



CHRISTOPHER BROWN

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Commercial and Corporate Law
Public Law
Sports law
Competition and Regulation
EU Law
Tax Law

Called to the Bar 2002

Called to the Bar (Ireland) 2018

CONTACT:

christopherbrown@matrixlaw.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7404 3447
Elizabeth Bousher, Senior Practice
Manager
elizabethbousher@matrixlaw.co.uk

Christopher's practice focuses on competition law, EU law, commercial law and public law. He has been involved in some of the leading competition law litigation in the English courts in recent years, notably the long running interchange fee litigation, and is ranked as a leading junior in this field in the major directories.

Before coming to Matrix Chambers in 2009 Christopher served as a Referendaire (Legal Secretary) to the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT), where he assisted the Tribunal panels in the management and resolution of cases. Whilst at the CAT, he gained unique experience of the competition law enforcement regime in the UK and handled numerous high-profile appeals. He then became the sole competition practitioner at the law firm Farrer & Co LLP, where he advised clients across the firm.

Since joining Matrix, Christopher has appeared domestically in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, CAT, Upper Tribunal and Employment Tribunal. He has also acted for the European Commission in proceedings in the General Court of the European Union. Christopher was shortlisted for Competition Junior of the Year at the 2016 Chambers UK Bar Awards.

Christopher is a Visiting Fellow at the Dickinson Poon School of Law, King's College London, where he co-convenes the LLM course in UK Competition Law. He used to teach EU Law at King's College London. He writes and lectures frequently on all aspects of competition and general EU law and has carried out training of competition agency officials from various countries. He is a past UK rapporteur for the Biennial Congress of the Fédération Internationale de Droit Européen (FIDE)

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT THEY SAY:

Chambers & Partners 2021 state Christopher has "has extensive knowledge of competition law and is a very good lawyer." "He's a go-to for absolutely everything." "He's really hard-working and reliable," and an "unsung hero."

Legal 500 2021 state "Attention to detail, hard-working, excellent on his feet. He knows the law well and is willing to give a view where asked... Definitely one of the sector's rising stars and a pleasure to work with. Expecting great things."

Chambers & Partners 2020 state he is "Responsive, hard-working and very clear in his advice" "He is committed to understanding the details of the case and he gives sound strategic advice".

Legal 500 2019 state "He has a deep knowledge of competition enforcement law."

Chambers & Partners 2019 describe Christopher as "delightful to work with- he takes complex arguments and distills them down. Nothing is too much trouble for him."

Legal 500 2018 describe Christopher as "extremely easy to work with- he is responsive, intelligent, astute and collaborative."

Legal 500 2017 state that Christopher is "a fabulously focused senior junior, who gets the big picture and provides prolific output."

Who's Who Legal 2018 describe Christopher as "an experienced and effective junior who is well known for his knowledge of competition law and his abilities in the court room."

Chambers & Partners 2017 states that Christopher is "flexible in that he gives up his time at very short notice and is highly pragmatic in terms of the advice he gives."

COMPETITION LAW AND REGULATION

Christopher covers the full range of UK and EU competition law (including utilities regulation). Much of his recent work has related to claims for damages and other redress. Recent and ongoing cases include:

