

Gareth-Lee Smith LLM Commercial Law (Distinction) - Birmingham

General Information

Gareth specialises in civil and commercial law and private children law. He is based in Walsall and attends courts throughout the Midlands.

Gareth's primary areas of practice are in civil and commercial law. He has a significant amount of experience in a wide range of civil matters including on appeal. Gareth's civil practice is enhanced by his master's degree in Commercial Law, for which he was awarded a Distinction and came top of his cohort in Banking Law. His attention to detail and the depth of his research win plaudits from clients, and as a small business owner he has a level of commercial awareness which gives him a deeper understanding of his clients' needs.

Recent cases include:

- A shareholder dispute where two entrepreneurs were offered shares in a company in return for their work and ending their involvement with their own start-up companies. The dispute arose when the company's directors re-neged on the deal.
- Enforcement of an oral agreement for a contractor to step back from a property deal and forego ongoing fees for development in return for a percentage of future sale value. Complex issues of partnership also arose within this context.
- Defence of a claim to claw back fees paid under a consultancy agreement after termination through no fault of the defendant.

Gareth also has a growing practice in family law. He has represented parties in private law children proceedings before all levels of the judiciary in the lower courts. He has also advised and represented parties on appeal from first instance decisions. Gareth is happy to accept instructions in private law, as well as for injunctive relief, commensurate with his year of call. Clients appreciate the combination of excellent client care and straightforward, no-nonsense advice.

Away from court Gareth makes the transition from barrister to barista as a self-confessed coffee snob. He roasts his own beans and tries in vain to avoid getting the next bit of kit. In a twist on the usual joke, he also works on his conversational Bengali so that he can speak to his mother-in-law more. Bangladeshi words for foods are a speciality.

Articles and further information can be found on Gareth's website: <http://birmingham-barrister.com>

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