



Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution



Southampton's premier law firm - providing a full range of legal services to individuals and businesses across the Solent region for over 190 years.

Our aim is simple...

“To recognise and respond to our clients’ needs with prompt, clear and practical advice, based on a thorough knowledge of their situation.”

In recent years there has been a significant change in the law and practice of dispute resolution.

The Court is now the last resort. The emphasis is upon efficient, speedy resolution of disputes and the saving of costs.

We aim to provide a practical and effective service to achieve resolution of disputes for our clients, whatever their circumstances.

Commercial Disputes

Many commercial disputes can be resolved without the need to involve the Courts. We have considerable experience in Mediation, Conciliation, Arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Much can be gained and a lot saved by dialogue between the parties and their representatives.

Whether in dispute over a contract, in employment, under a lease (residential, business or agricultural), in building or construction, in insurance, as between land owners, directors and/or business partners, we offer the expertise to give our clients direction and the best possible way forward towards resolving the problem.

If the court is needed, then our Advocates are well-trained, experienced and qualified to help at each stage of the litigation process.

As a well established commercial practice, we provide help and expertise to clients across the whole spectrum of commercial disputes, including:

Interpretation and enforcement of commercial and other contracts, leases and licences

Director, Shareholder and Partnership disputes

Corporate Fraud

Freezing and other Injunctions

Landlord and Tenant disputes

Building and Land disputes

Arbitration

Tribunals and Inquiries

Licensing

Professional Negligence

Nuisance

Debt Recovery and Security realisation

Insolvency Procedures

Advocacy

Our experienced Advocates can provide advice, assistance and representation, in the presentation or negotiation of cases at all levels through the Court and Tribunal systems, and also have expertise in negotiating resolution of disputes through the Mediation process.

Our aim is to provide a practical and effective service to achieve our client's objectives, as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Disputes

The negotiation and settlement of claims arising from contracts for clients involved in most professions and sectors of business. We can assist whether such disputes are to be dealt with by negotiation, Arbitration, Court proceedings or Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Building and Engineering Disputes

Acting for Builders and Developers and other professionals involved in building disputes including Litigation and Arbitrations, and Adjudication under consultancy and construction contracts.

Property Litigation

We act for businesses involved in a wide range of disputes involving the acquisition and disposal of land and in disputes between Landlord and Tenant including Forfeiture and Dilapidation claims, and renewal of business tenancies. We deal with disputes as to the ownership of and rights over land in both the County Court and Chancery Division.

Insolvency

We assist both business clients and Insolvency Practitioners with Court procedures leading to the appointment of Receivers, Liquidators, Administrators and Trustees in Bankruptcy or Supervisors of Individual Voluntary Arrangements. We also deal with litigation both for and against office holders after their appointment. We can help in the defence of Company Director Disqualification Proceedings.

Nuisance and Negligence

The level and interaction of business today means that few businesses can escape the possibility of claims for nuisance and negligence. We can help you in the making of or defence of claims for defective goods and services, including, claims for consequential loss. This includes Product Liability claims. We can also deal with the defence of Local Authority and other Government prosecutions arising out of Breach of Planning or Environmental Control. Where appropriate we can liaise with your own insurers.

Professional Negligence

We conduct and defend professional negligence claims in respect of other professions including the Accountancy, Surveying, Engineering and Architectural professions. We also, when necessary, prepare and conduct claims against other solicitors. Members of the Department are experienced in working with and against Professional Indemnity Insurers.

Personal Injury

We can help you in the defence of Employers or Public Liability claims against your business, including assisting you where necessary with negotiations with your insurers. Members of the department are members of the Law's Personal Injury Panel.

Debt Collection

Our computerised debt collection service has behind it the resources of a large and experienced Civil Litigation Department and is able to help and advise on new problems relating to credit control and debt recovery, including:

Credit Control Procedures

Drafting terms and conditions of business

Debt recovery enforcement and Security realisation

Insolvency Procedures

If you would like to have further information about Paris Smith's Debt Recovery Services, including terms of business, please write or telephone and ask for our separate brochure.

Our office hours are 9am to 5.30pm Mondays to Fridays or at any other time by arrangement.

Fees

We understand that costs are a major concern, and we ensure that our charges are clear. We provide full information on our charges before work begins, and our letters of engagement clearly set out the work involved and the fee basis, of retainer.

 Paris Smith



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