



serle court

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7242 6105

Christopher Stoner KC

Year of Silk: 2010 Year of Call: 1991

"He is absolutely top class."

"Christopher deals with difficult issues and provides clear and practical advice"

Chambers & Partners

cstoner@serlecourt.co.uk
clerks@serlecourt.co.uk



Practice Overview

Chris primarily practices in property litigation and sports disciplinary and regulatory work.

Chris practices in all aspects of property litigation encompassing real property work. Chris has developed a particular expertise in the law relating to inland waterways: one recent quote in Chambers & Partners said he "...is a go to person for specialist law, particularly around boat licensing and navigation. He knows the legislation extremely well and is certainly pre-eminent in that area." Chris also has a particular interest in rights of light and is co-author of the shortly to be published 4th edition of Rights of Light: The Modern Law (LexisNexis) together with Andrew Francis and Tom Weekes K.C.

In sports law, Chris combines acting as an advocate in some matters with 'sitting' to determine sports disputes in others, having over the years appeared before many domestic and international disciplinary and regulatory tribunals. Chris has particular interest in selection and Paralympic classification and is the co-author of the Chapter on 'Selection' in the 4th Edition of Sport: Law & Practice (Bloomsbury Professional).

Areas of Expertise

Property

Chris undertakes work on all aspects of property litigation, including issues arising from covenants, easements, option agreements, development agreements and land registration, as well as having particular interests in rights of light and the law relating to inland waterways.

Horsford v Horsford [2020] EWHC 584 (Ch): proprietary estoppel claim relating to a family farm.

Ravenscroft v Canal & River Trust [2017] EWHC 1874: the principal issue was the meaning of 'main navigable channel' for the purposes of the British Waterways Acts.

Port of London Authority v Mendoza [2017] UKUT 146 (TCC) – established that the 'mere' mooring of a vessel, without more, was insufficient to establish adverse possession of the riverbed.

Jones v Canal & River Trust [2018] Q.B. 305: consideration of the correct approach when an Article 8 defence is raised to a claim for removal of a vessel from a waterway.

Stapleford Frog Island (Rainham) Limited v Port of London Authority [2017] UKUT 444 (TCC): proper construction of a lease.

Phillips v Francis [2015] 1 W.L.R. 742: decision of the Court of Appeal as to the correct approach to the consultation requirements contained in the Landlord & Tenant Act 1985 and accompanying Regulations in respect of the recovery of service charges for qualifying work.

BOH Limited and Another v Eastern Power Networks (formerly EDF Energy Networks (EPN) plc [2011] 2 EGLR 105: Court of Appeal determination on issues relating to the continuation of a tenancy in circumstances of a split reversion including merger and whether service of notice of a s.25 notice as to part was valid.

Scottish & Newcastle plc v Raguz [2008] 1 W.L.R. 2494 (House of Lords): whether valid notice served pursuant to s.17 of the Landlord & Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995.

Sports, Entertainment & Media

Chris combines acting as an advocate in some sports matters with sitting to determine sports disputes in others. Chris has experience across a wide variety of sports. Chris is a Sport Resolutions Arbitration Panel Member and served a term as a Judge of the FA Cost Cap Adjudication Panel.

England and Wales Cricket Board Limited v Michael Vaughan (2023): successfully represented Michael Vaughan in his defence of a charge of breaching ECB directive 3.3. by allegedly using racist or discriminatory language prior to a game which took place nearly 13 years prior to the charge. The hearing attracted widespread publicity and comments in the press about Chris included: "It helped Vaughan's case that one of the key witnesses ... gave every impression of preferring to have faced the great West Indies bowling attacks of the 70s and 80s rather than Vaughan's counsel, Christopher Stoner KC" (The Guardian); "A furiously competent KC" (The Guardian); "An old school silk of stout bearing and stentorian tones"; "Stoner did not so much blow a hole in it as a crater" (Daily Telegraph); "A measured but meticulous litigator" (The Times).

As a member of The Football Association's Judicial Panel determining many disputes, including The FA v Lucas Paqueta and Nottingham Forest FC v The FA.

CAS 2015/A/4189: Acted for British Swimming, Adam Peaty, Francesca Halsall, Jemma Lowe and Chris Walker-Hebborn against World Governing Body FINA and successfully obtained ratification of world records.

Professional Negligence

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Administrative and Public Law

Arbitration

Recommendations

Property Litigation, (The Legal 500)
Real Estate Litigation (Chambers & Partners)
Real Estate (Who's Who Legal: UK Bar)

Quotes

“Christopher deals with difficult issues and provides clear and practical advice” (Chambers and Partners, 2026)

“He is absolutely top class” (Chambers and Partners, 2026)

“Christopher is my go-to property silk. He is very responsive, always goes the extra mile and cares about what he is doing” (Chambers and Partners, 2026)

“A very useful person to have in your corner” (Chambers and Partners, 2024).

“Christopher Stoner understands the commercial background to work, is tremendously hard-working and gets on incredibly well with clients.” (Chambers and Partners, 2023).

“He is very hard – working, good on his feet and good on paper. Judges like his manner, and lay clients love him because he is credible and easygoing. He’s a very talented technical lawyer and dependable advocate.” (Chambers and Partners, 2022).

“A hugely talented barrister with an ability to grapple the most difficult legal problem” (Legal 500, 2020).

Publications

Author of numerous published sports law articles in *Sport Law Administration & Practice* and also on *LawinSport*.

Joint author of the chapter on Selection Disputes in *Lewis & Taylor – Sport: Law & Practice* (3rd & 4th Editions).

In the Press

'[Adverse Possession: The Common Boundary Exception](#)' article for Solicitors Journal, 15 September 2020

'[Easements of recreation: a new species](#)' Solicitors Journal, August 2019

'[What is a salary cap in sport and are Financial Fair Play rules working in football?](#)' This is Money Podcast, 11 March 2019.

Education & Qualifications

LLB (First Class), University of East Anglia

Appointments

Appointed a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn (2016)

Sport Resolutions Arbitration Panel Member

Formerly a judge of the FIA Cost Cap Adjudication Panel

Memberships

Chancery Bar Association

Property Bar Association
