

Mr. Christopher Cant MA (Cantab)

General Information

Christopher has over forty years' experience in general chancery and commercial practice in Lincoln's Inn following his graduation from Cambridge with a starred first. Throughout his years in practice, there has been an emphasis on drafting and tackling complex issues with an eye for the commercial objective. He enjoys the research and analysis required for such matters but endeavours to provide his work speedily within the time limits imposed by the commercial needs of the professional and lay clients.

Meeting clients' deadlines is uppermost whilst still ensuring the all important attention to detail. He seeks to do so in a manner which engages constructively with the client in a friendly and approachable manner. Litigation is undertaken but always taking account of the commercial consequences.

A significant portion of his practice has always been focused on property in which subject he is a specialist. He advises on difficult points, the structuring of transactions and preparing drafts. The spectrum of transactions he is instructed on run from large scale residential and shopping developments to single dwellings or offices. Clients range from large scale developers, niche builders and local authorities to individual householders. He has a particular expertise in overage and planning promotion agreements. In addition, he acts in contentious property matters including disputes over easements, restrictive covenants, enforcement of charges and guarantees, leases and sales of land.

The nature of the transactions dealt with in his practice is not limited exclusively to property matters but ranges much wider in the commercial field. It includes both drafting and contentious matters. On the contentious side, it includes matters such as disputes over the sale of companies bringing in issues such as the enforcement of guarantees.

Community Infrastructure Levy is a particular area in which Christopher has a pre-eminent specialism fitting in well with his general advisory work on behalf of developers and authorities. He enjoys the application of the legislative regime; planning to tackle CIL issues; and the consideration of general planning policy including section 106 planning obligations. This has led to his undertaking work concerning planning permissions and their enforcement.

As well as advisory work, Christopher appeared in the Planning Court for the successful authority in the first judicial review case on the operation of the CIL regime and has acted on a number of statutory CIL appeals. Christopher is now being asked to consider professional negligence issues arising from CIL.

Assets of Community Value is a second area in which Christopher has a pre-eminent specialism acting for local authorities, owners and community groups. He has appeared in a number of the ACV appeals.

Christopher is a passionate contributor to the understanding of the areas in which he practices. His comprehensive guides to CIL and ACV are available free for all on the web. He writes regularly on these topics.

Christopher is qualified to accept instructions through the Public Access Scheme but not to conduct litigation.

Qualifications & Memberships

- MA (Cantab) first class with distinction
- Senior Harris scholar (Downing College)
- Walter Wigglesworth scholar
- Lord Denning scholar
- Chancery Bar Association
- Property Bar Association

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