

## SEAMUS SWEENEY

### PROFESSION

Barrister, Parklane Plowden Chambers, Leeds & Newcastle.

### EXPERIENCE

Seamus was called to the Bar in 1989 and practiced in London for six years before moving to the North East in 1996. He joined Eversheds Solicitors as specialist in-house counsel in their employment department. Whilst in London he gained a wide range of experience taking in criminal law, general civil law and employment law. However, employment law has been his sole area of practice for 20 years. In September 1999 he returned to independent practice at the Bar.

He regularly advises and appears as an advocate in many high value employment disputes.

### MEDIATION

Seamus is a newly qualified mediator having gained accreditation with the London School of Mediation and has attended all required mediation observations. Although his legal practice is as a specialist employment law barrister, he has experience of general civil litigation from his years at the Bar. His mediation interest is not limited to employment law issues. Seamus believes that his experience in dealing with the difficult relationship issues which regularly feature in the area of employment law is invaluable, and of significant benefit to any mediator when it comes to mediating on a wide range of disputes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are in respect of Seamus' legal practice.

Chambers & Partners 2016 (Star Individual)

The only Star Individual on the North Eastern Circuit for Employment. Highly experienced in the field of employment law, he typically acts for employers in complex or large-scale issues such as equal pay claims.

Strengths: "He's very good on his feet and skilled technically in writing and he has a good bedside manner with lay-clients." "He always has a good grasp of the issues and can see the wood for the trees."

Chambers and Partners 2015 (Star Individual) – "He is an exceptional barrister. He is not stuffy. Clients love him and he is willing to roll up his sleeves. Behind that friendly behaviour lies a killer cross-examiner, which is exactly what you want. He is always excellent and is quite well known for being one of the best in the region. If I have a high value claim locally, he is my first port of call."

Chambers and Partners 2014 (Star Individual) - Focuses his practice entirely on employment law. He is widely recognised for his work with public sector clients, and has particular expertise in advising local authorities on equal pay claims.

Junior Employment Barrister of the Year" at the 2013 Bar Awards by Chambers & Partners

Expertise: "He is a real expert in equal pay matters. He's very responsive and approachable, non-stuffy and very client-friendly. A pleasure to work with."

The Legal 500, 2013 - Seamus represented Lord Sugar in a high-profile case of alleged constructive dismissal.

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Chambers and Partners 2013 (Star Individual) - ...has sealed his reputation as a "star" on the North Eastern Circuit. This "outstanding all-round junior" is best known for his long-standing representation of local authorities, and has recently brought his "robust approach to litigation" to bear on a number of high-profile equal pay cases.

Chambers and Partners 2012 (Star Individual) - "Stellar performer" Seamus Sweeney of Parklane Plowden is "a splendid combination of charm, intellect and lightness of touch." He is instructed by Sunderland City Council in the long-running Agenda for Change litigation. He is frequently instructed in high-value equal pay claims and TUPE matters, and also advises on changes to terms and conditions.

The Legal 500 2011- Seamus Sweeney has 'superior knowledge of equal pay'

Chambers and Partners 2011 (Star Individual)- remains "head and shoulders above his competitors," with instructing solicitors saying his opinion is "invaluable when it comes to the most complex and high-value cases." Not only is he a "robust and meticulously prepared advocate," but he is also "exceptionally good at engaging with clients and inspiring confidence."

Chambers and Partners 2010 - Seamus Sweeney is very highly regarded by clients, who say that he is "always our first choice for more complex matters." Other merits appreciated by clients are his "incisive mind, client-friendly manner and quick-witted style in court Recommended Legal 500 2010.

Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession - 2009- Seamus Sweeney "he is head and shoulders above the rest and would be a silk if in London." Head of the Employment team at Parklane Plowden, he is a "methodical and careful" advocate who carries out "a brilliant job on sensitive employment matters" and is "very easy to work with." The former Eversheds employee gains applause for his "appreciation of the pressures facing solicitors," and remains heavily immersed in high-value collective equal pay claims for local authorities.

The Legal 500 2009- "Highlights the main issues and makes clients very comfortable."

The Legal 500 2008- "The Very Top of the Circuit's Employment Bar"

Chambers and Partners 2008- "Seamus Sweeney scooped widespread praise for his 'sharp intellect' and 'brilliant client-handling skills'. The former Eversheds lawyer is heavily involved in equal pay, an issue that burns brightly in the North East. He is considered a 'highly reasonable opponent who is keen on finding solutions."

Chambers and Partners 2007- He is described as being approachable and "not suffering from barrister-itis". He displays "utter professionalism and tenacity" and produces "sensible, commercial and pragmatic advice". Chambers UK 2006 - "Maintained his leading position within the North Eastern circuit, with a respondent focus to his practice, he predominately acts for the region's local authorities, particularly in the area of equal pay matters."

To appoint **Seamus** as Mediator contact us on **0151 363 3972** or **help@mediatelegal.co.uk**

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