

## Chris Quinn

Call: 1992

### Barrister

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Chris is recognised as one of the leading trial advocates in employment disputes (both High Court and Tribunal). He has appeared in many of the leading recent trials as well as many high-profile commercial cases. He also has an extensive appellate practice.

Chris' approachability and commitment to cases makes him a firm favourite with solicitors and clients alike- as is reflected in numerous reviews in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, such as ***"Tactically astute and gets to grips with the detail. Robust and confidence-inspiring with clients."***

He is frequently instructed in initially urgent cases requiring injunctive relief where clients are looking for counsel capable of both assimilating complex business information quickly and then providing decisive and intelligible advice as to how best to proceed as well as a proven ability to get results. Indeed, according to Chambers and Partners, Chris ***"is often the first port of call in high-value City disputes and is particularly recommended for injunctive relief cases"***.

Chris is counsel of choice when solicitors expect their clients' employment disputes to go all the way to trial. Ranked as a leading practitioner in both Employment and Commercial Dispute Resolution, according to the directories he is ***"an excellent trial advocate and uncompromising cross-examiner"***; ***"A tenacious and dogged opponent, with a justified reputation for being a fighter"***, ***"A tremendous cross-examiner and effective fighter"*** who ***"produces clear, crisp and persuasive arguments"*** and ***"Diligent and effective with difficult witnesses."***

Chris' client-base consists primarily of companies, partnerships and LLPs and/or senior individuals within the same who find themselves facing, or who wish to avoid, significant commercial and/or employment disputes.

A previous nominee for Chambers & Partners Employment barrister of the year award, Chris is the author and principal presenter of Littleton's intensive training exercise for senior associates entitled ***"How to handle an Urgent High Court Employment Dispute"***.

Chris is direct access accredited.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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"an excellent trial advocate and uncompromising cross-examiner."

**Legal 500 (2019)**

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## AREAS OF LAW

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### Business Protection

Chris has extensive experience in all aspects of business protection cases including **the duty of fidelity, fiduciary duties, preparations to compete, breach of confidence, data protection issues, garden leave, restrictive covenants** and **springboard relief**. He is involved from without notice applications for injunctions (including **search orders** and **computer imaging orders**) all the way through to trial and across a broad range of business sectors including financial/ investment services, engineering, oil and gas and recruitment services. His cases frequently require consideration of contractual issues arising not just from a **contract of employment** but also **shareholders' agreements** and **share purchase agreements**. He has appeared in many of the major recent trials/ significant hearings in this area, including:

**UK Legal Way Ltd v Advanced Way Accounting Ltd** [2020] successful resistance of without notice/ short notice injunction application brought during lockdown

**Wells and Solari v Cathay Investments 2 Ltd** [2019] EWHC 2996 (QB) gross misconduct' confidential information; shareholders' agreements

**Element Materials Technology Ltd v Wolff and Others** [2019] compromised team move claim

**S Cartwright & Sons (Coachbuilders) Limited v (1) Pollock (2) Tiger Trailers Ltd** [2018] successful defence of breach of restrictive covenant/ confidential information claim

**Tenon FM Ltd v Cawley** [2019] IRLR 435 successful opposition to interim injunction application; unsigned restrictive covenants

**Bourne Rail v Ashton and Others** [2018] EWHC 73 (QB) standard of proof; conspiracy/ breach of confidence and inducement to breach contract

**Affinity v Ferguson and Ors** [2017]; [2016] EWHC 2319 (QB) a multi-day trial in which Chris' opponent chose to withdraw the £10 million claim after Chris' cross-examination of his principal witnesses

**Capita plc v Darch** [2017] IRLR 718 appropriateness of interim injunctive relief including delivery up; property rights in emails

**Richards and Purves v IP Solutions** [2017] IRLR 133 consideration of "material breach" and limiting of the size of the award made to two former directors and employees of a company after a corporate acquisition.

