

The Litigation Team

MERCERS
Solicitors



Chris Bowler

Chris is Mercers' Managing Partner and Head of the Litigation/Dispute Resolution department.

Chris read law at Exeter University and qualified as a solicitor in 1977. He trained and then worked as a qualified solicitor initially at Macfarlanes, a large city of London firm, before joining Mercers in 1980. He became a partner in 1981 and Managing Partner in 2004.

Chris specialises in the following areas:

- Property Disputes. Recent disputes concern the benefits/burden of restrictive covenants, boundaries, rights of way and easements of parking.
- Landlord and Tenant disputes including possession claims in relation to both residential and commercial properties on the grounds of tenant breaches. Chris is also experienced in dealing with Administrators/Receivers following the insolvency of the Tenant.
- Personal Injury claims involving serious injuries at work, public liability claims against hotels, restaurants, cruise companies and local authorities and road traffic accident claims.

What clients say about Chris

"Chris thank you so much. You didn't miss a thing – I really am so grateful" – Mrs G, Berkshire

"Thank you so much for everything you've done, and for all the hard bargaining you've endured on my behalf through the past year or so. I cannot tell you just how much your help has been appreciated" – Mrs S, Berkshire

"I would like to say how very pleased I was with all Chris Bowler's help during a very difficult time" – Mr T, Berkshire

"On the few occasions I have needed litigation assistance, I have always found Mercers to be efficient and professional. Each time I have needed their service has resulted in a positive outcome. I have no hesitation using Mercers in the future" – Anonymous

"Thank you ever so much for your assistance in getting full possession of the property. It is without any doubt that this situation would have been immensely more complicated without your efficient and effective involvement" - Mr R. M., Head of Residential Lettings



Stevyn Jackson

Stevyn is an Associate Solicitor with our Employment and Dispute Resolution department. He specialises in Employment matters such as;

- Unfair and wrongful dismissal claims
- Settlement Agreements
- TUPE
- Redundancy
- Discrimination

- Termination of Employment
- Preparation and review of service agreements for senior executives
- Checking and drafting contracts of employment
- Handbook and Policy review
- Advising on disciplinary and grievance matters

Stevyn is a very experienced Litigator and can assist in the following areas:-

- Property disputes such as adverse possession claims, disputes over rights of way and easements
- Contractual disputes arising out of the sale of goods
- Negligence claims against surveyors and builders
- Debt recovery matters
- All Motoring Offences to include speeding, excess alcohol, failure to stop, and careless and dangerous driving

Stevyn is a graduate of Birmingham University and Guildford Law College and qualified as a solicitor in October 1991. Early in his career Stevyn worked for Blake Lapthorn in London, and more recently for HMG Law (formerly Herbert Mallam Gowers) in Oxford whom he joined as a solicitor in January 2008 before becoming a partner and Head of Dispute Resolution in July 2010. He remained in that role until he joined Mercers in June 2017.

What clients say about Stevyn

“My extremely grateful thanks for your handling of the problem. I am so relieved to have it done with – now I can sleep soundly. Thanks again for all you have accomplished on my behalf.” – Mr Chivers, Oxfordshire

“Very helpful and approachable, a good experience.” – Anonymous

“I would like to record my thanks for your service and the way it was provided – the outcome was certainly as good as I could expect.” – Mr P, Henley



Beatrice Calderbank

Beatrice specialises in issues arising in connection with trusts, estates and the Court of Protection to prevent, minimise, resolve and, if necessary, litigate disputes.

- Disputes in connection with wills include proprietary estoppel claims, claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents Act) 1975, validity issues (including testamentary capacity, undue influence, fraud, and forgery), rectification, construction and misappropriation of estate assets.
- Issues in connection with trusts include setting aside trustees’ decisions, trusts in divorce, seeking Court approval of trustee decisions, variation and termination of trusts, rectification and construction, fraud and tracing.
- Beatrice can also help if you are facing a civil or criminal tax investigation, or if you are charged with a criminal or road traffic offence.

Beatrice joined Mercers as an associate solicitor in the firm’s Litigation Department in August 2017 having previously worked for over 8 years at Withers, the highly regarded London private client firm.

Beatrice graduated with an honours degree in Law from Cardiff University, where she remained for the Legal Practice Course.

Beatrice trained at a regional firm, predominantly assisting individuals with legally aided and privately funded criminal defence and private client work. Beatrice qualified as a solicitor in September 2007, remaining for a year post qualification in the private client team, and continuing with police station representation. This was followed by a short but valuable stint at a regional criminal defence firm, where Beatrice was able to practice her court advocacy.

In 2008, Beatrice moved to Withers where she specialised in domestic and international dispute resolution involving wills, trusts, elder abuse, the Court of Protection and tax investigations, acting for charities, private individuals, and trust officers and organisations.

Highlights were:

- *JF and MF v Hexagon Investments Limited* [2014], in which the Cayman Grand Court considered whether transfers had been made onto trust which would have given rise to a significant tax liability.
- A 2014 reported case in which an account was taken of a professional trustees' fees.
- *Fischer v Diffley* [2013] EWHC 4567, a dispute concerning the validity of a will in which the claimants alleged the deceased lacked testamentary capacity.
- Acting for the trustees from the first instance to the Supreme Court in the Hastings Bass matter of *Futter v Futter* [2013] UKSC 26 in their application to set aside an advancement as a result of incorrect tax advice.
- *RBS Coutts (Cayman) Ltd v W and Others* [2010] (2) CILR 348, a landmark case on trusts in divorce and Cayman firewall legislation.

What clients say about Beatrice

"Four solicitors thought our case was a lost cause, and it was only Mercers that were willing to take it on. It was explained to us from the outset the difficulties that might arise and they fully explained why the case would be difficult. But 'there is always more than one way to skin a cat'. And Beatrice found it and won our case for us. Can't recommend them enough. We are still over the moon!" - Mr & Mrs P, Leicester

"Finally, belatedly, thank you for drafting the last masterpiece letter you prepared in such a short period of time. It was excellent and the best letter of its type I have seen in my years of practicing... I think that is down to your careful marshalling of the relevant points. We appreciate your hard work on this ... I am sure you will work your magic again [in your final version]." - Mr J, Miami

"I am immensely grateful to you for your help, and was impressed by your grasp of detail and also your crisp advice." - Mr B, Oxfordshire