

GEORGIA BEDWORTH

"She's very assiduous in her preparation and research, and she applies her hard work and knowledge in a sensible way."
(Chambes UK 2019)



Call 2001

Georgia Bedworth has a thriving traditional chancery practice with particular focus on trusts and estates matters, both contentious and non-contentious. Georgia's strong real property background gives her an edge when dealing with landed estates, as well as when advising on any trust or probate matter with a property element. As well as having considerable experience and expertise in contentious chancery matters, such as probate disputes, 1975 Act claims and removal applications, Georgia also undertakes a considerable amount of non-contentious work, including capital taxes planning. Georgia is frequently instructed in cases concerning multi-million pound trusts and estates. She has acted in a number of applications under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958 to vary high value settlements including those with a foreign element.

In addition, Georgia's practice includes advising and litigating on pure property matters. Georgia also has considerable expertise in Court of Protection (Property and Affairs) matters.

Court of Protection

Georgia is recognised by Chambers UK Bar Guide 2016 as a leading junior in Court of Protection (Property and Affairs) work. She is experienced in a range of Court of Protection matters, including statutory will applications, applications for the approval of gifts, applications for the removal of attorneys and deputies.

Chambers UK Bar Guide 2016 comments that Georgia "has that ability that works very well in the Court of Protection to take a non-aggressive stance but nonetheless fight her client's corner." and also that "She is very diligent, very well prepared and does an effective job." Previous editions of Chambers UK report that "She has encyclopaedic knowledge of the Court of Protection jurisdiction and clearly and simply condenses a myriad of turgid facts into a cohesive, clear, comprehensive account of events".

Reported Cases:

- **Re JDS** [2012] EWHC 302 (COP), [2012] WTLR 475: Instructed by the Deputy in the leading case on the issue of how the best-interests test under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 should be applied in the

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context of an application for authority to make a gift for the purpose of mitigating future inheritance tax out of a personal-injury damages award.

- Acting for the applicant on an application for a statutory will where there was an order for P to attend the final hearing and it was necessary to join the Attorney General.
- Acting for the Attorney on an application to authorise a substantial lifetime gift of shares to a charity which was not a beneficiary under P's will.
- Acting for the applicant on a successful Application to remove an attorney under an LPA who had been appointed two months after meeting P.
- Acting for an attorney under an EPA in a complex family dispute which raised issues as to whether it was in P's best interests for her home to be sold and a new home purchased near to her daughter as well as a claim to remove the attorney.

Private Client: Contentious

Georgia's strong traditional practice includes probate disputes, litigation concerning the administration of estates, including applications for the removal of personal representatives and trustees and claims under the 1975 Act. Georgia is also instructed in litigation concerning high-value trusts and was recently involve in an application to remove a protector of an offshore trust worth £500 million. As a result of her expertise in capital taxes, Georgia has been involved in disputes between tax payers and HMRC and represented (with Simon Taube QC) the successful tax payer in **Buzzoni v HMRC**, a case concerning the inheritance tax gift with reservation rules. Georgia frequently advises in relation to contentious construction matters and in relation to claims brought by and against trustees, including applications for Beddoe relief. Indeed, Chambers UK 2015 reported that Georgia is "looked to by private clients for trusts and probate work, notably in connection with real property. She has a further focus in related capital tax matters and contentious construction issues."

Georgia recognises the need for a practical approach and the need to present matters to clients in a straightforward and understandable way. The traditional chancery section of the 2015 edition of the Legal 500 described Georgia as "an unalloyed pleasure to work with, understanding the needs of lay clients and solicitors". Recognised in Chambers 2016 for her technical expertise, approachability and ability "to present complicated issues in a straightforward manner which is easy for clients to understand", previous editions of Chambers Bar Guide report that she "excels in all areas of traditional chancery work" and that "she is fantastic at drilling down into the detail of a case. Her advice is always highly detailed and pragmatic, and once in court she proves highly dogged."

Reported Cases:

- **Buzzoni v HMRC** [2013] EWCA Civ 1684; [2014] 1 WLR 3040: Represented the tax payer in a claim concerning whether a reversionary lease scheme entered into by the deceased was effective to avoid the reservation of benefit rules. The Court of Appeal ruled, in the taxpayer's favour, that there had been no reservation of benefit (led by Simon Taube QC).
- **Ingrey v King** [2014]: Claim by an executor for directions as to what, if any, reservation he should make prior to distributing the estate where the Deceased had entered into a film partnership scheme in an attempt to mitigate income tax liabilities, leading to significant contingent liabilities which were potentially preventing the finalising of the administration of the estate.
- Acted for the trustees of a trust worth £500 million in a claim by the beneficiaries to set aside an appointment made by the trustees which created the office of a protector as a fraud on a power and

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for the removal of the protector (led by Simon Taube QC).