- Asda and Others and Others v MasterCard; Asda and Others v Visa (Commercial Court claims for damages in respect of multilateral interchange fees; liability confirmed by the Supreme Court in June 2020; quantum trial pending)
- Acting for a new entrant on the academic dress market in a claim against Ede & Ravenscroft alleging abuse of a dominant position and anti-competitive agreements (Competition Appeal Tribunal, ongoing)
- Acting for various claimants on their pending claims against various truck manufacturers in relation to losses suffered as a result of the pan-European trucks cartel (see, recently, Royal Mail Group Ltd & Ors v DAF Trucks Limited & Ors [2020] CAT 7: judgment on the extent to which recitals in a Commission infringement decision are binding under EU law and/or at common law on the addressees in the context of subsequent damages claims)
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation v Barclays and Ors (acting for Lloyds Banking Group in defence of a claim alleging breach of competition law in relation to the setting of USD LIBOR)
- Advising the British Olympic Association (BOA) in respect of threatened action based on competition and EU free movement law by certain athletes in respect of the BOA's application of Rule 40 of the Olympic Charter
- Singapore Airlines v EU Commission (acting for Commission in defence of its Airfreight I and Airfreight II decisions)
- EDF/SSE v Ofgem (acting for the CMA on an appeal relating to Ofgem's decision to reject a code modification on charges to generators for the electricity transmission system in 2015/16)
- Acting for a grocery chain in defence of a claim that a restrictive covenant was in reach of the prohibition on anti-competitive agreements
- Cooperative Group v OFT (successful appeal against Tobacco products infringement decision)
- Somerfield v OFT (application to extend time for bringing an appeal against the Tobacco decision)
- Roma Medical Aids and Pride Mobility Products decisions of the OFT (online price and advertising restrictions)
- Freightliner commitments decision of the Office of Rail and Road (advising ORR on its investigation into suspected abuse of a dominant position by Freightliner)
- Ashford St Peter's/Royal Surrey County hospitals merger (acting as principal legal adviser to the CMA panel conducting the Phase 2 merger inquiry)
- Advising an individual suspected by the OFT of having engaged in criminal cartel conduct)

EUROPEAN LAW

Free movement of goods, services and persons; public procurement; private international law; state aid. Recent cases include:

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- R (Shindler and MacClennan) v Duchy of Lancaster and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs [2016] EWCA Civ 469: challenge on EU free movement and citizenship grounds to the exclusion from the EU Referendum franchise of British nationals who have resided in other EU Member States for 15 years or more.
- McGeogh v Lord President of the Council (Supreme Court) (compatibility of restrictions on prisoner voting rights with EU law)
- R (Sky Blue Sports & Leisure and Others) v Coventry City Council (Admin Court) (JR challenge to decision of Coventry City Council to lend £14.4m to Arena Coventry Limited, operator of the "Ricoh Arena")
- R (Chandler) v DCSF (CA) (public procurement challenge to the legality of the Government's Academies programme)

Christopher frequently advises and acts for public authorities and private sector bidders on their rights and obligations under EU public procurement law.

SPORTS LAW

All aspects, including regulatory advice and challenges to governing body decisions. Christopher has previously sat as a member of the UK Athletics Selection Appeal Panel hearing appeals brought by athletes in relation to selection decisions and acted for a sports coach who had been excluded from further participation in the sport by his governing body.

COMMERCIAL LAW

General contract law; arbitration; general commercial law.

PUBLIC LAW

All aspects, including human rights. Cases include R (Gallastegui) v Westminster City Council (Div Ct) (challenge to law banning tents and other structures in Parliament Square: compatibility with Articles 10 and 11 ECHR).

PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES

Co-editor with Ros Kellaway and Rhodri Thompson QC, UK Competition Law: The New Framework (OUP, 2015)

Contributor to Bellamy and Child's European Union law of Competition (Bailey and John, eds) (8th ed, OUP, 2018)

Co-author, Gray et al, EU Competition Law: procedure and Remedies (OUP)

Co-author, Blackstone's Guide to the Human Rights Act 1998 (6th ed, OUP, 2011)

Articles for a number of journals, including the Common Market Law Review, European Competition Law Review and Competition Law Journal

Consultant editor, Competition Law Journal (2015-2017; co-editor 2004-2015)

EDUCATION

Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, 2001-2002

LLM in European Legal Studies, College of Europe, 200-2001 (mention très bien)

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LLB in Law with German Law, King's College London and University of
Passau, 1995-1999 (1st class)

PRIZES

Queen Mother Scholar of the Middle Temple, 2001

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Bar European Group
Competition Law Association
UK Association for European Law

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instructions under Standard Contractual Terms. To find out more
information on this and the way we work at Matrix, including our fee
transparency statement, please see our [service standards](#).