

SUSANNAH MEADWAY

"Conscientious and hard-working, she is highly responsive and turns things around in such short order. She is also very flexible and accommodating – always managing to fit you in, regardless of how busy she is. She goes above and beyond."

(Chambers UK 2024)



Call 1988

Susannah Meadway is a prominent junior within the private client arena, acting in difficult, complex and high-value matters. She is ranked at the highest level in the current legal directories and is regarded as a leading expert on the variation of trusts. Her well established practice encompasses all types of advisory, drafting and litigation work in the fields of trusts and associated taxation, wills, probate and the administration of estates, and charities.

Ranked in Band 1 for both Chancery: Traditional and Trusts in Chambers UK 2022.

Private Client

Susannah has very extensive experience of applications to the Court under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958, including for the extension of perpetuity and accumulation periods, and in relation to multi-billion pound trust funds. In the majority of such cases a judgement is not given, but those where it has been include:

- **MN v OP** [2019] EWCA Civ 679; 22 ITELR 61. This started life as an application for the approval of a variation extending the perpetuity and accumulation periods applicable to a settlement, but ended in the Court of Appeal with an important judgment on the granting of anonymity orders in proceedings under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958.
- **A v B** [2016] EWHC 3740 (Ch); [2016] WTLR 745: Where the Court approved the extension of the perpetuity and accumulation periods applicable to the trusts of a dynastic settlement of a very large landed estate, sanctioning an unusual procedure which obviated the need to join all possible beneficiaries to the application.
- **C v C** [2015] EWHC 2699 (Ch); [2016] WTLR 223: Where the Court accepted it had jurisdiction to vary the trusts of a foreign law settlement.
- **DC v AC** [2016] EWHC 477 (Ch): Where the Court approved the extension of the perpetuity and accumulation periods applicable to the trusts of a number of very large dynastic settlements.
- **Bathurst v Bathurst** [2016] EWHC 3033 (Ch): A variation involving an issue on the change of the provisions for the appointment of new trustees.

Location

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She also has a specialism in the rectification and/or setting aside of trust documents, her reported cases in this area being:

- **RBC Trustees (CI) Ltd v Stubbs** [2017] EWHC 180 (Ch), [2018] WTLR 1399.
- **Chisholm v Chisholm** [2011] WTLR 187: Where the Court rectified two trust deeds so as to be bare trusts in accordance with the settlor's intention.
- **Bartlam v Coutts** [2006] WTLR 1165: Where the Court rectified a deed of appointment which failed to appoint accumulation and maintenance trusts complying with the relevant requirements for inheritance tax relief.
- **Re Bell** [2002] WTLR 1105: Concerning the rectification of a will.
- **Re Segelman** [1996] Ch 171: Concerning the rectification of a will, as well as whether the will created a charitable trust of the testator's valuable violin collection.

A significant recent case on the scope of special powers of appointment in which Susannah has been involved is **PQ v RS** [2019] EWHC 1643 (Ch).

More generally, Susannah advises and assists trustees and beneficiaries in achieving their objectives, ensuring that their trusts are suited to both family and fiscal circumstances, whether by the use of applicable powers in the trust documents, the agreement of all concerned or (where neither of the previous methods is available) the assistance of the Court.

Taxation

Susannah has wide experience and expertise in advising on the tax implications of trust structures and trust changes. She has a particular specialism in inheritance tax, not only as it relates to trusts but also to individuals. She was for many years a contributor to Foster's Inheritance Tax.

Charities

Susannah has considerable experience in all aspects of charity law.

Recommendations

"Susannah is extremely bright and unfailingly provides helpful, clear, concise and pragmatic advice and solutions. Her opinions are always readily comprehensible, even when dealing with complex issues. She also has a very personable manner and is a pleasure to deal with."

"She's very quick to respond and just gave really good, practical advice. She really met my expectations."

"Susannah's attention to detail and knowledge of trust law is second to none. She also has an incredible ability to distil complex tax and trust concepts into an easily digestible and understandable format."

Chambers UK 2024

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'Susannah is immensely clever and completely steeped in every aspect of private client law. The range of her experience and the depth of her expertise are truly impressive. Her advice is always delivered with clarity, conciseness and pragmatism.'

Legal 500 2024

"Quite exceptional. The complete package. She has a practical touch and always gets to the heart of any matter."

"Susannah is quite exceptional, the absolute complete package. She has a practical touch and always gets to the heart of the matter."

Chambers UK 2023

"Absolutely the most brilliant junior, she is measured, highly intelligent and deeply calm. She adopts a constructive, highly practical approach and knows her trust law backward and forward. She has such an incisive mind."

"Incredibly thorough and diligent when handling complex trust matters. She's great on the analysis and makes sure nothing gets missed. No stone is left unturned."

