



Richard Spearman KC

Year of call: 1977 | Silk: 1996

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"He is extremely clever and knows exactly how to present a case to a judge." The Legal 500

Richard has a wide-ranging practice which includes commercial fraud, tracing, media and entertainment, film and music industry law, sports law, insurance, and professional negligence.

Richard has appeared in many high-profile and reported cases; was briefed in the House of Lords/Supreme Court in *Grobelaar v NGN*, *Campbell v MGN*, *Cream Holdings v Banerjee*, *Polanski v Conde Nast*, and *Ivey v Genting Casinos*; has appeared in numerous cases in the Court of Appeal and all divisions of the High Court; and has advised on and appeared in litigation overseas (Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Malaysia) as well as in commercial, media and sport arbitrations.

Richard was shortlisted for "Barrister of the Year" in 2003, was the inaugural The Legal 500 IP, IT and Media Silk of the Year 2013, and is highly recommended in legal directories.

Richard sits as a deputy High Court judge in both the Chancery Division and the King's Bench Division (including Media and Communications (MAC) List). He accepts appointments as an arbitrator and has been nominated by a party or appointed by the arbitral body in London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitrations. He has been called to the Bars of Gibraltar, Trinidad and Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI).

Areas of expertise

Information and Media

Commercial

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Sport

Sport

Richard has appeared in a number of important cases relating to sports law, and has acted in many media cases involving a sports law element. He has also appeared before regulatory and disciplinary panels,

including the Football Association and the British Boxing Board of Control, and has provided expert evidence in arbitrations involving the National Basketball Association.

Cases of note

- ***Ivey v Genting Casinos UK Ltd (t/a Crockfords Club)* [2018] AC 291 (Supreme Court)** - whether the technique of “edge-sorting” constituted cheating at gambling; legal test for dishonesty.
- ***BBC v Harpercollins* [2011] EMLR 103 (Morgan J)** - confidential information; identity of “The Stig”; injunction.
- ***Armstrong v Times Newspapers Ltd* [2006] 1 WLR 2462 (CA)** - claim by Lance Armstrong concerning allegations of doping; court’s power to order different questions of fact to be tried by different modes of trial; judge’s decision that issue of meaning should be tried by judge alone upheld.
- ***Jockey Club v Buffham* [2003] QB 462 (Gray J)** - whether final order for injunction operative against third party on “Spycatcher” principle; whether public interest in publication of material relating to performance of regulatory role of Jockey Club outweighed by Jockey Club’s right of confidence.
- ***R v Jockey Club ex p Aga Khan* [1993] 1 WLR 909 (CA)** - judicial review; tribunal decision to disqualify racehorse; leading case on whether decisions of the Jockey Club amenable to judicial review.
- ***R v Jockey Club ex p RAM Racecourses Ltd* [1993] 2 All ER 225 (Divisional Court)** - judicial review; whether Jockey Club report raised legitimate expectation as to grant of fixtures to applicant; whether decision of the Jockey Club amenable to judicial review.
- ***Warren v Mendy* [1989] 1 WLR 853 (CA)** - restraint of trade; whether boxing manager entitled to injunction to restrain new management).

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Bar Sports Law Group

Qualifications

Education

- 1971-1974 King’s College, Cambridge (BA 1974, MA 1976)

Additional information

Appointments

- 1996 Queen’s Counsel
- 1998 Recorder of the Crown Court 1998
- 2004 Recorder of the County Court
- 2006 Bencher Middle Temple
- 2012 Head of Chambers, 4-5, Gray’s Inn Square
- 2013 Deputy High Court Judge (Chancery Division)
- 2019 (February) Deputy High Court Judge (Queen’s Bench Division)
- 2019 (October) appointed a Media and Communications List Judge

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