


## 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)

### Insolvency

Steven has extensive experience of insolvency practice and litigation. He qualified as an insolvency practitioner in 1999 and held an insolvency licence from 2000 until his transfer to the Bar in 2014. Steven was the moderator of the JIEB Administrations, Company Voluntary Arrangements and Receiverships paper from 2008 to 2017.

His practice extends to:

- Asset recovery, including cross-border litigation
- Corporate insolvency litigation, including wrongful trading, fraudulent trading, misfeasance, preferences and transactions at undervalue
- Personal insolvency litigation, including disputes as to the bankrupt's ownership of property, asset recovery, private examinations and challenges to the approval of voluntary arrangements
- Applications to the court to remove insolvency practitioners from appointments
- Contested remuneration applications
- Advisory work and litigation in relation to insolvent professional practices
- Defending insolvency practitioners in regulatory proceedings brought by their professional bodies
- Missing trader and similar fraud claims involving HMRC, including provisional liquidations
- Non-contentious advisory work in relation to corporate and insolvency transactions
- Defending directors' disqualification actions

During his time as a solicitor, Steven's practice was exclusively claimant based, but since coming to the bar he undertakes a mix of claimant and defendant work.

## Insolvency Cases

AS A BARRISTER:

*MTA Personal Injury Solicitors LLP v Wiseglass* [2024] EWHC 2208 (Ch) (contested remuneration application)

*Gudmundsson v Lin* [2024] EWHC 1576 (Fam), *Reid Roberts v Lin* [2024] EWHC 759 (Ch) (Validity of electronic signatures, validity of agreements between divorcing spouses, possession and sale of matrimonial home where exceptional circumstances are found)

*Fish v Sky Apartments 2018 Ltd* [2022] EWHC 763 (Ch); *Re Sky Building Ltd* [2020] EWHC 3139 (Ch) (Equitable liens arising from off-plan sales; administration)

*Re JDK Construction Ltd* [2024] EWCA Civ 934 (Court of Appeal decision on the effect of fraudulent alterations to a company's register of members)

*Re Brookmann Home Ltd* [2021] EWHC 2610 (Ch) – (directors' misfeasance)

*Re Wolf International Ltd* [2021] EWHC 500 (Ch) – (disputed administration appointment)

*Re Ide* [2020] EWCA Civ 1469 (limitation periods in insolvency litigation)

*Re Robinson* [2020] EWHC 2928 (Ch) – (trustee in bankrupt's powers to trade the bankrupt's business)

*Lin v Gudmundsson* [2021] EWHC 820 (Ch) (wife's application to annul husband's bankruptcy following creditor's petition)

*Sky Building Limited v HMRC and Others* [2020] EWHC 3139 (Ch) (application to sell fixed charge assets under para 71 of Sch B1 to the Insolvency Act 1986)

*HH Aluminium & Building Products Ltd v Bell* [2020] EWCA Civ 1469 (limitation and service in Insolvency Act litigation)

*Leopard v Robinson* [2020] EWHC 2928 (Ch) (powers of a trustee in bankruptcy to trade on)

*Nosnehpetsj Limited v Watersheds Capital Partners Limited* [2020] EWHC 1938 (Ch) (misfeasance in relation to share transfers)

*Re North Point Global Ltd* [2020] EWHC 1648 (Ch) (admissibility of Insolvency Act claims in CVAs)

*Erlam v Rahman* [2016] EWHC 111 (Ch) (sham transactions and beneficial interests in relation to charging orders and judgment debts)

*Zelouf v Khanna* [2016] EWHC 205 (Ch) (grounds for challenging the approval of IVAs).

*Barclays Bank plc v Sharma and others* [2015] EWHC 2806 (Ch) (acted for petition in application to restore company to the register to allow independent review of its administration)

*Royal Bank of Scotland plc v McCarthy* [2015] EWHC 3626 (QB) (defence of procuring a breach of contract in the context of a claim for repayment of a professional practice loan)

## 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.