MAITLAND

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MAXIM CARDEW

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OVERVIEW

Maxim is a commercial and chancery barrister, ranked as a leading junior in commercial litigation and commercial chancery by the Legal 500 and Chambers UK. He is an experienced advocate both at trial and at interlocutory applications and hearings. Maxim is described in the directories as ***"technically brilliant" and "incredibly diligent and precise",*** with ***"excellent attention to detail"*** and "***impressive advocacy skills***". He is also frequently instructed as a senior junior as part of a larger team.

Within Maitland's specialisms, Maxim is particularly experienced in matters relating to insolvency, companies and partnerships. He is ranked as a leading junior in insolvency by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. He is on the Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel (having previously served on the C Panel), so has particular experience in cases involving HMRC, the Official Receiver and the Secretary of State for Business, and he acts both for and against the Government in such matters. Maxim is also ranked as a leading junior in property litigation, and is particularly known for his expertise in charity law, in which he is ranked as a leading junior by both major directories.

For his pro bono work, Maxim has received a Pro Bono Champion Award from the Chancery Bar Association and has also appeared in the Lady Chief Justice's Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales. He sits as a Deputy District Judge (Civil) and a Recorder (Crime).

EXPERTISE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Maxim is ranked as as leading junior in commercial litigation (Legal 500) and commercial chancery (Chambers & Partners). He has substantial experience in high-value and complex contractual and debt claims; freezing injunctions and other applications for interlocutory relief; and issues relating to service out and challenging jurisdiction.

His significant cases include ***Nederlandse Financierings-maatschappij Voor Ontwikkelingslanden NV v Societe Bengaz SA*** [2024] EWHC 901 (Comm) and ***The Official Receiver v Shop Direct Finance Company Limited*** [2023] EWCA Civ 367; [2023] 2 All ER (Comm) 1074.

His recent work includes:

- 2-day trial concerning interpretation of rules of deposit protection fund and distribution in insolvency
- Application for summary judgment regarding debt claim and injunctive / declaratory relief
- Applications for default judgment
- Resisting an application for costs following discontinuance
- Application for judgment following breach of an unless order
- Application for relief from sanctions
- Application against HMRC for variation to freezing order
- Enforceability of leasehold covenants
- Construction of contract, particularly relating to guarantee obligations
- Advising on evidence regarding proposed debt and injunction/declaration proceedings
- Advising private equity foundation on managing conflicts of interest relating to potential investments
- Advising on shareholder/director dispute regarding care home business
- Advising defendants on an application regarding unlawful collateral use of documents obtained via a search order

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INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

Maxim is ranked as as leading junior in insolvency by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. He has substantial experience in directors disqualification; high-value, complex or disputed winding-up petitions; transaction avoidance; and applications relating to administrations.

Maxim is on the Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel (having previously served on the C Panel), and as such has appeared regularly for HMRC in insolvency matters as well as being instructed on the ***Carillion*** disqualification litigation, so has particular experience in cases involving HMRC, the Official Receiver, and the Secretary of State for Business. He acts both for and against the Government.

His significant cases include ***The Official Receiver v Shop Direct Finance Company Limited*** [2023] EWCA Civ 367; [2024] BPIR 185.

His recent work includes:

- Applications to appoint administrators of group companies subject to fraud investigation
- Applications to extent the appointment of administrators
- Responding to an application for an injunction to restrain presentation of a winding-up petition
- Applying for an injunction to restrain advertisement of a winding-up petition
  2-day trial concerning interpretation of rules of deposit protection fund and distribution in insolvency
- Disputed debt winding-up petitions
- Applications for validation orders
- Application against HMRC for variation to freezing order
- Advising on issues relating to enforcement of bounce back loan
- Advising on evidence relating to extension of administration
- Advising on directions for giving notice to large number of contingent unsecured creditors of insolvent company; advising on administration extension
- Insolvency/charity law advice relating to fraud allegedly committed by former trustee
- Advising non-executive / former director on responding to significant proposed director disqualification proceedings
- Advising director on threatened disqualification proceedings including whether to give undertaking
- Advising on evidence and preparing for hearing of application to set aside service out and strike out proposed claim by foreign trustee in bankruptcy against UK real property
- Advising defendants on application regarding unlawful collateral use of documents obtained via a search order
- Advising regulatory body on treatment of sums held by liquidators of insolvent firms that had been subject to intervention

