

Ronnie Dennis

Call: 2010

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Ronnie is ranked as a leading junior in employment law. He has extensive experience in all areas of employment litigation, with a particular focus on discrimination and whistleblowing claims. He is regularly instructed in complex, high-profile and high-value claims, and frequently conducts lengthy hearings in the Employment Tribunal on behalf of both claimants and respondents. He also specialises in employee competition claims and has acted in a number of confidential information, restrictive covenant and team move cases.

Ronnie's public law practice encompasses all areas of judicial review. He has acted in several high-profile judicial review claims on behalf of private companies, local authorities and central government. Recent cases include acting for a private hire app defending a challenge to its licence to operate in the High Court and Court of Appeal: *R. (United Trade Action Group Ltd) v Transopco* [2023] 1 WLR 367.



He's very bright, very helpful and has a very quick turnaround of work

CHAMBERS UK

Expertise

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Ronnie has acted in a broad range of employee competition disputes, including claims for breach of restrictive covenants, misuse of confidential information and team move cases. His other commercial work includes claims for breach of contract, misrepresentation and professional negligence.

- Acting for employees and employers bringing/ defending claims for unpaid bonuses and commission;
- Acting for an outdoor goods supplier defending claims for breach of the Commercial Agents (Council Directive) Regulations 1993;
- Acting for a property asset manager defending claims for negligence and breach of contract in connection with an interest rate hedging arrangement;
- Acting for a Cloud Software company claiming an employee had failed to carry out his work with reasonable skill and competence;
- Obtaining a High Court injunction to prevent a sampling agency from dealing with clients in breach of a contract for the sale of goodwill.

Team move litigation in the insurance sector

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

An insurance broker brought claims against two former employees and their new company, alleging they orchestrated an unlawful team move. The claims included breach of the duty of fidelity, fiduciary duty and post-termination restraints, inducing breach of contract and conspiracy, all of which were denied. Ronnie acted for the defendants. [Read more about the case here.](#)

Equity broker competition

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was an equity broker who resigned without notice to join a competing firm. He sought declarations against his former employer that his notice period and restrictive covenants were unenforceable. His former employer counterclaimed for the opposite declarations and overpaid commission. Ronnie acted for the former employer, led by James Laddie KC.

Non-compete and confidentiality clauses

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

A global chemical manufacturer sought an interim injunction to prevent its former Head of Marketing from joining a competitor in breach of a non-compete clause, or using its confidential information. Ronnie acted for the departing employee.

Multinational team move litigation

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

A leading business advisory firm claimed that former employees in the UK, Dubai, Hong Kong and India had orchestrated an unlawful team move to a competitor. Claims included breach of express and implied duties of loyalty and fiduciary duty, inducing breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy. The parties also sought declarations as to the enforceability of non-compete, non-dealing and non-poaching clauses in the employees' contracts. Ronnie acted for the former employer, led by James Laddie KC.

Team move litigation in the commercial property sector

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

A commercial property consultancy claimed two former employees had conspired together and with others, including a recruitment agent and their new employer, to execute an unlawful team move. Claims included breach of the duty of fidelity and post-termination restraints, misuse of confidential information, inducing breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy. Ronnie acted for the departing employees.

Confidentiality and data protection

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

An asset management firm accused a serving Fund Manager of hacking its email accounts and misusing its confidential information. Claims included breach of the duty of fidelity and fiduciary duty, breach of confidence, the DPA and GDPR, and misuse of private information. Ronnie acted for the Fund Manager, led by Anya Proops KC.

Urgent injunction without notice

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The High Court granted an urgent injunction at a hearing without notice, to prevent a solicitor from using or disclosing client lists and other confidential information he had taken from his employer. Ronnie acted for the successful applicant.

Non-solicit and non-dealing clauses

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The High Court granted an interim injunction to enforce non-solicit and non-dealing clauses in a former employee's contract of employment. Ronnie acted for the successful applicant.

