



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

Information and Media

Richard has appeared in many of the leading cases concerning defamation, misuse of private information, data and copyright; specialises in heavy and protracted litigation (most recently Mirror Group phone

hacking, and the media aspects of the Al-Maktoum divorce proceedings); and is currently the only deputy High Court judge authorised to sit in the Media and Communications List.

Cases of note

- ***JIH v News Group Newspapers Ltd* [2011] 1 WLR 1645 (CA)** - principles applicable to orders for anonymity, reporting restrictions and other restraints on normally reportable details of a case.
- ***Re Child X* [2009] EMLR 26 (Sir Mark Potter P)** - principles to be applied in relation to media access and reporting in family law cases.
- ***Murray v Express Newspapers plc* [2009] Ch 481(CA)** - successful appeal of the infant son of the author J.K.Rowling from the dismissal of his claims against a photographic agency for misuse of private information and under the Data Protection Act 1998.
- ***Polanski v Conde Nast Ltd* [2005] 1 WLR 637 (HL)** - defamation; whether claimant should be permitted to give evidence by video conference link from abroad to avoid risk of arrest and extradition.
- ***Cream Holdings Ltd v Banerjee* [2005] AC 253 (HL)** - confidence; injunction; meaning of "likely" in s12(3) Human Rights Act 1998.
- ***Campbell v MGN Ltd* [2004] 2 AC 457 (HL)** - confidence/privacy; right of media to set the record straight where a public figure misinforms the public about his or her private life; Data Protection Act 1998: meaning of "processing" and scope of s32 exemption; and (No 2) [2005] 1 WLR 3394 (HL) - whether recovery of conditional fee agreement (CFA) success fees in a free speech case compatible with Article 10.
- ***Grobbelaar v News Group Newspapers Ltd* [2002] 4 All ER 732 (HL)** - whether jury verdict perverse; jurisdiction of House of Lords to assess damages; substitution of £1 for jury award of £85,000.

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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