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COMPANY & PARTNERSHIP

Maxim has substantial experience in company and partnership matters, including shareholder disputes; directors disqualification; breach of directors' duties; disputes about the existence of partnerships and/or the ownership of partnership property; and the dissolution of partnerships and taking of partnership accounts.

His significant cases include ***Destiny Investments (1993) Ltd v TH Holdings Ltd (Re TPD Investments Ltd)*** [2017] EWHC 657 (Ch). He is on the Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel (having previously served on the C Panel), including being instructed on the ***Carillion*** disqualification litigation, so also has particular experience in cases involving HMRC, the Official Receiver and the Secretary of State for Business. He acts both for and against the Government.

His recent work includes:

- Applications to appoint administrators of group companies subject to fraud investigation

- Applications to extent the appointment of administrators
- Responding to an application for an injunction to restrain presentation of a winding-up petition
- Applying for an injunction to restrain advertisement of a winding-up petition
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- Advising on evidence and preparing for hearing of application to set aside service out and strike out proposed claim by foreign trustee in bankruptcy against UK real property
- Advising defendants on application regarding unlawful collateral use of documents obtained via a search order
- Advising regulatory body on treatment of sums held by liquidators of insolvent firms that had been subject to intervention
- Advising on expert accountancy evidence in claim for an account

CHARITIES

Maxim is one of the top charity juniors at the bar, and has been ranked as a leading junior for many years by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. He is familiar with all aspects of charity law, including advising on trustee duties; investments by charities; trustee disqualification; applications for permission from the Charity Commission; and disputes regarding the appointment/removal of trustees. Maxim acted for the successful claimants in the landmark case of ***Butler-Sloss v Charity Commission for England and Wales*** [2022] EWHC 974 (Ch); [2022] Ch 371.

His recent work includes:

- Representing clients at a multi-party mediation at the International Dispute Resolution Centre regarding a disputed charity scheme

- Representing clients at a two-part CMC in High Court charity proceedings

- Appearing as sole advocate for the successful claimants in a contested urgent application for mandatory injunctions and declaratory relief regarding unlawful elections of charity trustees

- Advising charity trustees regarding an inquiry by the Charity Commission

- Advising on the reportability of a serious incident to the Charity Commission and governance improvements
- Advising a national charity on a successful section 105 application to Charity Commission for permission to bring charity proceedings
- Advising a local authority on its duties as charity trustee including a proposed scheme
- Insolvency/charity law advice relating to fraud allegedly committed by a former trustee
- Advising a local authority on managing conflicts of interest in its role as charity trustee
- Advising charity trustees on compliance with HMRC and Charity Commission guidance
- Advising the founder of a charity (and former trustee) in a dispute with current trustees
- Advising charity trustees on a property dispute with a third-party charity
- Advising a charity on dispute over correct distribution of funds
- Advising on proceedings brought regarding a charity scheme and the terms of an alternative scheme
- Advising on applications to register as a charity including drafting charitable purposes
- Advising on conflict of interest and grant-making policies
- Advising private equity foundation on managing conflicts of interest relating to potential investments including Charity Commission approval
- Advising on steps needed to be taken to comply with Charities Act 2011 for proposed related party transaction

REAL ESTATE

Maxim is ranked as a leading junior in property litigation by the Legal 500. He has substantial experience in mortgage litigation, commercial and residential landlord and tenant, and issues relating to easements and restrictive covenants. His significant cases include ***EMI Group Ltd v The Prudential Assurance Company Ltd*** [2020] EWHC 2061 (Ch); [2021] 1 P & CR 17.