Cahane v The Investigative Journal Ltd

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

A journalist claimed she had been induced to join the defendant as Editor-in-Chief by fraudulent misrepresentations about the nature of the journal and the role she would carry out. No defence was filed and she obtained default judgment. At this hearing, Senior Master Fontaine awarded her damages and costs in excess of £225,000. Ronnie acted for the successful claimant.

Employment

Ronnie's employment practice covers:

- the full range of claims in the Employment Tribunal, with a particular focus on discrimination and whistleblowing (including applications for interim relief);
- industrial relations disputes; and
- breach of contract and employee competition claims: see further under "Commercial Dispute Resolution" above.

Other Employment Tribunal cases include:

- Acting for employees and employers at hearings to determine issues under TUPE, including whether there has been a relevant transfer and assignment;
- Acting for a leading UK housebuilder defending claims of disability and age discrimination, victimisation and unfair dismissal at a 10-day hearing;
- Acting for a national bank defending claims for discrimination, whistleblowing and automatic unfair dismissal on a TUPE transfer at a 15-day hearing. Led by Jane Mulcahy KC;
- Acting for a high street bank defending claims for disability discrimination, failure to make reasonable adjustments and unfair dismissal at a 7-day hearing;
- Acting for a national rail company defending its shift premium policy against claims for indirect sex discrimination;
- Acting for a nationwide retailer defending claims for indirect sex discrimination and unfair dismissal arising out of a redundancy process at a 7-day hearing.



Ronnie Dennis is a calm and confident advocate who instils confidence.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Tribunal dismisses whistleblowing claims against world leading technology company

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was employed by the respondent as its Head of Technology. She was dismissed after failing her probation period due to her poor performance and behaviour, but claimed it was because of disclosures she had made about data security. She also claimed she had been subjected to 21 other detriments and victimisation. Ronnie acted successfully for the employer at the interim relief hearing and 8-day final hearing, when all the claims were dismissed.

Tribunal dismisses employee's claim his dismissal was related to disability

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was a manager for one of the world's largest oil and gas companies. He was dismissed after his employer concluded he had stolen items from work and then returned them whilst suspended. He denied theft and claimed the actions that led to his dismissal arose from depression. The Tribunal dismissed his claim for disability-related dismissal, as well as claims for harassment and indirect discrimination in respect of earlier events. Ronnie acted for the employer at the 9-day hearing.

Tribunal dismisses 68 allegations against vehicle recovery company

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant brought claims for constructive unfair dismissal, sexual harassment, sex discrimination and whistleblowing detriment against her former employer, a vehicle recovery company. The Tribunal dismissed her claims in respect of 68 alleged detriments and found that she was not constructively dismissed. Only one claim was upheld, in respect of a single WhatsApp exchange. Ronnie acted for the employer at the 11-day hearing.

Tribunal upholds unfair dismissal, harassment, victimisation and whistleblowing claims

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was employed by a global financial services firm in a senior role. He made disclosures to HR about his manager being guilty of misogyny and sexism, and was then dismissed on terms forfeiting his equity. The Tribunal found that his equity treatment was influenced by his disclosures and therefore constituted victimisation and whistleblowing detriment. The Tribunal also found he had been harassed by the events he disclosed to HR, which were related to gender, and that announcements about his departure were further acts of victimisation and whistleblowing detriment. Ronnie acted for the claimant at the 9-day hearing.

Investment adviser's whistleblowing claims

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was employed by a European hedge fund as an investment adviser. He claimed he was subject to a series of detriments for making protected disclosures about breach of FCA Principles and conflicts of interest in how the fund was managed. The alleged detriments included subjecting him to a performance improvement plan, deferring his annual bonus and suspending him pending a disciplinary investigation. He resigned and brought claims for whistleblowing detriment and constructive dismissal. Ronnie acted for the claimant at the interim relief hearing and subsequently.

