

# WHITESTONE CHAMBERS

*Barristers*

**Whitestone  
Chambers**

Chambers of Lawrence Power

1 Middle Temple

London

EC4Y 9AA

## **Transparency Guide**

Barristers in chambers practice in areas of civil law including, but not limited to, commercial, chancery, banking & finance and aviation. Our barristers advise and represent clients in:

- In contentious and non-contentious matters.
- In legal drafting including Contracts Shareholder agreements, Non-disclosure agreements, Partnership agreements ,Articles of Incorporation & Confidentiality agreements.
- Drafting pleadings.
- Representing clients in court appearances.
- Commercial planning and advice.
- UK Corporate & Companies.
- International Companies & Individuals.

Contact us:

The following are invited to contact our administrative team on 0207 760 7611 or 07923079333 for a quote for our barrister's services or by email at [law@whitestonechambers.com](mailto:law@whitestonechambers.com)

- Solicitors or other practicing UK & foreign lawyers;
- Licensed Access clients, who may either hold a licence issued by the Bar Standards Board, or be a member of a professional body which has been recognised by the Bar Standards Board; and
- Members of the public who wish to instruct a barrister under the Public Access Scheme.

We will provide you with a quote as soon as possible. We always aim to set out quotes clearly, but if you receive your quote and there is something you do not understand, please contact us. All fee quotes exclude VAT unless otherwise stated.

## **Invoicing**

Barristers in chambers most often charge hourly rates for private civil written work and charge a fixed fee for court appearances. All fees will be agreed to the client's satisfaction before any work is undertaken.

## **Legal Insurance**

It may be possible to pay for your legal fees through an Insurance policy. Legal expenses insurance falls under two banners, Before the event insurance (BTE) and after the event insurance (ATE).

Before the event insurance (BTE) is taken out by people who want to protect themselves just in case something happens. It is often sold as part of the overall package for car and household contents insurance policies, or as an extra 'add on' benefit which you can pay for with these types of policies. It is possible you may already have this kind of insurance under an existing insurance policy so it is certainly worth checking with your Insurance provider.

After the event Insurance is a legal expenses policy that can be purchased on your behalf when you are in a dispute, to cover the costs of litigation. It protects against the risk of being ordered to pay your opponent's costs. This is usually purchased in the absence of suitable BTE cover and is specifically tailored to the type of claim you are pursuing. After the event insurance usually works alongside a Conditional Fee Agreement (CFA). Please note that Whitestone Chambers barristers only undertake CFA's in very limited circumstances

## **Timescales**

Timescales for a case may vary depending on factors such as a barristers' availability, the type and complexity of the case, the other side's approach and court waiting times. It is our policy that all paperwork be returned to you completed within 14 days unless you agree another deadline (shorter or longer) appropriate to your case. We will notify you in the unlikely event of our being unable to meet the deadline set.

## **Access to a Barrister**

The Bar Council's Public Access guidance for client's can be found here <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/uploads/assets/20f0db2a-a40c-4af9-95b1b9557ad748e9/Public-Access-Guidance-for-Lay-Clients.pdf>. This will help you to understand how the public access scheme works and explains how you can use it to instruct barristers directly.

Barristers in chambers are regulated by the Bar Standards Board. You can search the Barristers' Register on the Bar Standards Board's website:

<https://www.barstandardsboard-orquk/for-the-public/search-a-barristers-record/thebarristers-register.html>. This shows (1) whether a barrister has a current practicing certificate, and (2) whether a barrister has any disciplinary findings, which are published on the Bar Standards Board's website in accordance with their policy. Alternatively you can contact the Bar

Standards Board on 020 7611 1444 to ask about this or by email at [contactus@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk](mailto:contactus@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk).

Whitestone Chambers complaints procedure can be found here <https://www.whitestonechambers.com/protocol.html>.

### **Legal Ombudsmen**

#### COMPLAINTS TO THE LEGAL OMBUDSMAN

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our investigation and you fall within their jurisdiction you may take up your complaint with the Legal Ombudsman, <https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/>, the independent complaints body for complaints about lawyers, at the conclusion of our consideration of your complaint. The Ombudsman is not able to consider your complaint unless it has first been investigated by us.

Please note that the Legal Ombudsman, the independent complaints body for service complaints about lawyers, has time limits in which a complaint must be raised with them. The time limits are:

- a) Six years from the date of the act/omission.
- b) Three years from the date that the complainant should reasonably have known that there were grounds for complaint (if the act/omission took place before the 6 October 2010 or was more than six years ago).
- c) Within six months after receiving a final response from their lawyer, if that response complies with the requirements in rule 4.4 of the Scheme Rules (which requires the response to include prominently an explanation that the Legal Ombudsman was available if the complainant remained dis-satisfied and the provision of full contact details for the Ombudsman and a warning that the complaint must be referred to them within six months).

The Ombudsman can extend the time limit in exceptional circumstances. Chambers must therefore have regard to that timeframe when deciding whether they are able to investigate your complaint. We will not therefore usually deal with complaints that fall outside of the Legal Ombudsman's time limits.

The Ombudsman will also only deal with complaints from consumers. This means that only complaints from the barrister's client are within their jurisdiction. Non-clients who are not satisfied with the outcome of our investigation should contact the Bar Standards Board rather than the Legal Ombudsman.

#### YOU CAN WRITE TO THEM AT:

Legal Ombudsman, PO Box 6806, Wolverhampton WV1 9WJ

Telephone number: 0300 555 0333

Email: [enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/>

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the investigation, alternative complaints bodies such as Pro Mediate ([www.promediate.co.uk](http://www.promediate.co.uk)) also exist which are competent to deal with complaints about legal services, should you and the barrister, both wish to use such a scheme. If you wish to use ProMediate, please contact us to discuss this. Please also note that: (1) the time limit for contacting ProMediate is 12 months after the outcome of the investigation is communicated to you, and (2) if mediation is used, neither you nor the barrister is required to accept the proposed resolution. If mediation does not resolve the complaint, you may still make a complaint to the Legal Ombudsmen (provided you fall within their jurisdiction and you do so within the time limit)

Whitestone Chambers  
May 2023