

Christian Panayi

Year of Call: 2009



Practice Summary

Christian is a commercial, IP/IT and property barrister, whose practice spans commercial-chancery work with particular expertise in contractual disputes, commercial debt recovery, intellectual property, media, internet & digital law, property disputes, company law, and insolvency.

He has appeared in the Courts of England & Wales in trials, appeals, injunctions, judicial review hearings, winding-up petitions, and interlocutory proceedings. He has also appeared in the Trade Mark Registry, the First Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber), and the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

Christian's expertise comprises contentious and non-contentious commercial work, with particular application to the digital media / IT sector.

His experience includes extended instruction as in-house Counsel for cyber security software specialists McAfee in 2018 (4 months), and for McAfee's divested enterprise business, Musarubra, in 2021-22 (13 months). During this time, Christian provided commercial contract drafting and negotiation on major client accounts across channels and regions, dealing with a variety of contract-types – including software licensing agreements, professional services, cloud services, OEM agreements, SLAs, support terms, partner contracts, and data processing agreements. He also provided ad hoc advice on potentially contentious matters.

Prior to joining Chambers, Christian spent 6 months working at specialist commercial, media and IP firm Hansel Henson LLP, developing experience in commercial litigation, media contract drafting, trade mark searches and registrations, and drafting undertakings relating to trade mark and copyright infringement, passing off and Protected Designation of Origin.

Christian also brings substantial industry and commercial experience to the Bar, becoming a barrister following a successful career in the digital media industry. Over a ten-year period, Christian helped brands to realise their business and communications objectives through creative branding, media-marketing and technology solutions. He developed his role from project

management to consultancy and divisional management, working for some of the leading players in the digital space, including the WPP Group.

Throughout his industry career, Christian regularly addressed legally-related issues in a commercial context, including negotiating terms of business, developing supplier/partnership agreements and service level agreements, software and media licensing, online data protection, and brand/trade mark protection in the digital space. He combines legal knowledge and industry experience to deliver commercially practical legal advice to clients.

Christian's experience also includes commercial fraud work, having worked as Disclosure Counsel for the Serious Fraud Office on major investigations, including the high-profile case of R v GPT & others (2020) (continuing as R v Cook and Mason (2023)).

Christian is accredited to accept instructions from clients on a direct access basis.

Find out more on Christian's practice by accessing the links below.

Qualifications

- 2009 Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent), College of Law
 - 2008 Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), College of Law
 - 1997 MA Media Studies & Multimedia, University of Sussex
 - 1996 BA (Hons) History, University College London
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Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Intellectual Property Bar Association (IPBAR)