Tribunal dismisses claims for trade union detriment and disability discrimination

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was a trade union representative who claimed he had been victimised and dismissed for Trade Union activities. He also claimed he had been discriminated against because of something arising from his depression/ anxiety, and that his employer failed to make reasonable adjustments by requiring him to carry out a particular role. The Tribunal found his dismissal was procedurally unfair but that he would have been dismissed in any event, and rejected all other claims. Ronnie acted for the employer at the 4-day hearing.

Gypsy discrimination claims

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant, who had gypsy ethnic origins, brought claims against his employer for direct and indirect race discrimination, harassment and whistleblowing detriment. The claims related to comments made to him at work, his unsuccessful application for promotion and his employer's policy that employees had to live nearby to carry out a particular role. Ronnie acted for the employer at the 7-day hearing.

Dadhania v SAP (UK) Ltd & Ors

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was a 61-year-old woman of Indian ethnic origin, who had been employed by a software solutions company as an Account Manager. She resigned when her two key accounts were reallocated to younger, white men, and brought claims for constructive dismissal, discrimination/ harassment and victimisation. The Tribunal upheld her claim for constructive unfair dismissal, but dismissed her Equality Act claims by a 2:1 majority. Ronnie acted for the claimant at the 7-day hearing. Read more about the case [here](#).

Council Chief Executive wrongfully dismissed

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was the former Chief Executive of the defendant council, who claimed she had been unfairly and wrongfully dismissed for making protected disclosures about the new Council Leader. The Tribunal found she had been wrongfully but not unfairly dismissed after a 5-day hearing. Ronnie acted for the claimant.

Covid-19 whistleblowing claims

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant was a financial recruitment consultant, who claimed he had been subjected to detriments and dismissed for making protected disclosures about breach of Covid-19 regulations. The Employment Tribunal dismissed all claims after a 4-day hearing. Ronnie acted for the successful employer.

Queensgate Investments LLP v Millet

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The EAT ruled that interim relief hearings in whistleblowing claims must be heard in public, unless the Tribunal makes an Order under Rule 50 of the ET Rules 2013. Ronnie acted for the Appellant, led by Sean Jones KC.

Bird & Rashid v Morrison Data Services (Water) Ltd

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimants were two Trade Union Representatives who claimed their employer had subjected them to detriments for their trade union activities. The Tribunal dismissed all claims after a 5-day hearing.

Beal v Avery Homes (Nelson) Ltd

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The High Court conducted the equivalent of a "Stage 2" hearing in equal pay claims brought by over 70 female care workers. The judgment contains helpful guidance on what constitutes a person's work for the purposes of any equal value assessment. Ronnie acted for the claimants, led by Sean Jones KC.

Patel-Jones v Babylon Partners Ltd

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Employment Tribunal dismissed claims for direct disability discrimination (including by association), harassment, failure to make reasonable adjustments, whistleblowing detriment and automatic unfair dismissal after a 12-day hearing. Ronnie acted for the successful employer.

Headley v Sensyne Health plc

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant had been employed by Sensyne as its Chief Financial Officer. He claimed he was dismissed for making protected disclosures and brought claims against the company and its CEO, Lord Drayson. Ronnie acted for the claimant at the interim relief hearing. The litigation was reported in the Times, Telegraph and Financial Times.

Law firm's bonus policy not discriminatory

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Employment Tribunal ruled that a bonus policy operated by a multinational law firm, which did not reduce hours targets for time spent on holiday, was neither directly nor indirectly discriminatory on grounds of maternity or gender. Ronnie acted for the successful law firm.

R. (Independent Workers Union of Great Britain) v Central Arbitration Committee

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Supperstone J rejected claims that workers have a right to compulsory collective bargaining with a third party who is not their employer under Art. 11 ECHR. Ronnie acted for the University of London, led by Christopher Jeans KC.

