

## John Briggs

Called to the Bar 1973

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John specialises in domestic and cross-border insolvency, commercial and chancery litigation, professional negligence and disciplinary proceedings (involving insolvency practitioners), partnerships, financial services and proceeds of crime.

Over the years John has appeared in many high profile cases particularly in the field of personal insolvency, insolvent partnerships and deceased insolvents, including Kevin Maxwell, Asil Nadir, Jonathan Aitken, Kerry Katona, Sean Quinn, Seifert Sedley (solicitors), Nicholas Phillips (the Queen's cousin - deceased), Boris Berezovsky (Russian oligarch - deceased) and Boris Becker.

John is described in Chambers & Partners 2017 (Band 1) as having a "wealth of experience and a fantastic bedside manner with the clients." "His advice is clear and timely, and his knowledge and understanding of the Bankruptcy Court is invaluable."

For many years John has been the Joint Senior Author of the leading insolvency textbook *Muir Hunter on Personal Insolvency*. He is a Deputy Insolvency and Companies Court Judge of the High Court in London. Before practising as a barrister, John was a jurist-linguist in French and Italian at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

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## Insolvency and Restructuring

Over 40 reported cases in litigation related to corporate and personal insolvency in the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords.

Recent cases include:

- **MSD Cash and Carry Plc** (in liquidation) [2018] EWHC 1325 (Ch), preference and directors misfeasance
  - **Re Jamaica Tavern Limited** (in liquidation) 2018 EWHC 594 (Ch), removal of liquidators
  - **Oraki and Oraki v Bramston and Defty** [2017] EWCA Civ 403, professional negligence claim against trustees in bankruptcy
  - **Fielding v Hunt** [2017] EWHC 247 (Ch); [2017] EWHC 406 (Ch) Liquidators powers; costs
  - **Rose v McGuire** [2013] EWCA Civ 429, bankrupt's permission to sue trustee in bankruptcy
  - **Bramston v Haut** [2013] EWCA Civ 1637, discharge from bankruptcy/ IVAs
  - **Re Eichler** [2011] BPIR 1293, COMI under the EU Insolvency Regime
  - **Re Delberry** [2008] EWHC 925 (Ch), receivers' fees/misfeasance/production of documents
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## Offshore

- **Irish Bank Resolution Corporation v Quinn** [2012] NI Ch 1, cross-border insolvency
- **Handelsmann BV v Hill** [2011] BPIR, Counsel for trustee in bankruptcy in EC Insolvency Regulation case before the Dutch courts
- **FG Hemisphere Associates v Democratic Republic of Congo** [2010] JRC 484, vulture fund litigation against DRC English Counsel acting for third party debtor

Other cases include advising on company liquidations, receiverships and bankruptcies in Cyprus including the recent receivership and liquidation of the supermarket chain GRV North Fruit Ltd and advising on Bahamian bankruptcy law and advising and acting for the Viscount of Jersey in cross-border insolvency proceedings.

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## Awards and Recommendations

Chambers & Partners *“Excellent on personal insolvency issues”*  
*“He is a go-to for difficult problems that need solving in a commercial way”*  
*“Pre-eminent in terms of personal insolvency and is quite excellent in what he does”*

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## Career

2014 Membership and Authorisations Committee of the IPA  
2011 Called to the Northern Ireland Bar  
1991 Appointed Deputy Registrar in Bankruptcy and Companies (now Insolvency and Companies Court Judge of the High Court)  
1973-1975 Jurist Linguist at the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg)  
1973 Called to the Bar of England and Wales

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## Memberships

ILA  
R3  
INSOL International  
INSOL Europe  
Chancery Bar Association  
British Italian Law Association

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## Publications

Joint Senior Author of **Muir Hunter on Personal Insolvency** (Thomson Sweet and Maxwell, 1987)

to date)

Contributor to ***Cross-Border Insolvency Fourth Edition*** (Sheldon, Bloomsbury, 2015)

Contributor to ***Rayden & Jackson on Relationship breakdown finances and Children*** (Lexis Nexis, 2016)

Consultant Editor to ***Bankruptcy and Personal Insolvency Reports*** (Jordans, 1996 to date)

Joint Author ***Asset Protection Trusts*** (Keyhaven, 1997)

Junior Author of ***Williams & Muir Hunter on Bankruptcy*** (Stevens, 1984 to 1987)

Contributor to ***Insolvency Intelligence***.

Speaker at R3 Annual Conference (May 2018), Vilamoura, Portugal and INSOL Europe Annual Conference (October 2018) Athens, Greece.

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## Education and Qualifications

1972 Examens du Doctorat d'Université, Nancy, France

1971 King's College London University, LLB Hons

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## Languages

French, Italian

Spanish (working knowledge)

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## Interests

Travel, walking (Chiltern Society walk leader and contributor to Society's "50 Best Walks"), Languages (Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute) and politics (Fabian Society).