

Mathew Ditchburn

Partner

London

Biography

Mathew Ditchburn is head of the Hogan Lovells real estate disputes team and one of the UK's leading practitioners in property litigation. Working with investors, occupiers and a range of other stakeholders, Mathew helps clients to think laterally and find creative solutions to even the most intractable property disputes.

Contentious issues with real estate are manifold, ranging from protecting the value of your assets to managing the business space you use every day. Mathew's experience spans the full range, having handled disputes arising out of buying and selling real estate, leasing commercial property, secured lending and redevelopment. He is particularly well known for dealing with these matters within the added complexities of an insolvency scenario, and is one of the true authorities in this area, as well as actions against negligent professionals.

Mathew joined Hogan Lovells in 2002 and was made partner in 2011. He now runs the firm's top ranking (in both the Chambers and Legal 500 UK directories) London real estate disputes team. He is Chair of the Property Litigation Association, Vice-Chair of the British Property Federation's Insolvency Committee, Chair of the Joint Insolvency Committee and a member of R3 (the association of insolvency professionals). He is a 2019 Blundell lecturer, a regular press commentator and speaker at industry



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Languages

English

Practices

Business Restructuring and
Insolvency

Litigation Services

Real Estate

Industries

Real Estate

Private Capital

Education and admissions

Education

conferences. In their latest editions, Chambers placed Mathew as a Band 1 practitioner in his field and the Legal 500 named him in their Hall of Fame.

Representative experience

Obtaining forfeiture of a 125 year lease of a department store for failure to trade unless liquidators completed a sale within 3 months.

Achieving victory at court for landlords to be reimbursed rental discounts imposed under a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) following the collapse of retailer BHS.

Successfully defending KPMG as liquidators of the Peacocks retail chain against court action by a utilities company for over £1m in unpaid charges.

Winning a landmark case for EY as administrators of the Luminar nightclub group about the payment of rent as an expense of the administration.

Acting for a bank in professional negligence proceedings against solicitors and valuers, securing multi-million pound settlements through mediation.

Scoring a key Court of Appeal victory on EU sanctions to enable a sovereign wealth fund to enforce a €12.5m property loan through bankruptcy proceedings.

Securing permission to forfeit the leases of five retail park units in High Court litigation against the administrators of a nationwide retail chain.

Representing landlords in leading reported cases concerning the New Look and Regis UK CVA challenges.

In a ground-breaking case, forming an ad hoc group of NCP's landlords and acting for them in successfully opposing the company's restructuring plan.

Acting for the institutional landlord owner of an Oxford Street flagship store in successful proceedings against the former tenant's guarantor to recover £5m in unpaid rent.

Inns of Court School of Law, London
The University of Nottingham

Memberships

Property Litigation Association

Associate Member of R3
(Association of Insolvency
Professionals)

Joint Insolvency Committee

Awards and rankings

- Hall of Fame, Property Litigation, *Legal 500 UK*, 2022
- Band 1, Real Estate Litigation, *Chambers and Partners UK*, 2022

Latest thinking and events

- News
 - UK Supreme Court provides welcome clarity on the operation of the Telecoms Code
- News
 - UK private rented sector: white paper published
- News
 - UK landmark reforms in the private rented sector
- News
 - UK government commits to controversial high street rental auctions of vacant premises
- Insights
 - EU/UK Comparative Q&A Guide: the impact of Russia sanctions on the real estate sector
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