**Rush Hair v Gibson- Forbes** [2017] IRLR 48 "the concealment principle"; attempted use of agent company to avoid restrictions

**Decorus Ltd v Penfold** [2016] EWHC 1421 (QB) exceeding the limits of preparations permitted by law to set up a competing business

**J M Finn v Holliday** [2014] IRLR 102 (QB) speedy trial/ garden leave

**Thomson Ecology v Hall and Others** [2013] EWHC 2875 (Ch); poaching of employees; successful application for 18 month springboard injunction

**Towry EJ Limited v Bennett and Others** [2012] EWHC 224 (QB) meaning of 'solicitation'; successful defence of employees at trial

**Lonmar v West and Others** [2010] EWHC 2878 (QB); [2011] IRLR 138 limit of employee's duty to disclose conduct

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### Employment

Chris has extensive experience in high-value **whistleblowing, victimisation** and **discrimination** claims and is very regularly instructed in Employment Tribunal cases across all business sectors which may be tangential to a wider commercial dispute and has experience up to and including the Supreme Court in such matters.

Examples of his recent cases include:

**Shearwood v C J Clark International** [2019] Whistleblowing claim brought by former CEO of Clarks

**Guy v Graingers Fresh Food Specialists** [2019] successful defence of sexual orientation discrimination claim

**Singh v St Philip's School** [2019] strike out of interim relief claim

**Marshall v Commonwealth of Australia** [2018] age discrimination and unfair dismissal

**Gillespie v Terence Higgins Trust** [2016] successful whistleblowing and discrimination claim by the CEO of the well-known charity

**Clyde & Co LLP v Bates van Winkelhof** [2014] UKSC 32 (SC) the ability of LLP members to invoke whistle-blowing legislation

Chris has extensive appellate experience in all such employment-related disputes.

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## Commercial

Chris' experience in commercial cases is extensive. Much of his business protection work involves consideration of **confidential information, shareholder agreements, rights of minority shareholders** and **intellectual property** considerations. Chris' experience in injunctive relief lends itself to all aspects of search, freezing and computer imaging orders. He is also instructed in commercial disputes which lend themselves to his expertise at trial.

Recent examples are:

**Kerrigan and Beisty v Flannery** [2020] BL-2018-001300 where Chris successfully defended his client in a multi-million pound dispute between property developers as to whether or not there was a concluded contract between them.

**Cath Kidston Ltd v Richard Storer and Another** [2019] freezing injunction

**Blacklion Law LLP v Ishag and Others** [2019] dispute between litigation funders

**Jordan Sheppard Ltd v Temelkov and Ors** [2019] without notice applications, standing of companies to commence litigation

**Saga Partners Inc v Shokhin** [2016] EWHC 3456 (Ch) criminal investigations; debt contracts; expert evidence; interpretation

**Coll v Floreat Merchant Banking Ltd** [2014] EWHC 1741 (QB) committal proceedings re breach of solicitors' undertaking

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## Legal Profession/Partnership and LLPs

Chris deals with all aspects of partnership and LLP law.

Chris' reputation is evidenced by his frequent instruction on behalf of fellow members of the legal profession in their own disputes.

He has acted both for and against a number of major law firms as well as very regularly advising on the resolution of internal disputes.

As a result of the successful outcome before the Court of Appeal in **McCarthy v Visitors to the Inns of Court** [2015] EWCA Civ 12 (CA) in which an earlier judgment by the Bar Disciplinary Tribunal to strike off a barrister (before Chris was instructed) was overturned, Chris is also instructed in an increasing number of cases by barristers (including leading counsel) and other members of regulated professions when they face the most serious of allegations. In one example of such a case, Chris' involvement saw the other side withdraw a wasted costs application that it had made against leading counsel and agree to pay a contribution towards his costs of defending that application.

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## Other Cases

Chris' practice includes his instructions in a wide-ranging number of areas falling outside the parameters of business protection, employment and commercial cases, including recently:

**AAA v Rakoff** [2019] EWHC 2525 (QB); [2020] EMLR 6. Data protection/ privacy claim brought by group of adult performers/

Spearmint Rhino against individuals who obtained footage of them without authorisation

***Tivdale Tirupathi Balaji Temple v Rao and Ors*** [2016] dispute over religious charity based around a Hindu temple

In addition, he has been instructed as Counsel in a number of major arbitrations and has been recognised by the directories as a leading junior in international arbitration. Noteworthy arbitrations included a multi-week multi-million pound dispute about an asset management LLP and a smaller dispute involving a fall-out between medical practitioners.

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