Ayodele v Citylink Ltd

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Court of Appeal ruled that employees bringing claims for discrimination bear the initial burden of proof under the Equality Act 2010, despite the change in wording as compared with the pre-EqA legislation. Read more about the case here.

Extraterritorial discrimination claims

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Employment Tribunal ruled that it had territorial jurisdiction to determine claims for unfair dismissal and discrimination brought by an Engineering Manager against a multinational oil and gas company, relying on acts alleged to have occurred in the USA. Ronnie acted for the successful claimant.

Tribunal grants interim relief in whistleblowing claim

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Employment Tribunal granted interim relief to a Senior Director of Business Development in his whistleblowing claim against his former employer, a multinational computer services company. The Tribunal was satisfied that the claimant was likely to succeed in showing that he was dismissed for making protected disclosures about sexual harassment and tax fraud, rather than for poor performance as alleged by the company. Ronnie acted for the successful claimant.

Merseyrail Electrics 2002 Ltd v National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Merseyrail sought an injunction to prevent RMT members from going out on strike in connection with the introduction of driver only operated trains. Ronnie acted for Merseyrail, led by Bruce Carr KC.

Public

Ronnie's public law practice encompasses all areas of judicial review. He has acted in a number of high-profile judicial review claims on behalf of private companies, local authorities and central government.

R. (United Trade Action Group Ltd) v Transopco

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

A black cab drivers' Union challenged the defendant's licence to operate the FreeNow app in London. They argued drivers using the app were 'plying for hire' and therefore acting unlawfully unless they also held hackney carriage licences. The Court of Appeal upheld the Divisional Court's judgment dismissing the claim. Ronnie acted for the successful defendant at first instance and on appeal, led by Philip Kolvin KC. [Read more about the case here.](#)

R. (Williams) v Caerphilly County Borough Council

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The Court of Appeal dismissed a challenge to the Council's decision to adopt a 10-year leisure strategy. The strategy was not a relevant arrangement within the scope of the Welsh improvement duty (akin to best value in England); or contrary to the Council's budget, so that the decision could properly be taken by Cabinet. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC. [Read more about the case here.](#)

R. (Independent Workers Union of Great Britain) v Central Arbitration Committee

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Supperstone J rejected claims that workers have a right to compulsory collective bargaining with a third party who is not their employer under Art. 11 ECHR. Ronnie acted for the University of London, led by Christopher Jeans KC.

R. (City of Wolverhampton Council) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Seven local authorities in the West Midlands challenged the Home Secretary's policy for the dispersal of asylum seekers in the UK. They argued the policy was irrational and unfair for relying on areas to volunteer, but not allowing volunteers to withdraw their consent. Shortly before the hearing the policy was changed, and the claim was withdrawn. In this judgment, Fordham J made no order as to costs. Ronnie acted for the local authorities, led by Peter Oldham KC.

R. (L) v Buckinghamshire CC

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Supperstone J rejected the claimant's application for interim relief to prevent the council from taking any further steps to implement a decision to repurpose 19 of its 35 children's centres. Ronnie acted for the Council.

R. (Mas Group Holdings Ltd) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant challenged the defendant's policy of refusing to allow animal exporters to use a route via Ireland unless a shorter route via the Channel was unavailable. The claimant argued the policy constituted a disproportionate restraint on trade contrary to the EU Regulation for the protection of animals during transport and Art. 35 TFEU. Ronnie acted for the claimant, led by Conor Quigley KC.

R (Hussain) v Sandwell Metropolitan BC

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

An elected member of the council sought judicial review of on-going investigations into allegations against him. Green J dismissed the claim, ruling that the Council had the power to investigate under s. 28 of the Localism Act 2011, and that the process had not been tainted by actual or apparent bias. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC. [Read more about the case here.](#)

R. (British Medical Association) v Secretary of State for Health

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The BMA sought to challenge the Health Secretary's decision to approve a new contract for junior doctors in the NHS in England, arguing that he had failed to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. Ronnie acted for the Health Secretary, led by Clive Sheldon KC.

