

John Franklin
(2016) Barrister

Specialist Areas

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Family: Finance

Employment & Discrimination

Chancery and Commercial

Property

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)



Who is John Franklin?

John joined chambers as a pupil in April 2017. He previously served as an engineer in the Royal Navy where demanding roles in specialist areas such as Mine Countermeasures and boarding operations, he used his peerless capacity and motivation to work gain impressive qualifications in his spare time through the Open University. John converted to law in 2014 and his aptitude for legal argument and persuasive advocacy quickly became apparent when he was selected for three hotly contested scholarships by his Inn of Court and his training providers.

Throughout the journey to the Bar, John volunteered extensively e.g. for the National Centre for Domestic Violence and the Free Representation Unit, where his life experience was especially valuable in interacting and reassuring traumatised clients. He also taught debating skills to children and prisoners as part of the Vocalise program.

He then acquired substantial pre-pupillage experience as a solicitor's agent and significant exposure to the County Courts on the Western and South Eastern Circuits where he was instructed in many commercial, infant approval and housing matters. Since first running his own cases from October 2017 onwards, John has built up an extensive oral practice in family and employment law, as well as continuing to appear in possession matters and disposal hearings. He regularly appears in fast-track and multi-track cases involving personal injury.

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No.18 Chambers is a distinguished set of barristers based in Southampton, recognised for its strong reputation and presence across the South Coast of England. Our expertise cover a range of practice areas, including Family Law (Care Proceedings and Adoption, Private Law Children, Matrimonial Finance), Employment, Chancery and Commercial Law, Property Disputes, together with Dispute Resolution and Mediation. Our members are committed to delivering expert legal advice and representation to clients nationwide, offering extensive experience in handling both complex and sensitive matters.



Legal Expertise

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Private Law Children: Contact and Residence Disputes Under the Children Act 1989

John has appeared in many private law children matters and has been instructed at all stages of private children disputes including at fact finding hearings. He is particularly adept at representing military clients and their families due his significant insight into the exigencies of service life. He is able to empathise with and understand the needs of families who have children with learning disabilities due to his own family experience.

John has represented parents and Children's Guardians at interim and final contested hearings.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

He has significant experience in domestic violence and injunction matters under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996 and having previously volunteered for the National Centre for Domestic Violence knows how to deal sensitively with vulnerable clients. He accepts instruction in both a without notice and on-notice applications.

Family: Finance

Divorce & Separation

John accepts instructions for Applicant's and Respondents and has appeared in many final hearings involving substantial assets, as well as routinely attending first directions appointments and Financial Dispute Resolution hearings. He has also appeared in final hearings under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 for financial provision for children.

He also has good experience of cross-over work including insolvency, commercial or familial intervening within proceedings. John enjoys the cut and thrust of advising and representing former marital partners in financial order proceedings and cohabitants in disputes under TOLATA and also has experience of advising family members, dependents, former marital partners and cohabitants in actions concerning the administration of estates.

Cohabitation including Trusts of Land & Appointment of Trustees Act 1996

John has acted and advised in many disputes over trusts and has substantial experience of all forms of TOLATA applications and disputes of the existence of constructive and resulting trusts and the extent of shares.

Inheritance Act Claims



Legal Expertise Continued

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Employment & Discrimination

John accepts instructions and appears for both sides all over the country in contested matters, recently appeared in complicated trials lasting up to eight days. In this field, John's academic prowess comes and particular interest in contract law comes into its own. He also accepts instructions in employment matters in the civil courts and has a particular interest in restrictive covenant disputes.

Chancery and Commercial

John has represented clients in a broad range of commercial disputes at both interim and contested stages and advised extensively. Recent instructions include advising on the enforceability of a joint venture agreement and whether the agreement fell foul of the FSMA 2000 and RAO.

Traditional Chancery

Inheritance Act claims

Trusts and Trustees

John has acted and advised in many disputes over trusts and has substantial experience of all forms of TOLATA applications and disputes of the existence of constructive and resulting trusts and the extent of shares.

