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Dan Butler

Call: 2021 Solicitor : 2011

Dan is developing a busy company and insolvency law practice and frequently acts for shareholders, directors, insolvency officeholders and companies. He regularly appears unled in the Insolvency and Companies Court on a variety of contentious and non-contentious matters, including winding-up and bankruptcy petitions and associated applications.

Dan's recent led work has included:

- Appearing for the successful creditor in Staveley v Restis [2024] EWHC 670 (Ch) on an application to set aside a statutory demand and related winding-up proceedings.
- Shareholder disputes submitted to confidential arbitration under both the LCIA and UNCITRAL rules.
- An 18-day High Court trial of claims for alleged breaches of directors' duties, negligence, dishonest assistance, conspiracy and a transaction defrauding creditors arising out of the restructuring of a private hospital group.
- Advising the joint provisional liquidators of a substantial Bermudian financial services group.

Prior to being called to the bar, Dan trained as a solicitor with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. In his 10 years in private practice Dan worked in both London and Hong Kong and developed substantial experience in restructuring and insolvency, advising on a wide variety of both contentious and non-contentious matters, often with a cross-border element. He has particular expertise in schemes of arrangement and Part VII transfers.

Restructuring & Insolvency

Dan's experience in private practice included advising:

- The Malaysia Airlines group on its global restructuring, including the first use of a UK scheme to reduce liabilities under aircraft leases (Re MAB Leasing Limited [2021] EWHC 152 (Ch) and [2021] EWHC 379 (Ch)).
- The Debenhams group in connection with its restructuring, including the successful defence of two CVAs against a High Court challenge issued by a group of landlords (Discovery (Northampton) Ltd & Ors v Debenhams Retail Ltd & Ors [2019] EWHC 2441 (Ch)); and subsequently advising the administrators of Debenhams generally.
- Instant Cash Loans (t/a The Money Shop) on its market-leading restructuring of unaffordability redress claims (Re Instant Cash Loans Limited [2019] EWHC 2329 (Ch) and [2019] EWHC 2795 (Ch)).

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Litigation & Arbitration

During his time as a solicitor Dan represented a variety of clients in High Court litigation, arbitration proceedings and regulatory or disciplinary investigations. This included acting on behalf of:

- The former directors of a well-known high street retailer on an investigation by The Pensions Regulator and the Insolvency Service.
- The former administrators of a high street retailer in relation to disciplinary and enforcement proceedings brought by the ICAEW.
- The family trusts of a high net worth individual in an application to obtain a freezing order in Hong Kong as part of the so-called “*Yves Bouvier Affair*” (*Accent Delight International Ltd & Another v Yves Bouvier & Another* [2015] 4 HKC 51, [2015] HKCFI 566, [2015] HKCFI 1041 and [2015] HKCFI 1264), which involved proceedings in Monaco, Switzerland, France, the US and Singapore.

Corporate

Dan's transactional experience includes advising:

- Equitable Life on its complex scheme of arrangement, Part VII transfer and sale to Utmost Life and Pensions (*Re Equitable Life Assurance Society* [2019] EWHC 3336 (Ch)).
- Hutchison Whampoa on the Hong Kong scheme of arrangement effecting its merger with CK Hutchison Holdings Limited.
- Zurich Insurance Group on various Part VII transfers, including the disposal of the general insurance business of Eagle Star to RiverStone.

Memberships

Chancery Bar Association

Insolvency Lawyers Association

INSOL International

R3

Education and Awards

BA (Ancient & Modern History) – Brasenose College, University of Oxford (First Class Honours)

