


Steven Fennell

Call 2014



Clerks

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

 Nicole Luna
 0113 203 1975

 Luke Heywood
 0113 203 1970

Appointments

- Accredited Mediator

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Northern Business and Property Bar Association

Education

- University of Bristol (LLB)
- Merton College, Oxford (BCL)
- Accredited Mediator (CEDR)

Commercial Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Steven undertakes a wide range of commercial chancery work, in particular shareholder disputes, partnership and LLP disputes, claims by and against directors, and claims for and against financial institutions. He regularly undertakes litigation in relation to sale of goods and supply of services.

He seeks to work closely with instructing solicitors and, where appropriate, forensic accountants in order to provide clients with a seamless service. Steven is regularly instructed on urgent matters. He understands the time pressures which solicitors and clients are under, and is used to working to their deadlines in a pragmatic and efficient manner.

Commercial Fraud

Steven is a very experienced civil fraud practitioner. Before transferring to the Bar, he was a partner at a large firm of solicitors with responsibility for that firm's work for HMRC relating to civil fraud and insolvency and regularly acted in relation to provisional liquidations of companies involved in missing trader and other tax frauds. Since joining Exchange Chambers in 2014 he has acted in relation to numerous civil fraud matters, from the initial investigation and applications for freezing order relief to trial and enforcement. His clients include corporate and individual claimants and defendants as well as insolvency practitioners. Steven's background as a former insolvency practitioner gives him specific expertise in relation to accounting and financial matters.

He has particular experience of:

- Freezing order applications for claimants

- Challenges on behalf of defendants to freezing orders by defendants, including challenges to the scope of disclosure given by the claimant
- Cases involving allegations of missing trader and other tax fraud
- Fraudulent trading and transactions defrauding creditors brought by insolvency practitioners
- Claims of misappropriation by company directors
- Applications for charging orders following judgement, including disputed claims to ownership of property

Commercial Litigation Cases

Litkraft Ltd v Cottrell [2023] EWHC 456 (Comm) (dispute between solicitors and work referrer)

Burnett v Barker [2021] EWHC 3332 (Ch) – (partnership dispute)

Rahman v Ahikmiah [2021] EWHC 324 (Ch) – (Dispute as to the management and finances of a religious charity)

Recommendations

“Steven is very senior and very experienced. He was an insolvency solicitor so he has a ridiculously large technical arsenal. His advocacy is always clear and considered.”

“Steven is very good counsel who distils issues into language clients can understand. Clients gain confidence and he keeps them calm.”

“Steven has excellent technical knowledge, as well as good commercial awareness and appreciation of the client’s work.”
Chambers and Partners 2025

Tier 1 – Company and Insolvency
The Legal 500 2025

“Steven has significant experience of insolvency law and an appreciation of the client’s position.”

“Steven really knows his stuff and brings admirable tactical clarity when advising on case progression.”
Chambers and Partners, 2024

“Steven’s advocacy is always clear, concise and noticeably appreciated by the presiding judge and instructing solicitor.”
The Legal 500, 2024

Ranked Band 3 for Restructuring/ Insolvency
Chambers and Partners, 2023

“He is clear on all the details and has an excellent grasp of the technical aspects of the matter at hand. A polished performer in court.”

The Legal 500, 2023

“Steven has a real understanding of the practical aspects of insolvency work, and he has the ability to make complex technical insolvency issues understandable.”

The Legal 500, 2022

“His background as a solicitor means he is able to understand our aims and goals when dealing with insolvency litigation which often has a number of stakeholders, and he knows how to build up an excellent rapport with our insolvency practitioner clients.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Provides excellent service on urgent and difficult instructions.”

The Legal 500, 2020

“He has a calm and measured court demeanour.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“He has a wealth of technical insolvency knowledge.”

The Legal 500, 2017

Beyond the Bar

Steven is a keen supporter of the arts with a particular interest in the Theatre, Opera and Music – where enthusiasm partly compensates for lack of natural talent. He is also a keen cook.