popat QC for a defendant in a Crown Court prosecution brought by the Office of Rail and Road.
- Advising the port owner on an HSE prosecution arising from a fatal accident to a security guard at the Port of Immingham (as a junior to Toby Riley Smith QC).
- Advising the port owner on an HSE prosecution in relation to a non-fatal accident at the Port of Ipswich (as a junior to Toby Riley Smith QC).
- Representing corporate interested persons at inquest proceedings.
- Advising in proceedings relating to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Product Liability & Professional Negligence

Christopher is regularly instructed as a junior and in his own right in a wide range of contractual and tortious claims for product liability and professional negligence, frequently involving multiple claimants and issues of jurisdiction and conflict of laws.

Instructions include

- Acting on behalf of a supplier of pharmacovigilance services in a dispute involving breach of contract and/or professional negligence.
- Acting for a foreign manufacturer of medical devices defending a claim under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (as a junior).
- Acting on behalf of a provider of agronomy services defending a claim for breach of contract and/or professional negligence and/or fiduciary duty (as a junior).

Environment

Christopher acted as a junior to Charles Gibson QC and Geraint Webb QC in the Supreme Court in *Vedanta Resources PLC v Lungowe*, an appeal in relation to a jurisdictional challenge arising from an environmental mass tort claim originating in Zambia.

EU, Competition & Public Law

Christopher has been instructed as a junior to Alan Dashwood QC on a range of EU, competition and public law matters.

Instructions include

- Advising on the effects of the CJEU decision in *Slovak Republic v Achmea BV* on the enforceability of ICSID awards made pursuant to intra-EU arbitrations arising under the Energy Charter Treaty.
- Advising on the alleged anti-competitive effects under EU law of an exclusive purchasing obligation in a contract for the supply of biofuel.
- Advising on the scope and jurisdictional reach of the European Arrest Warrant system and Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition for judgments imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty.
- Advising a foreign businessman on an application to the European Court of Human rights in respect of infringement of his Article 6 rights during a criminal trial in Romania.

Property

Christopher is regularly instructed on behalf of public sector and private clients in a range of landlord and tenant disputes. He has extensive experience of real property proceedings in the courts and the First Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) involving breach of covenant, rights of way and boundary disputes, and has appeared in the Magistrates' court in statutory nuisance proceedings under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Instructions include

- Advising in relation to health & safety duties, building regulations and breach of freehold covenants in a dispute over the obstruction of a supermarket's fire escape route over a neighbouring property.
- Possession claims, including against trespassers and those involving housing disrepairs.
- Defending clients in a private prosecution for statutory nuisance in the Magistrates' Court.
- Applying to restore dissolved companies to the Register of Companies in order to transfer real property assets.
- Advising a leaseholder in relation to a claim against the freeholder for unreasonably withheld consent to assignment of the property and mismanagement.

Consumer Credit

Christopher is regularly instructed in a range of consumer credit matters. He is also a contributor to Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law.

Instructions include

- Acting for credit card companies in proceedings under the unfair relationships provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- Representing the Defendant in a claim for breach of a merchant services agreement involving issues under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- Acting for banks in claims for unpaid credit card debts.
- Credit hire proceedings.
- Advising in respect of non-commercial agreements.
- Advising on rights of third party purchasers in relation to fraudulently-obtained vehicle hire-purchase agreements (as a pupil).

Court of Protection

Christopher appears regularly in the Court of Protection in a wide variety of proceedings under the Mental Capacity, Mental Health and Care Acts.

Personal Injury

Christopher is regularly instructed to represent claimants and defendants in personal injury claims and to advise on liability, quantum and settlement, including advising on a claim arising from the 2015 accident on a rollercoaster at Alton Towers.

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator

Publications

- Contributor to Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, March 2017
- Contributor to Safety & Health Practitioner, August 2015 (co-authored)
- Contributor to Safety & Health Practitioner, July 2015 (co-authored)

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association
- Administrative Law Bar Association

Education

- BA in English, Trinity College, Cambridge (Double First)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Singing, Distinction and DipRAM, Royal Academy of Music
- KA Gesang (Singing), Distinction, Hochschule für Musik, Köln
- CPE in Legal Studies, Distinction (1st in Year), London South Bank University
- Astbury Scholar, Middle Temple
- Excellence Award, BPP Law School
- Routledge Cavendish Book Prize for Best Performing Student, London South Bank University
- BPTC, BPP Law School
- ADR Group Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator