




Whitestone Chambers

BENJAMIN JOHN SYMONS

CALLED AS A BARRISTER: 2011

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EDUCATION

LL.B., University of New South Wales.

LL.M., (Hons.), University of Sydney.

G.D., Birkbeck College, University of London.

PROFILE

Benjamin is a qualified solicitor and barrister in New South Wales, Australia. He is also qualified as a barrister in England and Wales. Benjamin has joined Whitestone Chambers following his pupillage at Temple Tax Chambers.

MEMBERSHIP

Called to the Bar in England and Wales, Lincolns Inn 2011.

PRACTICE

Benjamin undertakes a full range of civil paperwork and court instructions including:

- Taxation law/ Customs & Excise.
- Administrative law.
- Contract claims.
- Credit hire.

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TAXATION

Benjamin is an experienced barrister with excellent understanding of tax issues. He specialises in tax advice in relation to the following:

- Mergers & acquisitions/ group restructures.
- International taxation.
- Transfer pricing/ securitisation/ securities lending/ collateral management.
- Residence and domicile of individuals for the purposes of UK income tax and UK inheritance tax.

Benjamin has acted in numerous cases regarding value added tax, customs and excise, employee share schemes, stamp duty and tax.

- **Taxpayer VAT matter** – extensive research and drafting of a skeleton argument to argue that a value-added tax (“VAT”) claim of a taxpayer dating back over 10 years was still open and that the taxpayer was entitled to amend that original claim over a decade later.
- **Taxpayer VAT matter** – preparation of a technical note to the client and a statement of case in relation to a mediation concerning a VAT dispute and whether the taxpayer was entitled to claim the margin scheme in relation to the sale of second-hand goods that it was making.
- **Taxpayer VAT matter**– preparation of an agreed statement of facts in relation to a complicated VAT dispute and whether certain companies of a corporate group were entitled to claim bad debt relief immediately in respect of credit sales they had made where they had not retained title to the goods (GMAC UK claims) and what the entitlement of companies that had joined the VAT group later (through acquisition) was to claim bad debt relief.
- **ASDA v HMRC** – assisted Helen Barnard and Owen Roberts of HMRC with a disclosure exercise in relation to an excise matter against ASDA for excise duties allegedly not paid on sales of alcohol made in the United Kingdom.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Benjamin is able to undertake paperwork and instructions in the following matters:

- Variety of public law issues.
- Public inquiries.

COMMERCIAL

Benjamin is experienced in advising and assisting clients at all stages of litigation from pre-action through to costs and enforcement. His practice includes the following:

- Contract claims.
- Credit hire.