

## Stephen Willmer

Call: 2004

Contact Stephen Directly: 020 7353 6802 or  
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Stephen Willmer is experienced across the court and tribunal system of England and Wales. He came to the Bar via degrees in history from King's College London and in political science from the LSE. He spent five years in the Territorial Army and slightly more than that trying out a variety of careers before determining on the Bar, to which he was Called in 2004 with the assistance of a Queen Mother scholarship from the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

He has since developed a wide-ranging practice representing businesses, individuals and sometimes public authorities. He is a firm believer in the cab-rank rule and applies it equally whether instructed by solicitors or directly under the public access scheme by members of the public. He has been accepting public access instructions for about a decade.

Stephen's preferred approach is to try to get under the skin of a case early on, in the belief that this will save costs and prevent client misery further down the road. His advice is candid but courteous and he likes to think his advocacy follows the same pattern. Where appropriate he has been known to devote significant time to trying to persuade clients not to get involved with the legal system but is a firm believer in the dictum that 'forewarned is forearmed' – in other words, if advice is needed then it is best sought early.

His practice has evolved to focus on the areas listed below, albeit there are frequent overlaps with each other and with other areas of law. His work is contentious and non-contentious.

Cases on which Stephen is currently instructed include a £600,000 fraud in the High Court, a land bank fraud, and a claim in misrepresentation alleged against provider of digital information. The list above is not exhaustive of his practice areas, and merely focuses on those in which he is busiest.

In his spare time, Stephen is a keen amateur cook and is trying to learn how to play golf and how to box. He reveres the music of J.S. Bach and enjoys esoteric and genre literature.

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### Location

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# Civil

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## Contract

From drafting and advising on the interpretation of contracts to advice and representation. Recent cases have involved construction disputes, utilities billing, personal guarantees and promissory notes.

## Insolvency

Petitions, the unfreezing of accounts, public and private examinations, section 236 Insolvency Act account of dealings, statutory demands, disqualification of directors.

## Wills, trusts and probate

Applications to remove trustees, Inheritance Act claims (including those made out of time), contentious probate claims, constructive trust and ToLATA advice and representation.

## Landlord and tenant

Possession claims, mortgagors orders for possession, leasehold disputes over matters such as service charges and covenants in the Land Tribunal and County Court, claims in unlawful eviction and relief from forfeiture.

## Companies and partnerships

Partnership disputes and terminations, advice in relation to partnership property and insolvency. Corporate personality and liability, insolvency, directors' duties and disqualification, restoring dissolved companies.

## Boundary and neighbour disputes

Cases involving harassment, disagreements over boundaries, nuisance and trespass.

## Professional discipline

Advice and representation in specialist tribunals, acting for either side.

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