Chambers UK 2022

"Tremendously capable"

Legal 500 2022

"A real whiz at Variation of Trust Act matters."

"She's fabulous – her opinions are very clear to read for both the instructing solicitor and the lay client, and she's approachable."

"She's brilliant for ancient and complex trusts. She gets through work so smoothly, and produces excellent opinions."

"Superb. She just gives fantastic service and top-notch advice. Always calm and incredibly well organised, she's completely wonderful."

"She is really first-rate and especially good at unusual trust dispute questions."

Chambers UK 2021

'The complete package! Outstanding in every way. Well prepared, practical, highly capable and always seems to come up with solutions to thorny problems. Has developed huge expertise in Variation of Trust applications.'

'Is particularly outstanding and hugely practical.'

Legal 500 2020

"Real whiz at Variation of Trust Act matters."

"She's fabulous – her opinions are very clear to read for both us and the lay client, and she's approachable,"

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“She’s brilliant for ancient and complex trusts. She gets through work so smoothly, and produces excellent opinions.”

Chambers HNW 2020

“She’s excellent – if you’ve got something complex and technical, she is incredibly thorough and gets right into the detail.”

“She has a lovely manner, and inspires 120% confidence.”

“A very accomplished trusts lawyer. The way she understood the documents and produced advice was excellent, and she can give clear advice to lay clients.”

“She’s personable, technical and really helpful.”

“A go-to barrister for us.”

Chambers UK 2020

“Extremely knowledgeable and very clear in the advice she gives.”

Legal 500 2020

“She’s excellent – if you’ve got something complex and technical, she is incredibly thorough and gets right into the detail. She is a first-rate barrister; you have that reassurance that she’s completely on it”

HNW Guide 2019

“Always extremely good”

WWL UK Bar 2019

“Her advice is very well considered, clear and concise, and she is technically excellent.”

“She is a go-to person for technical trust issues, especially on variation of trust applications. Her advice is always spot on and she always inspires confidence in both lay clients and instructing solicitors.”

Chambers UK 2019

“A very safe pair of hands when dealing with trust law.”

Legal 500 2019

“Incredibly thorough; she leaves no stone unturned and knows the law backwards. She is also very authoritative in court.”

“She is very measured. She is one of the most intelligent barristers I know, and that is really saying something; she is in a different league.”

HNW 2018 Guide

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“A go-to person for technical trust matters.”

“I could not recommend her highly enough.”

“Everyone at our firm thinks she’s brilliant. Her advice is very well-considered, technically she is excellent and her opinions are very clear and concise.”

“She has a very quick turnaround time and is very efficient.”

“She is extremely intelligent and will pick up on things that other barristers will miss. She is very adept at identifying mistakes and weaknesses in opposing cases and using them to her advantage.”

“Very strong on variation of trust matters”

“Copes with being challenged on technical points.”

Chambers UK 2018

“Technically excellent, clear in her opinions and not one to engage in esoteric language. Clients find her to be very pleasant and very reassuring.”

Chambers Global 2017

“She’s superb. She’s technically excellent, very thorough, very clear and highly practical. She has superb drafting skills and is highly efficient.”

“Perceptive, helpful and thorough, she’s easy to discuss issues with.”

Chambers UK 2017

“Technically excellent, clear in her opinions and not one to engage in esoteric language. Clients find her to be very pleasant and very reassuring.”

Chambers UK 2017

“Commended for her clarity of thought and brilliant drafting.”

Legal 500 2016

“She knows her practice area ‘wall to wall’ and instils confidence.”

Chambers UK 2016

“Technically excellent, highly efficient and very practical”

Chambers UK 2016

“Absolutely excellent in all respects. Very technically strong indeed, she gives very thorough advice”

“Excellent at untangling complicated trust structures.”

Chambers UK 2015

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“Clients find her to be very pleasant and very reassuring”

“Has strength in tax and structuring matters”

Legal 500 2015

“A superb advocate in every way.”

Legal 500 2014

“Thorough, accurate, quick and technically able”

“Excellent at case preparation.”

Chambers UK 2014

“Very competent and efficient. I think she is also very pleasant to work with. I rate her highly.”

“Susannah is absolutely first-rate – she is technically excellent, highly efficient and very practical. I cannot recommend her highly enough.”

“Very clear and no-nonsense approach to the law.”

HNW 2016

Qualifications

- MA (Oxon), Philosophy, Politics & Economics, First Class
- Dip Law (Distinction), City University

Associations & Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- STEP

Publications

- [Williams on Wills](#) (joint-editor)
- [Mellows: Taxation for Executors & Trustees](#) (joint editor)
- [Extending trusts under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958: a simplified method?](#) (Trust & Trustees 2016)
- [Perpetuities & Accumulations Act 2009](#) (Trusts & Trustees 2010)

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