- Acted for the executors of an £80 million estate defending a 1975 Act claim brought by a lady who claimed to be the Deceased's cohabitee.
- Successfully represented the beneficiaries in a claim for the recognition of a trust declared by a matrimonial court in Oregon over a property in England.

Private Client: Non-Contentious

Georgia frequently advises on the administration of trust and estates, issues of construction and related capital taxes issues as well as capital taxes planning. Admired for her ability to “present complicated issues in a straightforward manner which is easy for clients to understand”, Chambers High Net Worth Guide also describes her as “extremely knowledgeable” and “both technically good and practical in her approach”. Georgia has particular expertise in applications under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958 and has been instructed in numerous variations of high value settlements, including those with a foreign element.

Reported Cases:

- **Ingrey v King** [2016] WTLR 131: Claim by an executor for directions as to what, if any, reservation he should make prior to distributing the estate where the Deceased had entered into a film partnership scheme in an attempt to mitigate income tax liabilities, leading to significant contingent liabilities which were potentially preventing the finalising of the administration of the estate.
- **C v C** [2016] WTLR 223: Application to extend the perpetuity period and accumulation period of a number of trusts, some of which were governed by Kenyan law. The court dealt with the scope of the Court's jurisdiction under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958 in relation to foreign trusts.
- **Re Portman Estate** [2015] WTLR 871: Application by trustees (without joining any defendants) under s. 57 Trustee Act 1925 to confer numerous additional administrative powers on the trustees in relation to trusts worth, on aggregate, approximately £1 billion.
- **Allfrey v Allfrey** [2015] WTLR 1117: Application under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958 to extend the perpetuity period and accumulation period of a substantial trust

Capital Taxes

Georgia frequently advises on capital taxes issues arising in the administration of trusts and estates. Georgia also undertakes and advises on capital taxes planning. Admired for her ability to “present complicated issues in a straightforward manner which is easy for clients to understand”, which is important in the taxation field. Chambers High Net Worth Guide also describes her as “extremely knowledgeable” and “both technically good and practical in her approach”. As a result of her expertise in capital taxes, Georgia has been involved in disputes between tax payers and HMRC and represented (with Simon Taube QC) the successful tax payer in **Buzzoni v HMRC**, a case concerning the in-heritance tax gift with reservation rules. Chambers UK 2015 reported that Georgia is “looked to by private clients for trusts and probate work, notably in connection with real property. She has a further focus in related capital taxes matters and contentious construction issues.”

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Charities

Georgia advises in relation to the construction of charitable gifts in wills, in particular dealing with the problems which arise when a charity has ceased to exist since the date of the will or where the charity named has never existed. In addition, Georgia has experience in non-contentious drafting with a charitable element

Property

Described in the Property Litigation section of the Legal 500 as “calm, collected and good on her feet when dealing with technical issues”, Georgia is frequently instructed for her technical expertise in real property and landlord and tenant matters. Georgia has significant experience in dealing with the full range of commercial and residential landlord and tenant issues. In addition, Georgia’s practice includes advising on and litigation in relation to real property matters such as easements, restrictive covenants, land registration and cohabitation disputes. The Legal 500 2014 noted that she is “a particularly good barrister with strong experience in landlord and tenant” who is “extremely bright and tenacious”. Georgia deploys her real property expertise to good effect in her trusts and probate work.

As well as pure property matters, Georgia’s work frequently combines property and trusts or probate issues, and cohabitation disputes in particular require such dual expertise. Whilst recognising the importance of being able to deal with the technicalities of the law, Georgia also recognises the need to be able to explain matters clearly to clients. Legal 500 2015 reports that within the Property practice area “she has a very keen legal intellect and an enviable ability to demystify very complex legal issues”.

Recommendations

“She’s excellent at drafting and provides very solid advice.”

“Never misses anything and is able to explain the most technical points to laymen. She’s pragmatic in getting to solutions, and doesn’t let you waste time on anything that’s not achievable – she’s very realistic.”

“She is meticulous and her written advice is more thorough than you could ever imagine. She knows the law inside out.”

“She’s very practical, and happy to pick up the phone and have a conversation. She’s nicely flexible in understanding the client’s perspective.”

“Incisive, clever and very disarming.”

Chambers UK 2021

‘Gets even the most difficult matters settled. She has the respect of her peers.’

‘Her Opinions are clearly written and presented and technical issues are explained in a succinct and precise manner.’

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Legal 500 2020

“Fantastic on the overlap with property”

“She’s very practical, and happy to pick up the phone and have a conversation. She’s nicely flexible in understanding the client’s perspective.”

Chambers HNW 2020

“She’s very knowledgeable and has a good sense of how judges will approach things. She’s considerate and thoughtful, but won’t hesitate to stand firm and fight her corner.”

