



David Hopkins

Year of call: 2013

Email: david.hopkins@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

“David is an excellent advocate and one of the best juniors in this area. His written and oral submissions are compelling, and he is great on his feet when dealing with questions from the bench.” The Legal 500 UK 2024

David is a senior junior whose practice spans commercial, construction, and financial services disputes, professional discipline and regulation, and public law. David is regularly instructed in proceedings in the Commercial Court, the Chancery Division, the Technology and Construction Court (TCC) and the Administrative Court and before regulators’ disciplinary tribunals. A substantial proportion of David’s practice has an international element, particularly in the field of international arbitration, where he has acted in disputes subject to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) rules. He is a Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR) accredited adjudicator and accepts appointments via the TECBAR adjudication scheme.

David is recommended as a leading junior in Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500, Chambers Global, and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific. He is a contributing editor of the Auction, Bailment and Banking and Bills of Exchange volumes of Atkin’s Court Forms (2023 and 2018 issues) and the chapter on determination clauses in Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts (4th edn, 2021). Prior to coming to the Bar, David worked in the City for five years as a foreign exchange and interest rates derivatives structurer.



Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Banking and Financial Services
Commercial
Construction
Energy and Natural Resources
Property
Regulatory and Disciplinary
Sport

Regulatory and Disciplinary

David's regulatory and disciplinary practice spans across the legal, financial and healthcare professions. He acts for both regulators and regulated persons. His trial practice covers first instance tribunal hearings, appeals to the High Court and judicial reviews. He also frequently advises clients on compliance with the relevant regulatory frameworks, regulators' practices and procedures and how best to respond to regulatory investigations.

Cases of note

- ***Singh v General Medical Council (GMC)*** – To be heard May 2024. Acting for the GMC defending an appeal against a medical practitioners tribunal's decision that a GP's fitness to practise was impaired by reason of misconduct consisting of the mismanagement of NHS pension contributions on behalf of the GP's surgery's staff.
- ***Professional Standards Authority v General Pharmaceutical Council & Ali [2024] EWHC 577 (Admin)*** – Acting, led by Fenella Morris KC, for the PSA appealing the GPhC panel's decision on sanction following its finding that the second respondent had made antisemitic statements at a Quds Day march
[Judgment](#)
- ***Professional Standards Authority v Social Work England & JS [2023] EWHC 926 (Admin)*** – Acting for the PSA, appealing a decision of a panel of adjudicators of SWE to suspend the registrant. The appeal was allowed on the ground of undercharging.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Solicitors Regulation Authority Limited (SRA) v Pilkington (2023) SDT Case No 12377-2022*** – Acting for the SRA in a disciplinary hearing concerning an allegation that the solicitor, who was the sole director of the Firm, had caused or allowed payments made to the Firm in respect of disbursements to be used for the running of the Firm. The solicitor further admitted he had failed to notify the SRA of the Firm's serious financial difficulties. The SDT found both allegations proved and that the solicitor's actions had been dishonest.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Solicitors Regulation Authority Limited v Neilson (2022) SDT Case No 12347-2022*** – Defending a property solicitor against allegations of misconduct in the SDT. The SRA originally alleged that the solicitor had been dishonest or reckless, but dropped these allegations the day before the hearing. Nevertheless, the SRA sought an order suspending the solicitor from practice. The tribunal determined that a suspension would be excessive and awarded the SRA less than half of its claimed costs.
[Judgment](#)
- ***GMC and PSA appeal under ss 40A and 40B of the Medical Act 1983 (2022)*** – Led by Fenella Morris KC, acting for the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) in an appeal concerning determinations of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal in respect of a number of doctors who were all

members of a WhatsApp group in which they had shared racist, misogynist and otherwise offensive messages and images. The appeal raised a wide range of issues including, among others, the boundary between doctors' professional and private lives, the potential effect on patient safety, and, procedurally, whether the court should grant the doctors anonymity. The appeal was settled before hearing, with the doctors all agreeing to receive warnings.

- ***Institute and Faculty of Actuaries investigation (2021)*** – Acting for and advising a director of a corporate pension trustee under investigation by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Recommendations

Directory rankings:

- Construction, Energy and Infrastructure, Leading Junior – Tier 1, Legal 500 Asia Pacific
- Construction, Leading Junior – Band 4, Chambers and Partners
- Construction, Leading Junior – Band 4, Chambers and Partners Global
- Construction, Leading Junior – Tier 4, Legal 500 UK
- Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law, Leading Junior – Tier 4, Legal 500 UK

Recommendations:

- *"David is a pleasure to work with and combines technical excellence with nous and hard work."* Chambers and Partners Global 2024
- *"David provides excellent service, particularly when participating in conferences with lay clients. He will bear in mind the overall commercial issues and the big picture, as well as the fine detail of the points in dispute."* Chambers and Partners Global 2024
- *"David is an excellent advocate and one of the best juniors in this area. His written and oral submissions are compelling, and he is great on his feet when dealing with questions from the bench."* The Legal 500 UK 2024
- *"Solid application to the facts, and a good manner in applying the legal framework."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2023
- *"His particular strength is advising in a way that is very client friendly, he cuts out legal jargon and gets to the point."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021
- *"Sharp, driven, and a pleasure to work with."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2020
- *"Exceptionally capable and extremely versatile."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019

Memberships

- AllBar, supporting those with a disability who are practising at the Bar in England and Wales, or aspiring to do so
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Bridging the Bar mentor, 2022
- Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Constitutional and Administrative Law Association (ALBA)

- Financial Services Lawyers Association (FSLA)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)
- London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)
- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Qualifications

Education

- 2011–2013: BPTC, BPP Law School (part-time), Very Competent
- 2009–2011: GDL, BPP Law School (part-time), Distinction
- 2007–2009: MPhil, Economics, Oriel College, University of Oxford
- 2004–2007: BA, PPE, University of York, Starred First Class (first in year)

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2011 Inner Temple Exhibition Scholar (BPTC)

Additional Information

Appointments

- 2020–present: Member of the TECBAR adjudicators panel
- 2019: Member of panel appointed by the IAAF providing legal advice and representation to athletes and officials in disputes arising out of the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

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clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com