R (Logan) v Havering LBC

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Blake J ruled that a Council Tax Reduction Scheme, under which all taxpayers paid some council tax except in cases of exceptional hardship, was not discriminatory on grounds of age or disability. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by Clive Sheldon KC.

R. (Justice for Health Ltd) v Secretary of State for Health

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Green J dismissed claims that the Health Secretary's decision to approve a new contract for junior doctors in the NHS in England was unlawful. The Judge found that the decision was within the scope of his powers, complied with his duty of transparency and was not irrational. Ronnie acted for the the Health Secretary, led by Clive Sheldon KC. [Read more about the case here.](#)

R (O'Neill) v Lambeth LBC

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Lang J dismissed a challenge to the Council's decision to vary a lease on the South Bank of the River Thames as part of the Garden Bridge project. The Judge found that the decision was within the Council's powers, did not involve any disposal of land under the LGA 1972, and that Reg. 13(1) of the Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 was intra vires. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by Clive Sheldon KC.

R (Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Hickinbottom J ruled that the Council had not acted irrationally or failed to take account of relevant considerations when it made a loan of £14.4m to the company that manages the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

Sky Blue Sports & Leisure Ltd v Coventry City Council

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant applied for specific disclosure between its application for permission to seek judicial review having been refused, and the oral renewal hearing. Silber J refused the application. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

State Aid & Subsidy Control

Ronnie also specialises in State aid/subsidy control. He acted for Coventry City Council in the leading domestic cases on the private investor test for State aid: **R. (Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council**. He now acts and advises in all areas of State aid/ subsidy control.

Post-Brexit subsidy control

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Advising private companies on the compatibility of UK government grants with the subsidy control provisions of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Defending challenge to the Mayoral Infrastructure Levy

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant sought to challenge the Mayor of London's levy on new commercial, retail and hotel development across London. The claim raised complex issues around the application of the State aid rules to different rates of taxation for different uses in different areas. Ronnie acted for the Mayor of London, led by Jonathan Moffett KC.

(Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council (No. 2)

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The owners of Coventry City Football Club argued that the Council had granted a State aid to Wasps RFC by selling its interests in the Ricoh Arena at an undervalue. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision that the claim was unarguable. The Council had been entitled to rely on an independent valuation from KPMG, which demonstrated that it had complied with the private vendor test. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

(Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council (No. 1)

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The owners of Coventry City Football Club argued that the Council had granted a State aid to the operator of the Ricoh Arena, ACL, by lending it £14.4m on non-commercial terms. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision dismissing the claim. The Court's judgment contains a helpful summary of the principles to be applied under the private investor test. Applying those principles, a private investor might also have made the loan because it was at a commercial rate of interest and safeguarded the Council's 50% share in ACL. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

Achievements

Education

University of Oxford, Bachelor of Civil Law, Distinction & Law Faculty Prize

University College London, Law LLB, First Class



He gets on top of complex facts and law, he works incredibly quickly, he works well with the client, and his analysis is superb in drilling down into what really matters to advance the best possible case

CHAMBERS UK



He adopts a collaborative approach and has the ability to get to the crux of a case quickly

LEGAL 500



He is laser-focused, client-friendly and a relentless cross-examiner

LEGAL 500

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An immensely valuable junior

LEGAL 500

“

A tower of strength with incredible capacity for work and someone you would always want on your team

LEGAL 500

“

He's very bright, very helpful and has a very quick turnaround of work

CHAMBERS UK

“

Keeps things simple and to the point, effectively manages the litigation, and makes the key points heard

CHAMBERS UK

“

He's an excellent all-round barrister; he's very commercial, gives a pragmatic view and is very impressive on his feet

CHAMBERS UK

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Very smart and diligent. Very good with numbers

LEGAL 500