



serle court

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John Eldridge

Year of Call: 2019

"I would highly recommend John. He is incredibly hard-working and intelligent. Always well-prepared and researched... He is great at communicating the technical complexities and very responsive. A real pleasure to work with."

Client

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Practice Overview

John has a busy practice with a focus on commercial litigation, civil fraud, company disputes and intellectual property. He has particular expertise in urgent applications in cases involving allegations of fraud, including applications for freezing injunctions, passport orders and *Norwich Pharmacal* orders.

John's instructions are frequently high value, high profile and legally significant. Some of John's notable recent cases include:

- Defending the claims against the entrepreneur Akhil Tripathi, which have generated multiple interim judgments ([2026] EWHC 1002 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 632 (Ch); [2024] EWHC 1740 (Ch), led by Adam Baradon KC).
- The second-ever reasoned judgment to consider an application for a stay of proceedings on medical grounds ([2025] EWHC 2471 (Ch), unled).
- The defence of a nine-figure claim for breach of directors' duties in the context of a massive alleged fraud (as part of a five-counsel team).
- An appeal (following a trial in the Commercial Court) in which the Court of Appeal took the exceptional step of reversing a finding of dishonesty made at first instance ([2023] EWCA Civ 440, led by Thomas Elias).
- A multi-jurisdictional copyright, trade mark and passing off claim concerning the *Peppa Pig* animated series ([2023] 1 WLR 2333, led by Michael Edenborough KC and Gwilym Harbottle).

In addition to his practice at the Bar, John is a distinguished academic lawyer. He is the co-author of two books, the co-editor of four anthologies and the author of many articles in leading academic law reviews. His scholarly work has been cited by senior courts in Australia and Singapore, as well as in numerous textbooks and reference works, such as Sir Kim Lewison's *The Interpretation of Contracts* and *Goff & Jones on Unjust Enrichment*.

Owing to his substantial experience as an academic lawyer, John operates significantly above his call. He is often instructed against significantly more senior counsel.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Friend v Friend Media Technology Systems Ltd [2026] EWHC 1056 (KB), in which the High Court approved the rationale given in *Matrix Receivables Limited v Musst Holdings Limited* [2024] EWHC 2167 (Ch) as to the usual costs order following an unsuccessful application for strike out or summary judgment. A substantial award of costs was made in favour of John's client (led by Matthew Morrison KC).

Friend v Friend Media Technology Systems Limited [2026] EWHC 43 (KB), in which the High Court rejected the Claimant's proffered construction of a contractual reimbursement provision and dismissed the Claimant's application for strike out/summary judgment. John appeared for the successful Defendant (led by Matthew Morrison KC).

Friend MTS Ltd v Friend Partnership Ltd [2025] EWHC 2471 (Ch), which was only the second reasoned judgment to consider an application for a stay of proceedings on medical grounds. John appeared unled for the successful Claimant.

Omanovic v Shamaazi Ltd [2025] EWHC 131 (KB), in which the High Court refused permission to appeal against orders directing an expert to forbear from undertaking certain tasks in the course of the preparation of an expert report. John appeared for the successful Defendants (led by Dan McCourt Fritz KC).

Omanovic v Shamaazi Ltd [2025] EWHC 110 (KB), in which the High Court ruled that the terms on which the claims of

two former claimants were compromised were inadmissible in evidence at trial for want of relevance. John appeared for the successful Defendants (led by Dan McCourt Fritz KC).

B&J Investments Limited & Ors v IQ EQ Trustees (Guernsey) Limited & Anor (2024), a dispute concerning an alleged joint venture agreement in respect of the development of a hotel (led by Dan McCourt Fritz KC).

Civil Fraud

Segulah Medical Acceleration AB v Tripathi [2026] EWHC 1002 (Ch), in which the High Court considered whether an implied representation can only be held to have been made where a reasonable person in the position of the putative representee would regard the putative implied representation as either (i) having necessarily been conveyed by the relevant words and/or conduct in their context or (ii) having so obviously been conveyed by the relevant words and/or conduct in their context that it went without saying (led by Adam Baradon KC).

Segulah Medical Acceleration AB v Tripathi [2025] EWHC 632 (Ch), in which the High Court considered the construction and effect of the standard "non enforcement" undertaking given in connection with worldwide freezing orders (led by Adam Baradon KC).

Advising a listed company on complex points of company law in the context of a high-value fraud claim (2025, led out of chambers).

Gallahue v Tripathi [2024] EWHC 1740 (Ch), in which the High Court dismissed an application for the extension by value of a freezing injunction. John appeared for the successful First Defendant (led by Adam Baradon KC).

The defence of a nine-figure claim for breach of directors' duties in the context of a massive alleged fraud (as part of a five-counsel team) (2024).

Obtaining urgent *Norwich Pharmacal* relief, freezing injunctions and passport orders in the context of a substantial authorised push payment fraud (2023, led by Dan McCourt Fritz KC).

Floreat Investment Management Ltd v Churchill [2023] EWCA Civ 440, in which the Court of Appeal reversed a finding of dishonesty made at first instance and entered judgment in favour of John's clients. John appeared for the successful appellants (led by Thomas Elias).