Wills, Probate and the Administration of Estates

John has advised and acted extensively in relation to both non-contentious and contentious probate matters, with significant experience dealing with complex disputes between executors. Recent instructions include advising and attending court on behalf the estate of a deceased former director of a company where claims were being made in the alternative against the company and against the estate under the terms of a guarantee.

Commercial Chancery

John has represented clients in a broad range of commercial disputes at both interim and contested stages and advised extensively. Recent instructions include advising on the enforceability of a joint venture agreement and whether the agreement fell foul of the FSMA 2000 and RAO.

Commercial Disputes



Legal Expertise Continued

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Contractual Disputes

John has appeared in complex contractual disputes and advised in diverse matters including disputes over option agreements, unpaid royalties and the enforceability of agreements challenged as having resulted from duress or undue influence.

Insolvency and Liquidation

John has appeared in complex contractual disputes and advised in diverse matters including disputes over option agreements, unpaid royalties and the enforceability of agreements challenged as having resulted from duress or undue influence.

Partnerships & LLPs

Professional Negligence

John advises regularly in this area and has attended multi-track hearings involving medical negligence as well as extensively dealing with more general matters of negligence.

Property

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)

Private FDR

Single Joint Advices/Early Neutral Evaluation

Round Table Meetings/Joint Conferences

John advises extensively in Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 where there is extensive cross-over with other aspects of his work e.g. family finance.

Merits, Advice, Drafting And Support Package



Professional Info

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Qualifications

2016-18: The University of Law, Guildford – MSc in Law and Business (Distinction)

2015-16: The University of Law, London - BPTC (Very Competent).

2014-15: The University of Law, Guildford - GDL (Distinction).

2013-14: Wessex Business School - BTEC Level 5 in Management

Membership

Family Law Bar Association

Employment Bar Association

Professional Negligence Bar Association

Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (Incorporated Engineer)

Awards

French

Russian

Spanish



Professional Info Continued

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Publications

Fundamental Dishonesty – Hampshire Law Society Civil Litigation Seminar 2018

Settlement and Part 36 Offers - Hampshire Law Society Civil Litigation Seminar 2019

Whistleblowing. Causation and Detriment - Employment Seminar January 2020

John is actively engaged with the editing of Tollers Employment law

Personal Info

John is a keen musician playing the piano and guitar and drums. He enjoys reading and relaxing with family. Like many people he enjoys physical exercise and, in addition to his gym work, he regularly attends Brazilian jiu-jitsu classes and plays cricket. He enjoys travelling and learning languages.



Cases of Note

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

John Franklin, a barrister at No.18 Chambers, is recognised for his work across family, employment, and chancery law. His practice includes financial remedy proceedings, private children disputes, and complex commercial litigation. In family law, he has handled cases involving substantial assets and cross-border elements, demonstrating a keen analytical approach. His employment law experience encompasses discrimination and whistleblowing claims, while his chancery work covers contentious probate and insolvency matters. Notably, he contributed to the case **Re CD (Notice of care proceedings to father without parental responsibility)**, addressing the balance between parental rights and child welfare. Clients and peers commend him for his tenacious advocacy and empathetic client care:

VT v LT [2023] EWFC 256 (B)

Creating Two Households from Limited Assets



Reviews

For more information or to get in touch with John please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

John is a tenacious advocate and excellent cross-examiner. He is very empathetic to the client's circumstances and provides excellent client care. - Legal 500

John has proven time and time again that he knows exactly what the instructing solicitor requires. He manages both the Client and those instructing in a clear and concise way. I would have no hesitation in recommending John to you. - Michael J Coyle | Solicitor Advocate and founder of Lawdit Solicitors

I personally want to thank you once again for representing myself in the above court hearing and it was my pleasure to meet a good guy who really cares about your case. I cannot express enough words of appreciation and had to admire your professionalism of the Law as well as your articulate manner of getting the evidence across. I would not hesitate in recommending your services to anybody that needed a professional barrister and wish you continuing success in your career. - lay client, September 2018

I think your absolutely great at your job. - lay client, March 2020

John is consistently praised by instructing solicitors and lay clients alike for his professional, pragmatic and persuasive approach that instills confidence.

John is calm under pressure and assertive in pursuing his client's best interests - Legal 500