His recent work includes:

- Application for declaratory and injunctive relief regarding directors of a property management company
- Representing clients at mediation and advising on dispute regarding alleged nuisance and breach of leasehold covenants (residential)
- Making and resisting mortgage possession claims
- Application challenging jurisdiction and service out in a claim for unlawful forfeiture

- CMC regarding private landlord and tenant possession and disrepair claim
- Advising commercial tenant on claims regarding nuisance and breach of covenant
- Advising on disputes concerning charity land
- Advising on steps needed to be taken to comply with the requirements of the Charities Acts in relation to charity land

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Maxim Cardew is technically very strong, wins the trust and confidence of clients and can see all the angles."

Chambers UK Charities (2027)

"Maxim has a first-rate mind and is a leading charity junior with brilliant technical knowledge and understanding of charity law. Clients feel safe in Maxim's hands."

Legal 500 UK Charities (2027)

"Maxim is a brilliant, hard-working, supportive junior whose written work, in particular, is superb. He is highly responsive and very easy to deal with."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"Maxim is an expert in this field who is really going places."

Chambers UK Charities (2027)

"Maxim is a great all-rounded. His drafting is brilliant, he is great on his feet, and he's able to work well with team members at all levels."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2027)

"Maxim is a subject specialist in terms of charity and insolvency cross-over. Drafting is as clear as it can be."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2027)

"Meticulous attention to detail and a complete grasp of complex technical issues. Is able to explain detailed factual and legal issues succinctly in front of the judge to ensure the key points land effectively."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2027)

"Maxim is extremely approachable and provides excellent commercial advice. His advocacy is very strong, particularly with challenging opponents."

Legal 500 UK Property Litigation (2027)

"Maxim is a leading junior with a growing reputation. He is a ferociously hard worker and always on top of his game. He inspires confidence and always adds value and brings something to a team."

Chambers UK Charities (2026)

"Maxim provided thorough and comprehensive advice. He was notably personable and user-friendly, and good at working with lay clients when advising in conference."

Chambers UK Charities (2026)

"Maxim has considerable expertise as to both the law and Charity Commission practice, and provides clear and comprehensive advice, tailored to the client's needs. He is personable and user friendly, and takes a highly collaborative approach when working with instructing solicitors."

Legal 500 UK Charities (2026)

"Maxim provides great insight, expertise and client service. He is always meticulously prepared and knows how to read the judge."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Maxim has an incredible knowledge of insolvency law and is able to advise upon it in a highly practical way."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2026)

"Maxim Cardew is very good and very measured. His style really impresses."

Chambers UK Chancery Commercial (2026)

"Maxim Cardew is a very bright young barrister."

Chambers UK Charities (2026)

"Maxim Cardew is excellent."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2026)

"Maxim provides clear and comprehensive advice tailored to client needs."

Legal 500 Commercial Litigation (2026)

"Maxim's written advice was thorough, comprehensive and practical."

Chambers UK Charities (2025)

"Maxim has a brilliant mind and a growing authority."

Chambers UK Charities (2025)

"Maxim is an intelligent and client-focused barrister. He is both sensible and approachable."

Chambers UK Charities (2025)

"Uniquely forensic. He is very, very technical in his style."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2025)

"Maxim is brilliant. He is a master of detail."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2025)

"Maxim is technically brilliant, incisive and to the point. A good man to turn to when it matters."

CHAMBERS UK CHARITIES (2024)

"He has impressive advocacy skills and shows excellent attention to detail."

CHAMBERS UK CHANCERY: COMMERCIAL (2024)

"A very considered, thoughtful, methodical lawyer, who likes to work collaboratively. If I want something where I need a considered and careful approach, he's the one as he will put all of the pieces of the puzzle together. Quite a quirky individual in a really good way, breaks the mould of what you'd expect of a barrister, proving brilliant in a modern, understated way. He is just very easy to work with and has a nice manner."