Company

San Leon ELI Limited v Ocean Pearl Maritime SA, in which the High Court dismissed an appeal against a winding-up petition founded upon a debt of US\$12 million (led by Matthew Morrison KC).

Advising a listed company on complex points of company law in the context of a high-value fraud claim (2025, led out of chambers).

International and Offshore

Intellectual Property

Entertainment One UK Limited v Công Ty TNHH Đầu Tư Công Nghệ Và Dịch Vụ Sconnect Vietnam [2023] 1 WLR 2333, in which the High Court dismissed service and jurisdiction challenges in a multi-jurisdictional copyright, trade mark and passing off claim concerning the Peppa Pig children's animated series. John appeared for the successful Claimants (led by Michael Edenborough KC and Gwilym Harbottle).

Enreach UK Ltd v Inreach Group Ltd [2023] RPC 4, in which the High Court considered the interaction between Article 5 of the Trade Marks (Relative Grounds) Order 2007 and Article 1, Protocol 1 of the ECHR (led by Michael Edenborough KC).

Costa v DissociaDID Ltd [2022] EWHC 1934 (IPEC), a two-day trial of a claim for copyright infringement and a counterclaim for breach of contract and unlawful interference. Both claim and counterclaim succeeded in part. John appeared unled for the Claimant.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Publications

John's publications include:

David Rolph, John Eldridge and Timothy Pilkington (eds) *Australian Tort Law in the 21st Century* (The Federation Press, 2024)

Carolyn Sappideen, Prue Vines, John Eldridge, Paula Giliker, Peter Handford and Barbara McDonald, *Fleming's The Law of Torts* (Thomson Reuters, 11th ed, 2023)

J W Carter, John Eldridge and Elisabeth Peden, 'A Doctrinal Landmark: *Codelfa Construction Pty Ltd v State Rail Authority of NSW*' in Barbara McDonald, Ben Chen and Jeffrey Gordon (eds) *Dynamic and Principled: The Influence of Sir Anthony Mason* (The Federation Press, 2022)

John Eldridge, Michael Douglas and Claudia Carr (eds) *Economic Torts and Economic Wrongs* (Hart Publishing, 2021)

Carolyn Sappideen, Prue Vines and John Eldridge, *Torts: Commentary and Materials* (Thomson Reuters, 13th ed, 2021)

John Eldridge and Timothy Pilkington (eds) *Australian Contract Law in the 21st Century* (The Federation Press, 2021)

J W Carter, John Eldridge and Elisabeth Peden, 'The Role of Precedent in the Construction and Implication of Terms in Contracts' (2021) 37 *Journal of Contract Law* 1

J W Carter, John Eldridge and Elisabeth Peden 'Agreed Writing Requirements for Contract Variation' (2020) 36 *Journal of Contract Law* 107

John Eldridge and Timothy Pilkington, 'Discharged Contracts and Quantum Meruit: *Mann v Paterson Constructions*' (2019) 41 *Sydney Law Review* 255

John Eldridge and Timothy Pilkington (eds) *Sir Owen Dixon's Legacy* (The Federation Press, 2019)

John Eldridge, 'Contract Codification: Cautionary Lessons from Australia' (2019) 23 *Edinburgh Law Review* 204

Timothy Pilkington and John Eldridge, 'Implied Terms and Contract Formation' (2019) 135(Oct) *Law Quarterly Review* 526

John Eldridge, 'Reforming the Australian Law of Contract: Some Practical Next Steps' (2019) 93 *Australian Law Journal* 289

John Eldridge, 'Contract Codification and 'Certainty'' (2018) 35 *Journal of Contract Law* 146

John Eldridge, 'The New Law of Penalties: Mapping the Terrain' [2018] *Journal of Business Law* 637

John Eldridge, 'Lawful-Act Duress and Marital Agreements' [2018] *Cambridge Law Journal* 32

John Eldridge, "'Surrounding Circumstances' in Contractual Interpretation: Where are we Now?" (2018) 32(3) *Commercial Law Quarterly* 3

Scholarships and Prizes

University Medal in Law (University of Adelaide)

Baker Scholarship (University of Adelaide)

David Murray Scholarship (University of Adelaide)

Angas Parsons Prize (University of Adelaide)

Howard Zelling Prize for Administrative Law (University of Adelaide)

Gallagher Prize for Law of Torts II (University of Adelaide)

Piper Alderman Prize for Equity and Corporate Law (University of Adelaide)

Thomson Lawbook Company Prize (University of Adelaide)

Frederick Penoyre Adams Prize for Contracts and Foundations of Law (University of Adelaide)

Byard Tormore Prize for Shakespeare (University of Adelaide)

Mills and Reeve Prize (University of Cambridge)

Education & Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy in Law (University of Adelaide)

Master of Law with First Class Honours (University of Cambridge)

Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours (University of Adelaide)

Bachelor of Arts (University of Adelaide)

Memberships

London Bar Association

Commercial Bar Association

Chancery Bar Association
