

Mr Tahir Ashraf Law LLB (Hons); PgDip. Bar; Master of Laws LLM

General Information

Unlike most barristers, multi-award-winning commercial barrister Tahir Ashraf cross qualified and worked as a commercial Solicitor-Advocate too. This has given him a unique understanding of the challenges faced by professional and lay clients.

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL LAW

As a commercial law specialist, Tahir has been instructed in a high number of cases (See Cases & Publications for full details) including Banking & Financial Services, Bankruptcy, Chancery, Company Law, Contract Law, Debt and Insolvency.

Experienced in high-value cases, Tahir has advised on the £50m acquisition of a luxury hotel brand, as well as worked with High Net Worth clients and Independent Financial Advisors on arbitration and on appeals against arbitration awards.

Tahir also advises in the specialist area Islamic Finance including different aspects of Sharia-compliant transactions and advice on sukuk and murabaha issuances.

Tahir accepts instructions in advisory and contentious matters from High Net Worth individuals and SME businesses concerning almost all business, commerce and insolvency law-related matters.

His particular expertise includes:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Aviation Leasing
- Banking and Islamic Finance
- Company Commercial Contracts
- EU & Public International
- Financial Crime (in particular forex trading)
- Insolvency
- Intellectual Property
- Property
- Regulatory Compliance & Commercial Judicial Review
- Contested Probate

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

With a particular interest in climate change laws and transport-related air pollution, Tahir has advised on international collaborations and joint venture projects on power generation, energy and fuel efficiency which have also had regulatory, compliance and investment banking elements.

Tahir has advised and represented on a range of Planning issues including appeals, compulsory purchase and planning enforcement notices, in respect of commercial property, industrial property and rural/agricultural land.

EU PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

Tahir acts in EU and Public international law in respect of the relationship of States with one another. Instructions have included addressing the question of State immunity and diplomatic immunity in particular concerning actions of State officials.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Tahir's property practice consists of advisory and litigation matters concerning a variety of Land and Property issues including Trespass, Wrongful damage to property and demolition, Service charges, Resulting and Constructive trusts, Breach of covenants and Insolvency and Restructuring in a Leasehold context.

INSOLVENCY

With a background in Insolvency law, Tahir has advised and acts in matters including Statutory demands, Undervalue transactions, Misfeasance in public office, Intention to defraud creditors, Trustee claims, Setting aside bankruptcy petitions and judgments, Creditor petitions, Winding up petitions and Applications under s366 of IA 1986 private examinations.

Tahir was retained as sole Counsel by a London Borough for advice on its assets following an Administration Order and appointment of Administrators of a national car parking group in respect of a large multi-storey car park where the annual rent was just under £1m.

IP / IT CASES

Tahir has advised and represented on Licensing of intellectual property rights and OEM equipment, Assignment of existing IP of fuel efficiency technologies, Infringement of registered trademarks, Mediation and settlements, Passing-off online including Domain name disputes litigation as well as restrictive covenants.

Tahir has worked for celebrity clients in the music industry from advising on business structures to litigation in court following the break-up of a very successful band of the 2000s.

AWARDS

- Muslim 100 Power List
- Excellence in Commercial Law – Winner – Corporate LiveWire 2017
- Commercial Barrister of the Year - Winner – ACQ5 Global Awards 2016
- Commerce and Business Barrister of the Year – Winner – Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards 2016
- Commerce and Business Barrister of the Year – Winner – Finance Monthly Legal Awards 2016
- Best Commercial Barrister – Winner – UK Acquisition International Legal Awards 2015

BACKGROUND

Tahir's introduction to law came during journalism training at the BBC in the 1990s. Tahir was thrust into voluntary interpreting which became the eventual springboard for a legal career.

Spotted and encouraged by his law lecturer, Tahir undertook legal work experience and spent time observing independently and discussing court proceedings with High Court judges. Mentored by a commercial Queen's Counsel and two Chancery Commercial High Court Judges, Tahir became a qualified advocate in 2008, upon completion of his Bar Vocational Course with BPP.

After completing the academic and professional stages of qualification, Tahir trained in part at The Insolvency Service where he developed a passion for insolvency law. Tahir went on to train in commercial, insolvency, employment and property matters at chambers in the Temple area of London.

Given the changes in the Legal profession, Tahir decided to develop an additional skill set and cross qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate at a commercial litigation firm. There, Tahir focussed again on insolvency, employment and commercial matters with an emphasis on litigation and dispute resolution, until 2013, when he joined Chambers at Gray's Inn. In 2016, he founded a set of specialist commercial Barristers at 5 Chancery Lane. Since 2015, he is a part of the editorial board at the LexisNexis Journal of International Banking and Financial Law.

"Tahir is very personable, calm and empathetic, a barrister of the highest calibre. He is professional, attentive and tirelessly dedicated. He gets his client thoroughly involved in the process and preparation for the case, which has the added value of helping the client understand the stage by stage process. His approach, analysis, applied logic and attention to detail, mark him

as a master strategist. A valuable asset in any situation.”

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Alongside his passion for the law, Tahir is known as “The Singing Barrister” and has an active interest in the creative arts. He is an actor, songwriter, presenter and performer. He currently hosts his own drive time radio show on current affairs and human-interest stories and has performed in theatre productions, TV shows, as well as feature films.

AREAS OF LAW

Tahir is happy to accept instructions as counsel who is:

Specialist in the areas of:

- Business & Commercial Law
 - Bankruptcy
 - Chancery
 - Company Law
 - Contract
 - Insurance & Reinsurance
 - Other Common Law
- Commercial Arbitration & ADR inc Adjudication
- Consumer Contracts
 - Breach of Contract generally

Experienced in the following additional areas:

- Business & Commercial Law
 - Banking & Financial Services
 - Debt
 - Insolvency
- Consumer Contracts
 - Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts
- Inheritance Act Claims
- International Law
- Land & Property
 - L&T Commercial
 - TOLATA
 - Trusts
- Media Law
- Professional Negligence
- Professional Regulation
- Public & Administrative Law
- Public Access Accredited
- Technology & Construction inc Adjudication

Note:

Outside of these key areas of law, Mr Tahir Ashraf is always willing to consider any enquiry requiring the experience or knowledge needed to help you or your client. Please call Tahir direct or the support team on 01823 247 247 if you would like to discuss any aspect of this profile.

Email: mediation@clerksroom.com

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