

Christopher Veal

Call: 2022

"Chris was well prepared, across the detail and was a reassuring presence for the client throughout the mediation process. Chris' advice was concise and practical, and his advocacy was measured, to the point and effective. A pleasure to work with."

STEPHEN RIMMER SOLICITORS



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Christopher Veal is a civil and regulatory barrister with a strong foundation in advocacy and a developing practice across business and commercial disputes (including civil fraud and professional negligence matters), property law, regulatory and disciplinary proceedings, and inquests and inquiries.

Prior to joining Pump Court Chambers, Christopher completed pupillage and practised at a leading criminal, regulatory and public law set, where he appeared in over 200 hearings in the Magistrates' and Crown Courts. That experience has given him a high level of confidence in court, together with a disciplined and pragmatic approach to litigation. Alongside his advocacy practice, Christopher has undertaken substantial advisory and drafting work.

Before coming to the Bar, Christopher served as a Legal Officer in the Royal Navy, advising at command level on regulatory and compliance matters, armed forces discipline, public and international law issues, and a wide range of everyday contractual and administrative disputes affecting service personnel and operational units. That role required clear, proportionate and timely advice in complex and high-pressure environments, often involving overlapping legal regimes and significant operational consequences.

Christopher also practised as a self-employed Legal Executive, running his own caseload of civil recovery, property and leasehold disputes, including county court advocacy, pleadings, enforcement and direct client advice. This background gives him a strong understanding of civil procedure, commercial realities and the practical needs of instructing solicitors.

Christopher has particular experience in business rates disputes, regulatory and disciplinary matters, and inquests, including Article 2 cases and work arising from public inquiries. He is known for clear written advice, focused advocacy and a calm, professional manner with clients. He welcomes instructions at all stages of proceedings and is happy to be involved from an early advisory stage through to trial or final hearing.

Expertise

Administrative & Public Law

Christopher undertakes public law work with a particular focus on matters intersecting with regulatory proceedings, inquests and

local authority decision-making. He advises on procedural fairness, disclosure obligations, jurisdiction, statutory interpretation and proportionality, and has experience assisting on matters arising from public inquiries and decisions of public bodies. His work frequently involves analysing the lawfulness of administrative decisions within complex statutory frameworks and advising on appropriate remedies.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Christopher acts in alternative dispute resolution, including civil mediation and commercial settlement negotiations. He advises parties in advance of mediation on liability, quantum and costs exposure, and assists in identifying the key issues in dispute to facilitate resolution.

He recently acted for a defendant in a contested probate dispute which settled successfully at mediation, enabling his client to avoid costly litigation and resolve the matter on terms substantially below the claimant's opening position. His measured and pragmatic approach enables him to support parties in exploring realistic settlement options both within formal mediation processes and through without-prejudice negotiations.

Building & Construction

Christopher is developing a practice in building and construction disputes and welcomes instructions in this area. He is particularly interested in disputes arising from commercial and residential construction projects, including contractual issues, payment disputes and claims relating to defective works.

Business & Commercial

Christopher acts in a wide range of business and commercial disputes, including contractual claims, civil recovery and insolvency matters. His insolvency work includes advising on both corporate and personal insolvency issues, including statutory demands, winding-up and bankruptcy proceedings. He has recently acted in urgent applications restraining the presentation of a winding-up petition and has advised on the procedural and evidential hurdles associated with bankruptcy petitions in complex financial matters.

His commercial practice also includes shareholder and corporate disputes. He has recently advised on a dispute involving shareholders of a community interest company, addressing issues of governance, control and financial management.

Christopher's practice further encompasses matters involving allegations of misrepresentation, dishonest conduct and asset recovery, as well as disputes arising from alleged professional negligence where such claims overlap with commercial relationships, property transactions or regulatory issues. He regularly advises on early-stage strategy, limitation, pleading and procedural options, with a focus on managing risk, controlling costs and achieving commercially sensible outcomes.

Inheritance, Wills & Probate

Christopher accepts instructions in inheritance and probate disputes, including claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, proprietary estoppel, rectification of wills and disputes concerning the administration of estates.

