



Philip Williams

Legal Director

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Philip Williams handles a varied caseload of commercial disputes advising on cases in the English courts and in arbitration proceedings.

In addition to advising on legal proceedings and claims, Philip's practice includes advisory work, helping clients to understand their contractual rights and obligations and advising them on how to pursue or address disputes. Philip's practice also includes advising on takeover, merger and reorganisation transactions.

Philip focuses on the following sectors, Payments Services and Fintech, Insurance, Hospitality and Leisure and Aviation.

EXPERIENCE

Disputes and advisory

- Since 2018 Philip has been advising in relation to series of international LCIA arbitrations on behalf of a hospitality sector client. This is a significant mandate of strategic importance that has involved a number of substantive hearings/trials during the course of 2019 with further issues likely to be arbitrated in 2020.
- Between 2017 to 2018 advised an aviation management business, related companies and its shareholders in relation to a series of disputes. The multimillion pound action involved claims for breach of contract and misrepresentation in relation to aircraft maintenance services, agreements for the purchase of aircraft parts, the exercise of a lien over an aircraft, and the underwriting of debts pursuant to a promissory note and letter of undertaking. The dispute involved other ancillary issues in relation to breach of confidence, directors' duties and fiduciary duties, and warranty claims pursuant to a share purchase agreement. The claims went to trial in the High Court in 2018.
- Philip regularly advises in relation to the regulatory environment in which Payments Services and Fin Tech businesses operate, as well as commercial disputes and insolvency issues (in particular retail insolvencies) arising for those businesses. Philip has recently been advising payments sector clients in relation to their internal operational policies/guidance and business risks, including in relation to a merchant acquirer's ability to use retained merchant funds, issues arising from Brexit with a focus on business continuity and payment services licensing in the event of a hard Brexit, and data issues arising from the implementation of GDPR.
- Between 2014 to 2016 Philip advised in relation to a property and infrastructure investment dispute tried before an arbitration

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Corporate
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure

RELATED SECTORS

- Financial Services
- Insurance

tribunal seated in Singapore. The dispute, worth in excess of £300 million, has resulted in spin-off litigation in the UK and other jurisdictions. Philip worked with a multi-jurisdictional team on this case which included DLA Piper lawyers from the UK and Dubai. In particular Philip's role involved leading the team of experts providing construction and valuation evidence as regard project feasibility and constructability

Corporate advisory

- Advising on the public company takeovers undertaken by way of scheme of arrangement, recently including the takeover of: Lighthouse Group Plc (2019), WYG Plc (2019), Plant Impact Plc (2018), Nisa Retail Limited (2017/2018), and Synergy Health plc in respect of Steris Corporation's acquisition in a cash and stock transaction valued at approximately USD1.9 billion (2015).
- In 2018 advised Liberty Mutual Insurance on the reorganisation of its European group and operations including the merger of the UK and Luxembourg subsidiaries, resulting in the formation of Liberty Mutual Insurance Europe SE.
- Advising on Part VII FSMA 2000 Insurance and Banking Business transfers, including, Zurich Assurance Ltd on the transfer of the Maltese insurance business of its subsidiary Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited to Zurich in 2015, and Habib Bank AG Zurich on the creation of its new UK subsidiary and transfer of its relevant banking business in 2016.
- In 2013 and 2014 Philip advised AIM listed Tawa plc, renamed Pro Global Insurance Solutions plc, on the significant reorganisation of its operations, culminating in the demerger of its risk carrier business.
- Philip has considerable experience in relation to advising on intra group reorganisations relying on The Companies (Cross-Border Merger) Regulations 2007. In particular Philip advised on the significant cross European reorganisation project carried out by Diamond Resorts in 2012.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Prior Experience

- 2000 to 2005, HSBC Bank Plc
- 2006 to date, DLA Piper UK LLP

Recognitions

In February 2014 Philip was shortlisted for '*Lawyer of the Year*' in the Pro-Manchester Made in Manchester Awards.

Education

- University of Durham, BA (Hons.) History and Politics, 2003
- Manchester Metropolitan University, GDL, 2005
- College of Law (Chester), LPC, 2006

INSIGHTS

Publications

Payment Systems Regulator Interim Report

22 September 2020

On Tuesday 15 September 2020, the PSR presented its Interim Report with their conclusions thus far. They have requested that any comments on their findings and proposals are provided by 5pm on Tuesday 8 December 2020.

Events

Previous

Payments Forum - Today's challenges for lawyers in the payments sector

29 September 2020

Webinar
