



Raises the Bar in Chancery & Commercial

# Landowner Litigation

Practical Points in Land Law for Property Litigators

### WHEN

Thursday, 28th April 2022 06:00 PM

We invite our colleagues and clients to join our barristers and clerks for drinks and light-bites following the presentations from 07:15 PM.

### WHERE

The Ashworth Centre, Lincolns Inn



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# Programme

05:45 PM -	Registration in the Lecture Theatre, Ashworth Centre, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.
06:00 PM -	Our Head of Chambers, <b>Elizabeth Jones QC</b> will chair the talks and we will present a distinguished line-up of expert speakers;
06:15 PM -	Andrew Bruce: "Rights of Way: The beginning, the middle and the end." Andrew will consider how rights of way are created, how they might be accessed and how they might be determined.
06:30 PM -	George Vare's "Better the devil you know? Seeking injunctive relief against 'Persons Unknown'."
	George will consider recent authority on this issue, with the Court of Appeal earlier this year having taken the rare step of ruling a previous decision of its own made only two years ago wrongly decided.
06:45 PM -	Andrew Francis will highlight some of the ways in which applications to discharge or modify restrictive covenants in the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) can be won, or lost. Reference will be made to its decisions in the past year and to the costs and time issues presented by this jurisdiction.
07:00 PM -	Andrew Gurr's "Mud versus money: rectification as a tool for untangling registered title disputes?"
	Andrew will analyse the developing case law on Schedules 4 and 8 of the Land Registration Act 2002 with a view to identifying a simple route through the statutory machinery for busy practitioners dealing with registered title disputes.



### Overview

Welcome to Serle Court's first in-person Property event since 2019. Serle Court is a set with a strong expertise across a wide range of real estate disputes. Members of Serle Court offer tailored expertise across key property litigation matters such as problems of easements, covenants, options, land registration and trusts. The property team is ranked by both Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 for property law with The Legal 500 identifying that Serle Court has "excellent expertise in all types of property litigation."

Members of Chambers of all levels of seniority regularly advise on both contentious and non-contentious property matters. Members represent a diverse range of clients including individuals, companies and public authorities in the High Court, the County Courts, the First-Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber), the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber), the Upper Tribunal (Tax & Chancery Chamber) and the Appellate Courts, as well as in arbitration. Real Property issues dealt with on a regular basis include easements, restrictive covenants, boundary disputes, rights of light, mortgage possession actions, mortgage charges, registration of title, conveyancing disputes, co-ownership and beneficial interests, licences, options, overage, adverse possession and injunctive relief.



Members also deal with the full spectrum of both commercial and residential landlord & tenant issues, including 1954 Act renewals, service charge disputes, consents, assignments, breaches of covenant, forfeiture, break notices, dilapidations and possession actions.

Chambers has particular specialisms in the law relating to water and waterways, rights of light and restrictive covenants.

A particular strength of chambers is the ability of members of chambers to deal not simply with real property and landlord and tenant matters, but also with complementary areas of practice. Members are experienced in dealing with cases that present issues in company law, insolvency (such as CVAs), and civil fraud and trusts issues including beneficial ownership.



## Speakers



### Elizabeth Jones QC Chair

Described recently by Chambers & Partners as "superlative and top of the tree" and as a "renowned trial advocate", Liz Jones QC has a broad Chancery/Commercial practice. She also sits as a deputy Judge in the Chancery Division and regularly mediates disputes across the Chancery/ Commercial field.



### **Andrew Francis**

Andrew is recognised by many as the "go to" barrister in restrictive covenants and rights of light matters. His work also spans other areas of real property law, such as boundaries, registered land matters, party walls, overage and easements generally. His considerable experience is projected into his books on covenants, rights of light and private rights of way. During the past year he has appeared as counsel in 4 final hearings in the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) to modify covenants. It is that which has prompted his subject for this seminar.



#### Andrew Bruce

Andrew is a successful and well-regarded property barrister, whose measured advocacy compliments his intellectually rigorous paperwork. Consistently recommended in the Directories (having featured in Chambers & Partners since 2005 and Legal 500 since 2006), Andrew is regarded as one of the leading senior juniors in real estate litigation and has been described as *"an exceptional talent in the property sphere"*. In 2021 Who's Who Legal identified Andrew as their *"Most Highly Regarded Junior"* for Real Estate Work. Andrew is a past committee member of the Property Bar Association and was appointed a Judge of the First-Tier Tribunal, Property Chamber (formerly Deputy Adjudicator to HM Land Registry) in 2008.

