

Biography



Christopher Pease

Partner | British Virgin Islands



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Expertise

Litigation & Insolvency

Chris is co-head of Litigation & Insolvency and Restructuring in the British Virgin Islands. He has experience in all the types of disputes work that frequently arises in the BVI including fraud and bribery claims, disputes relating to the ownership and management of companies, minority shareholder claims, and insolvency and restructuring cases.

Chris has a particular specialism for fraud and asset recovery cases. The majority of his work entails applying for and opposing applications for interim relief, particularly injunctive relief and third-party disclosure orders. He also advises on insolvency cases, often where insolvency practitioners seek to bring actions to recover assets that have been misappropriated by former management. In addition, Chris has advised on a number of restructurings, including one of the first instances in the BVI involving the appointment of “light touch” provisional liquidators.

Prior to joining Harneys, Chris practised as a solicitor in London for 10 years. He initially trained and worked at a US firm specialising in fraud and asset recovery work before moving to Linklaters where he advised accounting firms, banks and private equity funds on a broad range of disputes and investigations.

Chris has a keen interest in technology and innovation, both within the legal market and the wider economy. Chris has advised on a number of disputes concerning cryptocurrencies and has published articles on such matters, including identifying the fraud risks arising from use of cryptocurrencies and the way such assets can be recovered.

Experience

Recent experience:

- Acting for Eurochem group in its ongoing claims relating to an international bribery scheme, having recently appeared in its successful appeal to the Privy Council on the issue of jurisdiction and whether BVI was the forum conveniens for the bribery claim against numerous foreign defendants.
- Acting for a leading investment bank in relation to suspected misappropriation of assets within a PRC based group in which it was invested. This has entailed seeking the appointment of liquidators on just and equitable grounds and applying for interim relief to preserve the assets of the group pending determination of the winding up application.
- Advising the successful appellants in the case of Paraskevaides v Citco et al, a decision of the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal which clarified key aspects of BVI trust law and the law governing interim proprietary injunctions in the context of a corporate ownership dispute.
- Advising on substantial Norwich Pharmacal applications to obtain critical information in the context of suspected fraud and other wrongdoing.

- Advising in relation to numerous applications for “light touch” provisional liquidators to facilitate corporate restructurings, both as counsel for applicant companies seeking to restructure and alternatively for creditors seeking to wind up.

Recommendations

- **Legal 500, 2023 - 2024:** Christopher is recognised as a “next generation partner”.
- **Legal 500, 2020 - 2022:** Christopher is recognised as a “rising star” in the British Virgin Islands Dispute Resolution rankings.

Bar Admissions

- British Virgin Islands 2017
- England and Wales 2009

Education

- BPP Higher Rights of Advocacy (civil) 2016
- College of Law (LPC) 2007
- University of Oxford (MA) 2006

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Legal 500