



Luke Tucker Harrison

Partner and Solicitor Advocate

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Luke Tucker Harrison co-founded Keidan Harrison LLP in May 2020, having formerly led a substantial and esteemed team at a mid-sized firm. He is recognised by the leading legal directories as a “very commercial litigator with a real eye for detail” and “especially adept at insolvency-related commercial disputes” (Chambers 2019).

Background

Luke obtained a degree in European Studies (French and German) at the University of Sussex (and is fluent in both languages). He gained a commendation in both his Common Professional Examination in Law (University of Sussex) and Legal Practice Court (University of Law). Luke went on to train at regional law firm Debenhams Ottaway LLP, where he was rapidly promoted, firstly to Partner and subsequently to Head of Dispute Resolution. He built a team of over ten lawyers who developed an excellent reputation for servicing complex commercial and insolvency disputes. Luke served for many years on the executive committee of the Commercial Litigation Association, becoming Vice Chairman in 2006 and Chairman in 2018.

Practice and experience

Luke’s practice covers a broad spectrum of commercial disputes, but he has particular expertise in contentious insolvency and restructuring advisory, fraud and asset recovery, banking and financial services, company and partnership, professional negligence claims and technology disputes. He also has substantial expertise in media, data protection and defamation claims. Luke has acted for large corporates as well as for small-to medium-sized enterprises and office holders (directors, trustees and insolvency practitioners). He works across all sectors, but has particular experience in recruitment, litigation funding, alternative lending, technology, construction and private equity.

Luke is a Solicitor Advocate having gained his Higher Rights of Audience. He has extensive litigation and arbitration experience both as an instructing solicitor and as an advocate. He also regularly represents clients in other forms of dispute resolution, including mediations, and develops bespoke dispute resolution mechanisms for clients. Luke is known for his innovative approach to value engineering dispute resolution and his outcomes focus. Luke is a past Chairman of the Commercial Litigation Association. He was a winner of the M&A Adviser, Emerging Leader Awards 2017, and in 2019 was named as a member of the prestigious TRI 250, an exclusive group of professionals across the Turnaround, Restructuring and Insolvency profession.

What the legal directories say

Chambers and Partners Guide 2018 describe Luke as:

“a very down-to-earth, roll-up-your-sleeves type of litigator who has a good eye for detail and for the outcome of a case.”

He is also credited for his entrepreneurial flair and ability to think outside of the box.

Chambers 2017 describe him as being a:

“very sharp and focussed guy” who **“thinks creatively about cases”**.

In Chambers 2016 clients praise his:

“very sound, straightforward advice”.

In Chambers 2015 Luke is described as:

“an entrepreneurial sort of solicitor”, having **“certain finesse”** that **“makes clients feel relaxed”**, as well as taking a **“very collaborative”** approach by bringing in other specialist lawyers from the firm and ensuring litigation is project managed to ensure best value for clients.

Luke is also mentioned by The Legal 500 Guide 2018. It credits his “high success rate in obtaining settlements” and calls him:

“a savvy and experienced litigator that you want on your side in a fight”

He is noted for his expertise in contentious insolvency matters, financial services and boardroom disputes. Legal 500 2017 describe him as “a high-quality and experienced commercial litigator”. Legal 500 2015 credit him with an “acute sense of tactics” and for building “a solid practice with a growing reputation”.

Representative case examples

Manolete Partners Plc v Siza (unreported) BL-2019-000990

Acting for a litigation funder and assignee of a £4.3m claim in respect of an application made by the defendant to set aside judgment. The underlying claim arose out of an alleged suppressed sales fraud discovered following a HMRC investigation, which led to the liquidation of the company of which the defendant was the sole director. The application was successfully resisted.

Kirkegaard v Smith [2019] EWHC 3393 (QB); [2019] 12 WLUK 132

Acting for the defendant in a preliminary meaning trial in respect of a defamation action. Obtaining a favorable meaning declaration and findings that the statements complained of were opinion and not fact.

Event Spaces Ltd v Gregg [2019] EWHC 3447 (Comm); [2019] 12 WLUK 491

Acting for the defendant in respect of a claim for an indemnity arising out of an investment agreement. The matter came before the court on a summary judgment application in respect of the defendant’s allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation as to the tax status of the investment.

Hunt v Winkler [2019] EWHC 931 (Ch); [2019] 3 WLUK 437

Acting for trustee in bankruptcy as Solicitor Advocate in relation to an application to revoke an order following Counsel for the respondent having misled a High Court Judge. The application succeeded in part in respect of the legal test and the fact of the misleading.

Sube v News Group Newspapers Ltd (No. 2) [2018] EWHC 1961 (QB); [2018] 1 WLR 5767; [2018] EMLR 27

Acting for the claimants in a second preliminary issue arising out of a defamation claim following numerous articles in national newspapers and on their websites. The judgment concerned a novel point of law as to whether the serious harm test in the Defamation Act 2013 could be satisfied cumulatively.

Sube v News Group Newspapers Ltd (No. 1) [2018] EWHC 1234 (QB); [2018] 5 WLUK 460

Acting for the claimants in a preliminary issue trial into the meaning of a large number of statements made by the defendant newspapers. The Court determined the question of meaning, whether the statements were fact or opinion and whether or not the statements satisfied the threshold of the serious harm test under the Defamation Act 2013.