## Speakers



### **Andrew Gurr**

Andrew joined Chambers in October 2021 following the successful completion of pupillage. He was supervised by Gareth Tilley, Dan McCourt Fritz, James Brightwell, Matthew Morrison and Christopher Stoner QC. He has recently completed a secondment with the commercial litigation team at Peters & Peters building his experience of complex international fraud and asset tracing claims. Andrew is now accepting instructions through his clerk Daniel Wheeler.

During pupillage, Andrew worked on cases across Chambers' core areas of practice including a 10-week hybrid trial in the Chancery division, a landmark trusts appeal in the Privy Council and applications for urgent without notice relief in a £30m fraud claim.

Andrew is interested in the whole range of Chancery and Commercial work and has particular interests in civil fraud, property, commercial remedies, and trusts (including specialist trust issues in matrimonial finance).

Before joining Serle Court, Andrew studied law at Clare College, Cambridge. He graduated with a double first-class undergraduate degree, the top mark on the Cambridge LLM and several university prizes and scholarships. During his BPTC year Andrew was a Queen Mother's Scholar at Middle Temple and taught Land Law to undergraduate students at Wolfson College, Cambridge.



## **Speakers**



### **George Vare**

George joined Chambers as a tenant in October 2021 following the successful completion of his pupillage under the supervision of Lance Ashworth QC, Constance McDonnell QC, Matthew Morrison, Dan McCourt Fritz and Gareth Tilley. He is developing a broad commercial chancery practice in line with chambers' profile. During pupillage, George worked on cases across Serle Court's core practice areas, with particular experience in commercial litigation, company law, civil fraud, and private client work.

George read History at the University of Cambridge, graduating with a first-class degree and receiving several awards and scholarships. He then completed the GDL at City Law School where he was awarded a Distinction (ranking fifth in his year). Before coming to the Bar, George taught at a secondary school before working in the property department of Solomon, Taylor & Shaw, a boutique commercial/property London law firm. He completed the BPTC in 2020 (graded Outstanding) having been awarded a Major Scholarship and Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award by Inner Temple.



# Management and Clerks



#### Kathryn Purkis Chambers Director

Kathryn took up the role of Chambers Director at Serle Court in April 2022. Until 31 January 2022 she was a practising member of Chambers, with particular expertise in contentious trusts and probate matters and the law of Jersey, having qualified as a Jersey Advocate in 2009.

The Chambers Director role is a newly established, expanded executive position which will include ultimate responsibility for the strategic direction of Chambers, business and practice development, and the overall operations of the set.

Kathryn has had a long career in practice at the Bar, but has also had the experience of partnership in the offshore law firm, Collas Crill LLP. She was managing partner of one of its legacy firms in Jersey, and led that firm through the merger process which culminated in the formation of Collas Crill as a multijurisdictional entity. She remained a joint managing partner through the initial post-merger year and thereafter became head of the expanded fiduciary offering, with management responsibility for both the contentious and non-contentious trusts teams.

Kathryn looks forward to furthering the success of Serle Court in 2022 and beyond.



#### Dan Wheeler Senior Clerk

Dan joined Chambers in 2000, having previously worked at 1 Hare Court. He began his career in chambers as a Junior Clerk in 1999 and was promoted to First Junior Clerk in 2010, Team Leader in 2013, and to Senior Clerk in 2018. Dan is responsible for the management and development of members' practices, including diary management, work allocation, fee negotiation, business development, client relationship management, and the listing of cases at Court. Dan sits on Chambers' Marketing Committee. In 2016, Dan completed the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership & Management with the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM).



### Don't just take our word for it...

"Serle Court is a set with strong expertise across a wide range of real estate disputes"

"Barristers at the set act for high net worth individuals, investment and development companies and hotel groups, among other clients."

"Serle Court offer tailored expertise across key property litigation matters such as problems of easements, covenants, options, land registration and trusts."

"Excellent expertise in all types of property litigation."

Recent quotes from The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners

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