



CHRISTOPHER BROWN

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Competition Law
EU Law
Sports Law
Commercial Law
Public Law
Tort Law

Called to the Bar 2002

CONTACT:

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Jason Housden
Senior Practice Manager
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Christopher has a wide range of expertise in a number of areas surrounding EU law, with particular expertise in anti-trust and competition law. He also has experience with issues concerning public law, sports law, commercial disputes and tort law.

EXPERIENCE

Described in Chambers & Partners as “*exactly what you want in a junior. He has a really thorough understanding of competition law and is always on top of the detail*” (2015), Christopher’s expertise is informed by his previous employment as a *Référéndaire* (Legal Secretary) to the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT). Whilst at the CAT, he gained in-depth experience into the competition law enforcement regime in the UK and handled numerous appeals. He then became the sole competition practitioner at the law firm Farrer & Co LLP.

COMPETITION LAW

Christopher’s current caseload for competition law includes acting for a group of well-known retailers who are seeking damages and other relief from MasterCard and Visa in respect of multilateral interchange fees; for the European Commission in defence of its Airfreight cartel decision; and for a multiple retailer in defence of a restrictive covenant alleged by a property developer to be anti-competitive.

He acted for the Cooperative Group in its successful appeal to the CAT against the OFT’s Tobacco products infringement decision, and for Somerfield in its subsequent application (before the CAT and then the Court of Appeal) to extend the time for appealing the same decision.

Among other matters, he also acted for the applicant in *Stagecoach v Competition Commission*, in which – for the first time – the CAT found a decision of the CC to be *Wednesbury* unreasonable; and advised an individual in relation to a criminal cartel investigation conducted by the OFT. He is currently advising a sector regulator in respect of an ongoing investigation into suspected abuse of dominance.

EU LAW

In relation to more general EU law issues, Christopher in the Supreme Court in *McGeogh v Lord President of the Council* (compatibility of restrictions on prisoner voting rights with EU law); in *R (Sky Blue Sports & Leisure and Others) v Coventry City Council* (State aid challenge to the decision of Coventry City Council to lend £14.4m to Arena Coventry Limited, operator of the “Ricoh Arena”); and in the Court of Appeal in *R (Chandler) v Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families* (challenge on EU public procurement grounds to the procurement of Academies).

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Jason Housden, Senior Practice Manager

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

"His competition law knowledge is phenomenal." "He is flexible in that he gives up his time at very short notice and is highly pragmatic in terms of the advice he gives."

Chambers & Partners 2017

"Tenacious, thorough and a good team player."

Legal 500 2016

"He is exactly what you want in a junior. He has a really thorough understanding of competition law and is always on top of the detail."

Chambers & Partners 2015

"regularly singled out by sources for his ability to work extremely well and cohesively with those instructing him. Sources feel that his competition law expertise has been enhanced by the time he spent as a référendaire at the CAT and turn to him for complicated cases."

Chambers and Partners 2013

"brings great powers of analysis to any case he undertakes."

Chambers and Partners 2012

"clear, concise, and natural advocate."

Legal 500 2011

SPORTS LAW

Christopher's sports law experience includes acting for sports governing bodies (SGBs) in relation to challenges made to selection decisions and advising bodies on regulatory issues.

COMMERCIAL LAW

Christopher's commercial expertise includes elements of general contract law and commercial arbitrations.

TORT LAW

This includes all aspects of this area, including harassment. Christopher appeared unled in *Iqbal v Dean Manson Solicitors* [2011] EWCA Civ 123.

PUBLIC LAW

This includes issues of human rights law. His recent cases include *R (Gallastegui) v Westminster City Council* [2012] EWHC 1123 (Admin), a challenge to the law banning tents and other structures in Parliament Square: compatibility with Articles 10 and 11 ECHR)

RECENT CASES

Competition law

Wm Morrison and Others v MasterCard; Wm Morrison and Others v Visa (ongoing Commercial Court claims for damages and other relief in respect of multilateral interchange fees)

Cooperative Group v OFT (successful appeal against Tobacco products infringement decision)

Somerfield v OFT (application to extend time for bringing an appeal against the Tobacco decision)

Stagecoach v Competition Commission (CAT) (successful challenge to CC merger prohibition decision)

Singapore Airlines v EU Commission (acting for Commission in defence of its Airfreight decision; pending)

Roma Medical Aids and Pride Mobility Products decisions of the OFT (online price and advertising restrictions)

Commercial vehicles criminal cartel investigation conducted by the OFT.

PUBLICATIONS

Contributor to *Bellamy and Child's European Union Law of Competition* (Rose and Bailey eds) (7th ed, OUP, 2012).

Co-author, Gray et al, *EU Competition Law: Procedure and Remedies* (OUP)

Co-author, *Blackstone's Guide to the Human Rights Act 1998* (6th ed, OUP, 2011)

Co-editor, *Competition Law Journal* (2004-present)

Christopher has written a number of articles for academic and practitioner journals, including the *Common Market Law Review*, *European Competition Law Review* and *Competition Law Journal*.

For further information, please visit:

matrixlawinternational.com/lawyer/christopher-brown