



## John Platts-Mills

Year of Call: 2016

John graduated in 2010 with a BA (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and subsequently completed an MSc in Latin American Studies in 2011; at University College and St Cross College, University of Oxford.

John retrained as a barrister having worked as a corporate finance analyst in the mergers & acquisitions team at Deutsche Bank, his work included the 2013 IPO of Infinis and 2014 Dixons Carphone merger. He went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law at City University London in 2015, and completed the Bar Professional Training Course at BPP University London in 2016. John was awarded multiple scholarships during his studies, including the Lincoln's Inn Lord Denning Scholarship, the Lincoln's Inn Hardwicke Entrance Award, and the Lincoln's Inn Buchanan Prize.

Following completion of the BPTC, and prior to commencing pupillage, John joined the Shell Global Litigation Team, working independently and as part of teams advising Shell entities on a range of matters including: commercial contracts, tax, Bilateral Investment Treaties and jurisdictional issues arising out of claims brought by communities from the Niger Delta alleging environmental damage. John also worked as a visiting lecturer at City University London, teaching tort and contract law.

During the BPTC John participated in a number of moot competitions, winning the BPP Internal moot and the OUP/BPP national moot, as well as being selected to represent Lincoln's Inn in the final of the UKLSA national moot.

Throughout pupillage, John gained experience in all of chambers' core areas: commercial litigation, employment, personal injury, clinical negligence, insurance and reinsurance, professional negligence and tax.

### Employment

John is regularly instructed in both preliminary and final hearings in various kinds of employment disputes.

As a pupil, John gained valuable experience in a number of employment matters and has substantial experience of: "whistleblowing", unfair dismissal, discrimination, employee status and limitation disputes. This included providing research support for Akash Nawbatt QC in *Pimlico Plumbers v Smith* [2018] UKSC 29 (employee status)

John has a particular interest in industrial relations disputes having provided research support to Andrew Burns QC in a number of EAT Appeals concerning: restrictions on contractual changes in relation to collective bargaining (the s.145B issue) (*Kostal v Dunkley* [2018] ICR 768) and compensatory rest breaks for transport workers (*Crawford v Network Rail* [2018] IRLR 714).

### Personal Injury

John acts in an advisory and advocacy capacity for both Claimants and Defendants within the field of personal injury. He has already developed a busy County Court practice, which encompasses application hearings, costs & case management hearings, and full trials.

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He has experience across a wide range of personal injury matters, including:

- employer's and occupier's liability
- road traffic accidents
- fatal injuries
- chronic pain
- international travel
- credit hire

In addition to his own caseload, he has been involved in a number of complex clinical negligence disputes and assisted in the drafting of schedules for catastrophic injury cases. At an appellate level John has provided research support for Rob Weir QC in *Dryden & Ors v Johnson Matthey* [2018] UKSC 18.

## Tax

John is currently instructed as junior in a number of anti-avoidance cases, encompassing the notice provisions (FNs, APNs and PPNs) contained in the Finance Act 2014. He has also been instructed on behalf of the taxpayer in an IR35 matter.

As pupil John gained substantial experience in tax litigation as well as a range of advisory matters from a taxpayer perspective, including: domicile and residence, inheritance tax and liability for failure to comply with follower notices (*Benton v HMRC* [2018]). He also appeared in the Masters' Corridor of the Royal Courts of Justice in applying to rectify a deed of variation.

John welcomes instructions from both taxpayers and the revenue.

## Insurance & Reinsurance

John is developing a practice in insurance litigation. During pupillage he gained substantial experience of a number of issues including: anti-suit injunctions, qualification of arbitrators for reinsurance disputes – (*Allianz Insurance Plc v Tonicstar Ltd* [2018] 1 Lloyd's Rep 389) and construction of insurance contracts including clauses purporting to exclude liability in relation to pollution.

## Commercial Litigation

Building on his experience as a member of the Shell Global Litigation team, John has gained experience of litigation in UK courts involving injunctions and jurisdictional issues.

He is currently seeking to develop his practice in this area.

## Academic

BPP University London, Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding)

City University London, Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)

University of Oxford, St Cross College, MSc Latin American Studies

University of Oxford, University College, BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics: 2:1

### **Awards & scholarships**

Lincoln's Inn, Buchanan Prize

City University, runner-up researched essay prize (Distinction)

Lincoln's Inn, Lord Denning Scholarship

Lincoln's Inn, Hardwicke Entrance Award