Curtis Michael Harry v Maynard Daniel Harry & Ors [2018] EWHC 1737 (Ch)

Acting for the applicant shareholder in an unfair prejudice petition pursuant to section 994 of the Companies Act 2006. The preliminary issue trial before the Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge established that there had been a fraudulent transfer of the business as a going concern by the respondent to a company that he controlled through nominees.

Steven Leslie Smith & Anr (as Joint Liquidators of Iconic Hotels Limited) v Clive Oliver Travers & Ors (unreported) CR-2017-006366 21 June 2018

Acting for the joint liquidators of a property owning company in respect of claims to set aside and claw back transactions at an undervalue and preferences and an action in misfeasance against a director. The claim succeeded resulting in a judgment, with interest, of over £1m.

Ross v Fashion Design Solutions Ltd [2018] EWHC 2388 (Ch); [2018] 3 WLUK 487; [2018] BCC 875

Acting for a creditor of NJM Clothing Ltd in respect of the first challenge to the validity of an administrator's appointment following the introduction of the requirements of The Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016. The creditor was successful in establishing that the administrator was defectively appointed but the Court held that the defect did not invalidate the appointment in accordance with rule 12.64.

Ralph Kline Ltd v Metropolitan and County Holdings Ltd [2018] EWHC 64 (Ch); [2018] 1 WLUK 274; [2018] L&TR 19

Acting for the claimant in a Part 8 claim for a declaration as to the extent of a demise of a lease of a substantial property on the Finchley Road that was earmarked for airspace development.

Redbourn Group Ltd v Fairgate Development Ltd [2017] EWHC 1223 (TCC); [2018] 4 WLUK 162; [2018] BLR 802; [2018] TCLR 5; 177 ConLR 207

Acting for the defendant in respect of a claim for damages of circa £2m for breach of contract. The contract arose out of the proposed development of a circa £80m scheme in Wembley, North London. Following an earlier determination on liability against the defendant, the defendant was successful, at trial, in establishing that it was not liable to the claimant for any loss.

Cook v Revenue and Customs Commissioners [2017] 7 WLUK 46; [2017] BPIR 1468

Acting for the trustees in bankruptcy in their application for suspension of the bankrupt's discharge, heard together with the bankrupt's application to annul the bankruptcy. The annulment was successful and HMRC, as petitioning creditor, was liable to pay the trustee's costs and expenses of the bankruptcy.

Banwait v Dewji [2015] EWHC 3441 (Ch); [2015] 11 WLUK 787

Acting for the respondent wife of a judgment debtor subject to a substantial judgment following a fraud trial. The application arose in the context of a disputed charging order application and is an authority on the circumstances in which charging orders may be overreached under the Law of Property Act 1925.

Ultimate Utilities Ltd v McNicholas Construction Services Ltd [2014] 4 WLUK 311

Acting for the defendant utilities service provider in an application for strike out and security for costs arising from a misconceived claim brought by a disgruntled sub-contractor. The claimant was given permission to amend its claim subject to payment of the defendant's costs and payment of security in respect of the defendant's costs to trial.

Worldspreads Ltd v Foley [2014] EWHC 3382 (QB); [2014] 10 WLUK 540

Acting for the former CEO of a failed spreadbetting company in special administration in respect of a claim against him for an overdraft director's loan account. The claim was defended on a number of legal bases arising out of the fact that the defendant had forgone salary for a substantial period that ought properly to be set off against the loan account. The case involved novel considerations that arise where a director is employed by a group company yet works for an operating subsidiary.

MPloy Group Ltd v Denso Manufacturing UK Ltd [2014] EWHC 2992 (Comm); [2014] 9 WLUK 357

Acting for the claimant employment agency and employment business in respect of a claim for damages for breach of contract and transfer fees following the transfer of an entire workforce to another employment business. The claim involved a consideration of the intention of Regulation 10 of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003, as well as implied terms arising out of the introduction of the Agency Worker Regulations 2010 prior to a contract extension.

Sunlander Outdoor Products Ltd v Revenue and Customs Commissioners [2012] UKFTT 325 (TC); [2012] 4 WLUK 290

Acting for the applicant tax payer in respect of a strike out application by HMRC on the basis of the applicant's locus to bring an appeal following it having been placed into liquidation. HMRC's application was unsuccessful as the directors of the applicant had been authorised, by deed, to pursue the appeal.

Manoudakis v easyGroup Holdings Ltd [2011] EWHC 3614 (QB); [2011] 10 WLUK 521

Acting for the claimant, the former CFO of easyJet and second ever employee of the airline, in an action against easyGroup Holdings Ltd, controlled by Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, arising out of its refusal to pay sums due under a consultancy agreement concurrently entered into with a compromise agreement. The trial involved allegations of serious breach of fiduciary duty and fraud on the part of the claimant. The claimant was successful at trial in recovering the sums sought. A related action against the claimant brought by easyIP Licensing Ltd was subsequently discontinued. Further, a claim for defamation brought by the claimant against easyGroup Holdings Ltd, easyIP Licensing Ltd and Sir Stelios was compromised with a payment of damages, costs and an apology.

Ansari v New India Assurance Ltd [2009] EWCA Civ 93; [2009] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 926; [2009] 2 WLUK 486; [2009] Lloyd's Rep IR 562

Acting for the defendant insurer in a claim for an indemnity under an insurance policy by an insured. The claim involved allegations of non-disclosure of material facts and breach of warranty. The claim was successfully defended at first instance and on appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Memberships

The Board of the Commercial Litigation Association
The Law Society Civil Litigation Section
The Insolvency Lawyers Association
R3
The London Fraud Forum