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Dan Butler

Call: 2021

Dan is developing a broad company and insolvency law practice and accepts instructions across all of Chambers' core practice areas.

Prior to being called to the bar, Dan trained as a solicitor with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, qualifying into the firm's London disputes group and being seconded to the New York and Hong Kong offices (spending over two years in the latter). He also undertook a number of secondments to clients in the insurance sector.

In his 10 years in private practice Dan developed substantial experience in restructuring and insolvency, advising on a wide variety of both contentious and non-contentious matters, often with a cross-border element. He has particular expertise in schemes of arrangement and Part VII transfers, having acted as a solicitor on some of the most high-profile deals in the market.

During pupillage, Dan assisted with a broad range of advisory work and written submissions including (among other matters) on behalf of the successful defendants in *Re Swiss Cottage Properties Limited (in liquidation)* [2022] EWHC 1495 (Ch), a misfeasance claim brought by junior creditors against a company's former administrators.

Restructuring & Insolvency

Dan's experience in private practice included advising:

- The Malaysia Airlines group on its global restructuring, including the first use of a UK scheme to reduce liabilities under aircraft leases (*Re MAB Leasing Limited* [2021] EWHC 152 (Ch) and [2021] EWHC 379 (Ch)).
- The Debenhams group in connection with its restructuring, including the successful defence of two CVAs against a High Court challenge issued by a group of landlords (*Discovery (Northampton) Ltd & Ors v Debenhams Retail Ltd & Ors* [2019] EWHC 2441 (Ch)); and subsequently advising the administrators of Debenhams generally.

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- Instant Cash Loans (t/a The Money Shop) on its market-leading restructuring of unaffordability redress claims (Re Instant Cash Loans Limited [2019] EWHC 2329 (Ch) and [2019] EWHC 2795 (Ch)).

Litigation & Arbitration

During his time as a solicitor Dan represented a variety of clients in High Court litigation, arbitration proceedings and regulatory or disciplinary investigations. This included acting on behalf of:

- The former directors of a well-known high street retailer on an investigation by The Pensions Regulator and the Insolvency Service.
- The former administrators of a high street retailer in relation to disciplinary and enforcement proceedings brought by the ICAEW.
- The family trusts of a high net worth individual in an application to obtain a freezing order in Hong Kong as part of the so-called "Yves Bouvier Affair" (Accent Delight International Ltd & Another v Yves Bouvier & Another [2015] 4 HKC 51, [2015] HKCFI 566, [2015] HKCFI 1041 and [2015] HKCFI 1264), which involved proceedings in Monaco, Switzerland, France, the US and Singapore.

Corporate

Dan's transactional experience includes advising:

- Equitable Life on its complex scheme of arrangement, Part VII transfer and sale to Utmost Life and Pensions (Re Equitable Life Assurance Society [2019] EWHC 3336 (Ch)).
- Hutchison Whampoa on the Hong Kong scheme of arrangement effecting its merger with CK Hutchison Holdings Limited.
- Zurich Insurance Group on various Part VII transfers, including the disposal of the general insurance business of Eagle Star to RiverStone.

Education and Awards

BA (Ancient & Modern History) – Brasenose College, University of Oxford (First Class Honours)