



## Matthew Bignell

Year of Call: 2021

Matthew accepts instructions in all of Chambers' core practice areas, including employment, tax, personal injury, clinical negligence, commercial litigation, insurance and reinsurance and human rights.

During Matthew's pupillage, he gained experience of matters in the Court of Appeal, High Court, Upper Tribunal (Tax and Chancery Chamber), Employment Tribunal and the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber). He also assisted on a wide variety of advisory work and was instructed on an interim application before a Circuit Judge.

Before coming to the Bar, Matthew was a Teaching Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London where he taught land law and a Research Assistant at the University of Oxford focusing on national security and counter-terror law. Prior to that, Matthew was a Paralegal at the Metropolitan Police specialising in civil litigation. He was also a Legal Editor at Sparqa where he drafted advice on employment, commercial, and data protection law.

### Employment

Matthew accepts instructions on behalf of both employers and employees in all areas of employment law.

As a pupil to Chris Stone, Matthew has gained a range of employment law litigation and advisory experience concerning whistleblowing claims, restrictive covenants, employment status, holiday pay and unfair dismissal (including constructive and automatic unfair dismissal).

Matthew assisted Akash Nawbatt QC and Christopher Stone in *HMRC v Kickabout Productions Ltd*, a complex worker status dispute in the context of IR35 legislation. He has also provided support to Akash Nawbatt QC in matters relating to discrimination and harassment.

In addition, Matthew assisted Marianne Tutin in *Joselin v British Airways PLC*, an unfair dismissal and breach of contract claim, Jesse Crozier in *Clark v Independent Clinical Services*, an employment status dispute on which unfair dismissal, redundancy and breach of contract claims turned, and Anna Greenley in *Sambasivan v Playbox Technology Ltd*, which concerned resisting an application for specific disclosure and further information.

### Tax

Matthew accepts instructions on behalf of both taxpayers and the Revenue in all areas of tax law. He is registered on the Junior Junior Scheme for government work.

As a pupil to Marika Lemos, Matthew has assisted with advisory work on behalf of both taxpayers and the Revenue, including issues of IHT/CGT/SDLT/income tax liability under trusts, residence and domicile, the tax status of cryptocurrency and the application of UK tax charges to foreign property. He has also assisted with matters relating to novel pro-bono costs legislation and the government inquiry into judicial review.

Matthew assisted Aparna Nathan QC and Marika Lemos in *Hoey v HMRC*, a complex appeal relating to the validity of discovery assessments, the transfer of assets abroad and EU law, and jurisdictional issues. He also

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provided support to Marika Lemos and Colm Kelly in *Carter & Kennedy v HMRC*, an appeal concerning SDLT schemes and the validity of discovery assessments, and to Marika Lemos in *Mitchell v HMRC*, which concerned resisting an application for permission to apply for judicial review in a high value dispute as to the validity of s 28B(4) TMA notice.

## **Personal Injury**

Matthew accepts instructions in all areas of personal injury and clinical negligence law.

As a pupil to Jonathan Butters and Stephen Cottrell, Matthew has gained litigation experience of clinical negligence, fatal accident, catastrophic injury, employers' liability, asbestosis, and road traffic accident claims. He has drafted pleadings and schedules of loss in a variety of matters, including high value claims.

Matthew has experience of assisting on a complex fatal accident trial in the High Court and a number of fast track personal injury claims. He also has experience of preliminary hearings, joint settlement meetings, and costs matters. He has provided support in assessing matters of liability and quantum in respect of road traffic accidents and accidents at work. He has assisted on advisory work relating to issues of causation, expert evidence, pre-action disclosure, vulnerable witnesses and the issue of proceedings.

## **Commercial Litigation and Disputes**

Matthew accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law.

As a pupil to Chris Stone, Matthew has gained experience of a range of commercial law issues including the intention to create legal relations, the implication of terms into a high value contract, the significance of acknowledging a debt, and matters relating to conflict of laws.

## **Academic**

LLB (Hons), University of Bristol – First Class Honours.

BCL, University of Oxford – Distinction.

BPTC, City Law School, University of London – Outstanding.

## **Awards and Scholarships**

Gray's Inn: Bedingfield Scholarship.

City Law School, University of London: Postgraduate Scholarship.

Wadham College, University of Oxford: Award for Outstanding BCL Performance.

University of Oxford: Law Faculty Prize for Criminal Justice, Security, and Human Rights.

University of Bristol: Oxford University Press Prize.

## **Memberships and Associations**

ELBA, COMBAR

### **Personal Interests**

Matthew is a keen surfer and kayaker. For better or worse, he follows Swansea City Football Club.