

## Christopher Pymont QC

Call 1979

Silk 1996

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Christopher has practised from what is now Maitland Chambers since 1980 and was elected Head of Chambers in 2012. He was appointed QC in 1996 and is a Deputy High Court Judge for the Chancery Division of the High Court.

Christopher is regarded as one of the leading Commercial Chancery silks. His practice encompasses both the traditional Chancery fields of property, company, partnership and insolvency law and also commercial disputes of all kinds, including banking, financial services and professional negligence. His recent important cases have been concerned with commercial fraud and asset recovery, breach of trust and fiduciary duties, the rights of minority shareholders, solicitors' and bankers' negligence, proprietary estoppel, restrictive covenants, repairing, user and alienation covenants and break clauses in leases, jurisdictional issues and the proper construction (and possible rectification) of various kinds of commercial documents. His strong reputation is evidenced by his consistent recommendation over many years in the standard directories, particularly for commercial Chancery and property litigation (recent comments are cited opposite).

Over the last couple of years Christopher has appeared in the Commercial Court and Chancery Divisions, before the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Privy Council. He also regularly appears in both international and domestic arbitrations.

Much of Christopher's practice has an international dimension. He has recently appeared before the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal in the BVI, St Lucia and Anguilla and in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal in the Bahamas. His recent international arbitration work includes a SIAC arbitration in Singapore.

Christopher also sits as an Arbitrator.

Recent and continuing cases illustrating Christopher's practice are:

### Commercial Chancery

*FHR European Ventures LLP v Cedar Capital Partners LLC* [2015] AC 250 (Supreme Court): the leading authority now establishing the availability of proprietary remedies for breach of fiduciary duty

*Krys v New World Value Fund* (Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal, on appeal to Privy Council (ref 2014/0089) – heard in June 2015, PC judgment 19.11.15): whether carried interest said to be worth some \$300 million is payable on the liquidation of a BVI limited partnership holding assets formerly owned ultimately by Boris Berezovsky and others

*Asia Resource Minerals PLC* (previously known as *Bumi PLC*) *v Roeslani* (SIAC arbitration, award Dec 2014): whether settlement agreement in respect of claims against a director for misfeasance for \$173 million was enforceable (see press reports in Times and FT for further information)

*Ivey v Genting* [2015] LLR 98 (QB, currently the subject of an appeal to the CA to be heard Dec 2015): whether C had cheated in purporting to win some £7.7 million playing baccarat at a casino

In re Leeward Isles Ltd (Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal, Jan and June 2014): two separate appeals as to matters arising in the liquidation of an Anguillan company, including a stay of arbitration proceedings brought against the company by a creditor

Sharab v Prince Al-Waleed [2013] EWHC 2324 (Ch Div): whether commission was payable to C on the sale of the Prince's Airbus to Col Gaddafi (jurisdictional issues decided at [2009] 2 Lloyd's Rep 160 and [2012] CLC 612)

Payne v Strand Investments (Bahamas Supreme Court): continuing action for recovery of assets and compensation for fraud by a solicitor on his client

## Property and trusts

Sheffield v Sheffield [2014] WTLR 1039 (Ch Div): claim for trustees to account for breach of an express private trust

Ridgewood Properties v Valero [2013] Ch 525: whether a series of option agreements for the development of petrol stations had been breached by the owner

Parshall v Hackney [2013] Ch 568 (CA): deciding the effect of a mistake by the Land Registry in separately registering two persons as owners of the same piece of land

Howard v Howard-Lawson [2012] 3 All ER 60 (CA): construction and effect of a "name and arms" clause in a will

Woodford Land Ltd v Persimmon Homes Ltd [2011] EWHC 984 (Ch Div) and CA May 2012 (settled after hearing and before judgment): rectification of a contract for the development of a large housing estate (part of a wide-ranging dispute in relation to this contract)

The clerks are happy to discuss the basis on which Christopher will act in any given matter. In the absence of express written agreement otherwise, the terms under which Christopher accepts instructions are The Standard Contractual Terms for the Supply of Legal Services By Barristers to Authorised Persons 2012 (as updated from time to time) referred to in the BSB Handbook.

## Memberships

COMBAR

Chancery Bar Association

Property Bar Association

## Qualifications

MA (Oxon)



## Recommendations

Chambers UK

Chancery: Commercial

"A magnificent advocate." "He has a brilliant strategic brain and a commanding courtroom presence. He's quietly spoken but authoritative." "A brilliant mind and a brilliant barrister." (2020)

"Has a nice rapport with the court and presents things in a calm way, with a view to what the judge is going to be interested in." "He is so clear on his feet, and very concise. Judges are eating out of his hand by the end." (2019)

"Has a really lovely courtroom manner. He doesn't take bad points, and he gets the reality of the position across." "A top advocate for very, very high-profile cases, who speaks beautifully." (2018)

"Christopher is calm, serene, and never gets flustered. He can understand what the client's objectives are, and has an uncanny ability to spot the points that would be of interest to the court." "He's a really smooth, calm presence, and brilliant with clients." (2017)

"He has a lovely manner in court. He has the ear of the judges and is a thoroughly nice man, who is trustworthy." (2016)

"A vastly experienced silk with a strong commercial practice."

