

Pump Court Chambers

We are one of the one of largest and longest established barristers' chambers in England and Wales. We recently celebrated our 75th birthday! Based in London and Winchester and focusing on the South and South West, our breadth of expertise and collaborative approach enable us to provide clients with joined-up, practical solutions across multiple specialisms in law.

Our barristers and clerks are approachable, straightforward and focused on solving problems quickly and cost-effectively.

Our civil team is widely recognised as one of the best in the country. Our barristers are notable experts in their field, ably led by our silks (QCs) and leading juniors. Many of our barristers sit as part time judges.

Public Access – Civil Claims

Civil litigation encompasses a very broad range of claims. Our barristers offer expertise through public access instruction to individuals, corporate bodies and unincorporated associations with disputes or problems in the following fields:

- bankruptcy, winding up and insolvency issues such as retention of title
- boundary disputes
- breach of contract
- breaches by trustees
- business partnership disputes
- commercial disputes between companies
- construction and building
- consumer credit
- contentious probate
- damage caused to goods or property through negligence
- debt recovery
- director's disqualification
- judicial review
- landlord and tenant disputes of either a commercial or residential nature
- nuisance and interference with property
- ownership of property
- parking
- professional negligence
- property disputes between cohabitants following the end of their relationship
- rights of way and other easements
- sale of goods
- shareholder disputes
- trees
- trusts of land disputes
- unlawful retention or damage to property

Pump Court Chambers Ltd Registered Address: 3 Pump Court, London, EC4Y 7AJ Registered in England & Wales No: 8068472. Regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

3 Pump Court

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T. 0207 353 0711

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If you cannot see your area of dispute listed, please contact us anyway as we may well be able to help or, at least, point you in the right direction!

Our barristers will advise and guide you expertly through the court process, advising on pre-litigation negotiation and mediation, helping you to draft any documentation and advising and representing you at case management hearings and at any trial.

Timescales

Timescales for your case may vary depending on factors such as barristers' availability, the complexity of your case, the need for additional documents and court waiting times.

As a guide most civil litigation can take anything up to two years to be completed. This does not include any appeal. Some aspects of litigation will move more quickly such as winding up and bankruptcy petitions which are typically heard within around 8 weeks. Accelerated procedures are also in place for residential repossession where results can be achieved within months rather than years. However, if complicated defences are entered in winding up, bankruptcy or repossession claims then these too can take up to two years to be completed. Your legal advisors will naturally do all they can to ensure your trial is heard within the best possible timeframe, but much will depend upon factors outside their control such as Court availability or the need to obtain expert evidence.

Urgent applications for interim injunctions to protect companies and individuals can be arranged at extremely short notice, sometimes only a matter of hours, but this will depend upon how quickly the relevant documents can be drafted and upon court availability. Such injunctions are available in all fields of civil litigation as a means of protection pending a final decision by the Court. They can be used to defend boundaries, prevent the advertisement of a winding up petition, secure protection from harassment or to freeze assets that the other side may be trying to hide, for example by transferring them out of the country.

Modern litigation has become very focussed upon Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) such as without prejudice meetings and mediation. Pump Court Chambers has supported ADR for many years and many of our barristers are also mediators. ADR can substantially reduce time scales and costs in civil litigation, it can also achieve results that might go beyond the limited relief that is available to the Court. During the course of ADR we believe that it is important for the client to have clear legal advice about their prospects of success if the matter should go to Court as well as help in considering possible solutions to the dispute and in carefully drafting any agreement that may be reached between the parties.

Fees

We may charge either fixed fees (which means that we will charge you a set amount of money for each piece of work we undertake) or on an hourly rate basis. Below we provide estimates based on the ranges of fixed fees and the hourly rates for barristers at Pump Court Chambers.

All fees exclude VAT (where applicable). That means that it is likely that you will have to pay us VAT in addition to the fee at the current rate (presently 20%).

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If we charge fixed fees, these may vary depending on your needs – for example, your fees may be towards the higher end of the range if you need a more experienced barrister and/or the matter is more complex. If the matter is particularly complex, your fees may also be higher than the estimates below. There may also be additional costs for any administrative work involved such as copying or where you agree to engage another person to assist with your case, such as a paralegal. On the first occasion that you instruct us there will be a fixed administration fee of £20 plus VAT.

If we quote a fixed fee it will only be to undertake that particular piece of work. There are likely to be many different pieces of work involved in a case such as representation at hearings, advising in conference and in writing and drafting documents. At the completion of each piece of work our barristers will provide advice about the next stage including a fee quote. We will always quote separately for each piece of work. Please contact us so we can discuss fees individually with you.

Our barristers range in experience and expertise from QCs to newly qualified barristers. The fee levels set out below will reflect the relative experience of the barrister that you decide to instruct. Please note that it will not always be possible to work under a fixed fee and there are a number of factors involved on the part of our barristers in deciding whether your case is appropriate for a fixed fee. These factors include the complexity of the case, the amount of paperwork to be read and processed as well as timescales for example where urgent matters require working outside usual office hours or over weekends. Therefore, please note that the fixed fees are for guidance only and cannot be guaranteed to all of our clients. Where we are unable to offer a fixed fee we will revert to our hourly rates and provide an estimate of how long your work is likely to take although you must appreciate that this is only an estimate.

Fixed Fees

Stage of case	Ranges of fixed fees (estimates)
Preliminary Conference	£1,250 - £3,750
Written advice on your case	£1,250 - £3,750
Preparation of case, including assistance with completion of forms and preparation of witness evidence and disclosure	The fixed fee would be calculated at the hourly rate of the appointed Counsel multiplied by the number of hours work required. The applicable range of hourly rates are £250 - £750 per hour.
Preparation for and attendance at case management hearing (up to one day)	£2,500 - £6,000
Preparation for and attendance at Trial, Day 1	£3,500 - £7,500
Part Heard day(s) of Trial (per day, following day one)	£1,500 - £3,000

Hourly Rates

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Stage of case	Range of hourly rates (estimates)	Approximate number of hours
Preliminary Conference	£250 - £750	5hrs
Written advice on your case	£250 - £750	5hrs
Preparation of case, including assistance with completion of forms and preparation of witness evidence and disclosure	£250- £750,	variable depending on work required and complexity
Preparation for and attendance at case management hearing (up to one day)	£250- £750,	variable depending on work required and complexity
Preparation for and attendance at Trial, Day 1	£250- £750	variable depending on work required and complexity
Part Heard day(s) of Trial (per day, following day one)	£250 - £750	variable depending on work required and complexity

Please note that we cannot conduct litigation on your behalf. This means that we cannot (for example) issue applications for you at court, pay issue fees, instruct experts or send documents to the court or anyone else on your behalf. In addition, our barristers cannot correspond with other lawyers or agencies on your behalf. We can, however, advise you on how to undertake these procedures and assist you with the contents of any documents or correspondence which you can then send out in your own name.

Please Contact Us

All information is correct as of January 2020 but fees are estimates only. For a quotation please contact our clerks on 020-7353-0711 or clerks@pumpcourtchambers.com.

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