CHAMBERS UK CHANCERY: COMMERCIAL (2024)

"Really good with clients and opponents, and excellent on the law. There's nothing missing from the package."

CHAMBERS UK CHANCERY: COMMERCIAL (2024)

"Maxim is thorough and has excellent attention to detail. He is also responsive and user-friendly."

LEGAL 500 INSOLVENCY (2024)

"Maxim is technically brilliant. He has a first rate mind, is confident on his feet and has full command of his brief."

LEGAL 500 CHARITIES (2024)

"Maxim is absolutely super. He is very bright, very considered and highly resilient: just what you want in a junior barrister."

Chambers UK Commercial Chancery (2023)

"He is very astute and his input is very valuable."

Chambers UK Commercial Chancery (2023)

"A true asset to have on your team when there is a difficult issue or time sensitivity."

Legal 500 Insolvency (2023)

"Maxim Cardew is a very strategic thinker, and his ability to steer a course through the issues and find tactical solutions is exceptional. He has a brilliant mind and is making a real name for himself."

Chambers UK Charities (2023)

"Maxim is both hugely practical and has great attention to detail."

Legal 500 Charities (2023)

'Maxim is extremely considered when giving his views and provides detailed and thorough analysis. '

Legal 500 Property Litigation (2023)

"Maxim has demonstrated the ability to pick up complex instructions and analyse very significant volumes of evidence in a short space of time."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2022)

"Very prompt, attentive and courteous. He has assisted greatly in simplifying my job in extracting the correct details and instructions from my clients." "He is particularly friendly, open and keen to understand bigger picture."

Chambers UK Charities (2022)

"Maxim is incredibly diligent and precise. His knowledge of charity law matters is formidable."

Legal 500 UK Charities (2022)

MEMBERSHIPS

- COMBAR
- Chancery Bar Association
- Charity Law Association
- Property Bar Association

QUALIFICATIONS

- BA Philosophy & Theology, University of Oxford, First Class Honours (Top First, Gibbs Prize for Outstanding Performance in Philosophy)
- MA Philosophy, King's College London, Distinction (Simon Dally Book Award)
- GDL, City University London, Distinction (GDL Scholarship)
- Bar Professional Training Course, City University London, Outstanding (Bedingfield Scholarship)

AWARDS



Legal 500 2026
Shortlisted for Public Services and Charities Junior of the Year

NOTABLE CASES

- *Mohammed v Patel [2024] EWHC 2581 (Ch)*
- *Nederlandse Financierings-maatschappij Voor Ontwikkelingslanden NV v Societe Bengaz SA [2024] EWHC 901 (Comm)*
- *The Official Receiver v Shop Direct Finance Company Limited [2023] EWCA Civ 367; [2023] 2 All ER (Comm) 1074; [2023] Bus LR 1245*
- *Shop Direct Finance Company Ltd v The Official Receiver [2022] EWHC 1355 (Comm); [2022] Bus LR 871; [2022] BPIR 1280*
- *Butler-Sloss v Charity Commission for England and Wales [2022] EWHC 974 (Ch); [2022] Ch 371; [2022]*

3 WLR 182; [2023] 1 All ER 1006; [2022] WTLR 865; 25 ITELR 286

- *Butler-Sloss v Charity Commission for England and Wales [2021] EWHC 1104 (Ch)*
- *EMI Group Ltd v The Prudential Assurance Company Ltd [2020] EWHC 2061 (Ch); [2021] 1 P & CR 17*
- *Galazi v Christoforou [2019] EWHC 670 (Ch)*
- *Destiny Investments (1993) Ltd v TH Holdings Ltd (Re TPD Investments Ltd) [2017] EWHC 657 (Ch)*