He has recently advised on complex Inheritance Act claims involving cross-border assets and competing legal regimes, including matters concerning estates with property in both the United Kingdom and overseas jurisdictions. His work has included advising on disputes involving property located in the Eastern Caribbean and Western Africa.

Christopher's background in property litigation provides a strong foundation for Trusts of Land claims and estate-related property

disputes, and he is comfortable advising on both contentious and procedural issues arising in probate litigation.

Inquests & Inquiries

Christopher has a growing inquests and inquiries practice and has assisted on a range of matters including Article 2 inquests, including the inquest into the death of Gunner Beck, as well as work arising from public inquiries including the COVID-19 Inquiry.

He has recently acted for a GP practice in an inquest, advising on evidence and witness preparation and assisting in mitigating the practice's potential exposure.

Christopher is currently instructed by the Ministry of Defence in relation to the ongoing Manston Inquiry. In that role he advises the Strategic Operations team on a range of legal and procedural issues arising within the inquiry process, including matters concerning legal professional privilege, disclosure and document review. His work includes assisting with the preparation and review of position statements and witness evidence, as well as advising on the evidential and procedural requirements of the inquiry.

Christopher regularly advises on disclosure, evidential issues, scope and procedural fairness, and works with public authorities, healthcare providers and bereaved families in sensitive cases. He is experienced in supporting senior counsel and is comfortable undertaking advocacy and advisory work in the Coroners' Court.

Property Law

Christopher advises and appears in property-related disputes, including landlord & tenant matters, leasehold disputes, possession proceedings and enforcement actions. His earlier practice as a Legal Executive involved managing property disputes from issue through to resolution, giving him practical insight into pleadings, case strategy and proportionate case management.

He has recently successfully defended a possession claim at trial while obtaining judgment on a counterclaim for a substantial sum. He has acted in urgent applications relating to enforcement and possession, including securing an emergency stay of eviction where the figures relied upon by a lender were inconsistent with the evidence.

Christopher has also acted successfully in commercial property litigation, including obtaining strike-out of a claim where a leaseholder sought to obtain a new lease despite significant arrears.

Regulatory & Disciplinary

Christopher undertakes regulatory and disciplinary work across a range of sectors, including professional discipline and health and safety matters. He advises on evidential issues, disclosure, procedural fairness and strategy in regulatory investigations and proceedings. His background in quasi-criminal work and service discipline informs a careful, structured approach to regulatory cases requiring close attention to compliance, proportionality and risk.

Sports Law

Christopher accepts instructions in sports-related disputes and regulatory matters, including disciplinary proceedings, governance issues and contractual disputes within sporting organisations. He has experience representing elite athletes, including acting for a world championship boxer, and is familiar with the regulatory, contractual and reputational issues that can arise at the highest levels of professional sport. He advises athletes, clubs and governing bodies on regulatory compliance, disciplinary processes and dispute resolution, and is well placed to assist in resolving sports-related disputes through both formal proceedings and alternative dispute resolution.

Personal Injury

Christopher accepts instructions in personal injury matters. He is particularly interested in employer's liability and public liability claims, including accidents at work, workplace systems failures, construction-related injuries and slips, trips and falls. He advises on liability, causation and quantum, and is comfortable conducting trials and case management hearings.

His experience in regulatory and health and safety contexts, together with his work in inquests and disciplinary proceedings, enables him to approach personal injury claims involving compliance failures or parallel investigations with clarity and confidence. He welcomes instructions at all stages of proceedings and is available for both advisory work and advocacy.

Qualifications

- LL.B Law – University of Exeter
- LLM – University of London
- BPC – University of Law
- FsC – Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

Professional Associations

- ADRL
- Property Bar Association
- Bar Human Rights Committee
- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- Inquest Lawyers Group
- ComBar

Outside Interests

- Hiking, tennis, swimming, running and cycling
- Learning Spanish
- Travelling, having visited 6 out of the 7 continents

Publications

"Heralding a new era of corporate accountability: Changes to the rules around failure to prevent corporate fraud have now changed – but to what effect" Published in the October / November 2025 issue of HRMC Enquiries, Investigations & Powers Directory.