“She is robust, available and friendly.”

“She is technically superb.”

“She is very, very knowledgeable, with expertise in this field. She does really good, clear and concise written work.”

“Phenomenal at explaining things in plain English.”

“Someone who catches you by surprise with brilliant points.”

“She is a brilliant technical trust lawyer.”

“She has a very broad technical ability and an encyclopaedic knowledge. She’s easy to deal with, very responsive and supportive.”

Chambers UK 2020

“A very thorough junior”

“A reassuring voice and she will not hesitate to stand firm on matters and fight her corner”

“The real beauty of her advice is its clarity”

Legal 500 2020

“Phenomenal at explaining things in plain English”

“Someone who catches you by surprise with brilliant points.”

“She is very, very knowledgeable, with expertise in this field. She does really good, clear and concise written work”

HNW Guide 2019

“Very, very clever advocate who performs complex contentious and no-contentious work in trusts and estates matters”

WWL UK Bar 2019

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“Very good on trust disputes, especially those concerning complex land and property aspects.”

“She is intelligent, bright and clear in her advice.”

Chambers UK 2019

“She’s very assiduous in her preparation and research, and she applies her hard work and knowledge in a sensible way.”

“Her advice is always thorough and accurate, but it’s her skills with clients that really set her apart. She will always be honest and open with clients and manage their expectations appropriately in a very well-judged, professional manner.”

Chambes UK

“She is always fantastic.”

Legal 500 2018 - Court of Protection

“The go-to junior for variation of trust applications.”

Legal 500 2018 - Private Client: Trusts & Probate

“She is a formidable advocate and leaves no stone unturned.”

Legal 500 2018 - Agriculture

“One of the most phenomenally clever and sensible barristers you can come across; things just sort themselves out when she is on the case.”

“She is very detail-oriented and presents her work perfectly. Georgia is excellent at unpicking issues and analysing matters clearly and in depth.”

HNW 2018 Guide - Chancery: Traditional - London Bar - Band One

“She is very good on trust disputes, especially if it has land and property aspects entwined in that”

“She is very knowledgeable on contested probate and issues in respect of the administration of difficult estates.”

“She is very good at drafting and very good at analysing trust and tax issues.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Chancery: Traditional (Band 1)

“She’s clearly highly knowledgeable in this area.”

“She is very thorough, very sensible and she presents cases beautifully.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Court of Protection: Property and Affairs

“I have to say she is one of the most sensible barristers I have ever come across. Things just sort themselves out when she is on the case. She is phenomenally clever.”

“She is very detail-orientated and she presents her work perfectly. She always gives a very good performance in

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court.”

Chambers HNW 2017 - Chancery: Traditional (Band 1)

“Provides clear, balanced opinions and is not one to sit on the fence.”

“She’s very empathetic and inspires confidence from the beginning.”

Chambers Global 2017 - Private Wealth: Trusts (Band 1)

“She is extremely fastidious and insightful when it comes to drafting trusts.”

“She is extremely approachable, very good with clients, very empathetic and someone who inspires confidence from the beginning.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Chancery: Traditional

“She’s quite an understated advocate but she gets her points across very well. Her style works well in the Court of Protection.”

“She’s a very civilised opponent and a very clever person.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Court of Protection

“Provides clear, balanced opinions and is not one to sit on the fence.”

“She’s very empathetic and inspires confidence from the beginning.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Trusts

“Brain the size of a planet”

“She is great. She is very very easy to work with. She pretty much knows everything and she is really really approachable.”

HNW Chambers UK 2016 - Private Client

“She is very technical, very approachable and gets her head stuck into very technical issues.”

Chambers UK 2016 - Chancery: Traditional

“She will get her head stuck into technical issues and has a property background, which is an added bonus when dealing with landed estates.”

Chambers UK 2016 - Trusts (Band 1)

“She is very diligent, very well prepared and does an effective job.”

“She has that ability that works very well in the Court of Protection to take a non-aggressive stance but nonetheless fight her client’s corner.”

Chambers UK 2016 - Court of Protection

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“Calm, collected and good on her feet when dealing with technical issues.”

Legal 500 2016 - Private Client: Trusts & Probate

Qualifications

- Diplock Scholar, Middle Temple
- BCL (Distinction), St Hugh's College, Oxford
- BA Hons (First Class), St Hugh's College, Oxford

Associations & Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association

Publications

- [Rossdale: Probate & Administration of Estates \(5th Edition\)](#)
- [Probate & Family Provision, Atkins Court Forms](#)
- [Tolley's Inheritance Tax Planning](#)
- [Fosters Inheritance Tax](#)

Speaking Engagements

Georgia speaks frequently at both in house seminars, MBL seminars and LexisNexis Webinars.

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