



**Paul Stafford, MA (Oxon), D Phil (Oxon), Dip Law (City)**  
**Call 1987**

Paul Stafford is an equity lawyer with a chancery and commercial practice which has an emphasis on litigation and includes a substantial amount of advisory and drafting work.

He appears mostly in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal, although he has frequently represented clients before other courts, arbitrators, tribunals and jurisdictions, including the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of the Falkland Islands, disciplinary committees of various professional bodies such as the RICS, and the Adjudicator to the Land Registry. As a senior junior he has led other juniors and is often against silks. Since 2003 he has sat on, and occasionally chairs, the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He is the contributor of the current Specific Performance title in *Atkin's Court Forms*.

His practice includes real property, the regulation, negligence and dishonesty of professionals (especially solicitors), partnership, trusts and the administration of estates, and building and civil engineering disputes. Examples of his recent cases include advising and acting in relation to disputes arising from joint venture agreements to acquire land; manorial rights; infrastructure development in the Falkland Islands; refurbishment of a large London hotel; fitting-out works at London Westfield; investigations by regulatory bodies of the conduct of solicitors, surveyors, and independent financial advisers. He has extensive experience of acting for government nationally and overseas in major litigation. In non-contentious work, examples include the drafting of management buy-out and shareholders' agreements for a major professional services company; advising on the duties of trustees in relation to building contracts; advising on sensitive pre-merger issues following the merger of two large firms of solicitors.

Recent comments by experienced solicitors about his advice and advocacy include the following: *'Your Advice was absolutely spot on! Thank you so much for guiding me through these choppy waters with a steady hand on the tiller.'* And again: *'The clients and I all have a very high regard for the advice you have given, your eloquence at Court and the great skill and insight that is manifest in the documents you have drafted.'* And again: *'I am extremely grateful to you as always for the hard work and exceptionally thorough preparation, coupled with the measured and academic tone in which you deliver your arguments to the Judge, which have won the day'*.

**Paul's reported cases include:**

- *Baynes Clarke v Corless* [2009] 2 P&CR DG 24 (Ch D); [2010] WTLR 751, CA (joint venture agreement to acquire property)
- *Estor Ltd v Multifit (UK) Ltd (No.1)* (2009) 126 Con LR 40; and (No.2) [2010] CILL 2800 (adjudication: practice and procedure; test to identify parties to contract)
- *Garrison Investment Analysis Ltd v Financial Ombudsman Service Ltd* [2006] All ER (D) 110; [2006] EWHC (Admin) 2466, Sullivan J (Financial Services Ombudsman wrong to require redress to be made by independent financial adviser)
- *AG for the Falkland Islands v Gordon Forbes Construction (Falklands) Ltd* [2003] BLR 280 (meaning of clause 53 of FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Works of Civil Engineering Construction)
- *White v Office for Supervision of Solicitors* [2001] EWHC (Admin) 1149, Lightman J (solicitor challenging OSS finding of inadequate professional service)
- *Mortgage Express Ltd v Newman (No.1)* [2000] PNLR 298 (Ch D) (solicitor's insurers disclaiming liability on ground of alleged dishonesty); [2001] PNLR 5, CA; *Mortgage Express Ltd v Newman (No.2)* [2001] Lloyds LR (PN) 669 (Ch D)
- *Saigol v Cranley Mansion Ltd (No.3)* [2000] 72 Con LR 54, CA (effect on claimant's damages of compromised claim against another defendant)
- *Clive Brooks & Co Ltd v Baynard* [1998] TLR 269, CA (cause of action assignment by insolvent construction company in breach of security for costs order)



## Paul Stafford (*cont'd/...*)

- *Fairview New Homes plc v Government Row Residents Association Ltd* [1998] EGCS 92, Scott V-C (developers and user of private right of way)
- *Saigol v Cranley Mansion Ltd (No.2)* [1996] EGCS 81, CA (cause of action assignment by co-defendant)
- *Inverugie Investments Ltd v Hackett* [1995] 1 WLR 713, PC (Measure of damages for trespass to commercial property)