"He is just consistently excellent in all respects and great with clients."

"He is completely unflappable." (2015)

"He is unflappable and has nerves of steel. He is a smooth, polished performer who has the ear of the court."

"His ability to break down complex issues and summarise them into a digestible form is impressive." (2014)

"Completely unflappable in court - the man has nerves of steel." (2013)

"Very bright and intellectually calm" "a cool analytical and incisive approach." (2012)

"Who can be trusted to deal with sensitive issues in a captivating and articulate manner." (2011)

### **Chambers UK**

#### **Commercial Dispute Resolution**

"He's very calm and low-key, but very effective and really excellent at hearings." (2020)

### **Chambers UK**

#### **Real Estate Litigation**

"Has an extremely impressive ability to identify the issues in a dispute and present the client's case in its most positive light." "An excellent tactician who is very attuned to the likely approach of the court." "Able to deal with extremely sensitive matters." (2020)

"He is calm, unflappable and very user-friendly." "Calm and authoritative." (2019)

"Pragmatic, proactive and brilliant, he is a go-to adviser for heavy property-related disputes, and a real team player."

"He has a marvellous bedside manner with clients; he is measured and very charming, and he never inflates expectations." (2018)

"Excellent under pressure and great with clients." (2017)

"He is intelligent, very calm and very polished."

"He is extremely thoughtful, considerate, clever and calm. He is measured in his tone of delivery to the court but also very authoritative." (2016)

"His court craft is excellent; he is a master tactician."

"He is a no-nonsense practitioner, who is very measured in his approach." (2015)

"Widely regarded as one of the masters of the real estate litigation field."

Very able, he allows clients to understand very complex legal points."

"Understated in his approach but lethal in court, he knows how to change a judge's mind." (2014)

"An extremely impressive ability to identify the issues in a dispute and to present a client's case in its most positive light." (2013)

"Rolls up his sleeves and delivers a killer punch." "nice, conversational style in court and always appears unruffled." (2012)

"Calmness and professionalism personified, he is definitely someone to have on side when the boat's rocking." (2011)

### **Chambers Global**

#### **Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery**

"Has a nice rapport with the court and presents things in a calm way, with a view to what the judge is going to be interested in." "He is so clear on his feet, and very concise. Judges are eating out of his hand by the end." (2019)

"Has a really lovely courtroom manner. He doesn't take bad points, and he gets the reality of the position across." "A top advocate for very, very high-profile cases, who speaks beautifully." (2018)

"Christopher is calm, serene, and never gets flustered. He can understand what the client's objectives are, and has an uncanny ability to spot the points that would be of interest to the court." "He's a really smooth, calm presence, and brilliant with clients." (2018)

"He is unflappable and has nerves of steel. He is a smooth, polished performer who has the ear of the court."

"His ability to break down complex issues and summarise them into a digestible form is impressive." (2014)

### **Legal 500 UK**

#### **Commercial Litigation**

"An excellent commercial litigator." (2020)

### **Legal 500 UK**

#### **Company**

"He is absolutely first rate." (2020)

"He is measured, methodical and a hugely impressive advocate." (2018/19)

"He is super-bright and handles complex areas of law better than anyone else." (2017)

"A tremendous judge of how best to present a case." (2015)

"Excellent judgement; a pleasure to work with." (2014)

### **Legal 500 UK**

#### **Fraud: Civil**

"Is a well-respected silk." (2012)

### **Legal 500 UK**

#### **Property Litigation**

"A star name in the property litigation field." (2020)

"Excellent on both the law and strategy, superb with clients." (2018/19)

"An excellent advocate, who is marvellous with clients." (2017)

"Understands the law well and is trusted by judges." (2015)

"Calm, wise, measured and great with clients." (2014)

"Everything a top silk should be." (2013)

"Is lethal in court." (2012)

"Exceptionally bright and very meticulous." (2011)

### **Legal 500 UK**

#### **Private Client: Trusts and Probate**

"One of the leading silks in the Chancery Bar." (2018/19/20)

"He is authoritative, clear and exudes calmness." (2017)

"Rated for property matters that involve trusts; a strategic advocate with massive courtroom presence." (2015)

### **Legal Experts, 2012**