
About Gateley

Gateley is a top 50 UK law firm with a wealth of experience across a wide range of sports.

Our dedicated sports unit will ensure that you receive first rate support on all sport related matters. Our wealth of connections outside the legal profession means we can put together a starting eleven which will ensure that the right result is achieved.

We have enviable experience dealing with sports clubs, agents and governing bodies on all corporate, commercial and contractual issues.

- With over 700 employees including 146 partners and 300 lawyers, we are one of the UK's top 50 law firms
- We have also been ranked as 'Best Legal Adviser' in the 2011 Legal Week Client Satisfaction Report
- Over 70 of our lawyers are ranked as Leading Individuals in the 2011 edition of Chambers legal directory

Our locations

With offices in 8 major UK cities, we offer our clients an unrivalled domestic reach in the UK with expert lawyers from all of our main service areas within each of these offices - Birmingham, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, Nottingham, we also have offices in Edinburgh and Glasgow and an international office in Dubai

Areas of law covered

Administrative and public law - we have a dedicated Public Services Group which delivers results for local authorities, NDPBs, Executive Agencies, and other public organisations in the full range of legal services including regular advice on administrative and public law issues.

Bidding & staging major events (International) – we have undertaken work for a number of clients in connection with the bidding and staging of major events. Work has included advising on the tender process/criteria, contracts with third party service providers, property/planning related issues and employment/worker matters. We have experience in the UK and abroad.

Charity & Trust law including CASC registration - we have significant experience in giving general advice and assistance on charity law and practice. This includes establishing new charitable organisations; registering them with the Charity Commission and establishing community amateur sports clubs. We also advise charities and private trusts regarding constitutional matters and restructuring.

Contracts/grant agreements - we deal with a wide range of contract types and issues with varying degrees of complexity. Our team covers everything from one off agreements for individual clients to extremely high value outsourcing agreements and advice on grant agreements between and from public bodies.

Corporate law/governance/constitutional affairs - we advise public and private companies, owner-managed businesses and entrepreneurs on the whole range of corporate matters including corporate governance and constitutional affairs.

Commercial/sponsorship/franchising/licensing - we regularly advise on all of the above, are affiliated members of the British Franchise Association and members of LIMA.

Data protection/privacy - we handle a wide range of data protection matters including preparing responses to subject access requests, through making and defending privacy and confidentiality claims to defending regulatory action by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Employment law - we advise on all areas of employment law. Our non-contentious service includes advising on TUPE, drafting contracts and formulating policies and procedures and our contentious service includes advice and representation in unfair dismissal, breach of contract, whistleblowing, discrimination and equal pay claims.

Equality and disability law - we regularly train clients on equal opportunities and have designed 'E-quality' an interactive training tool for employers on equality and disability discrimination.

EU sports policy/law (Competition law) - we regularly advise our sporting and non sporting clients on a range of competition issues. We assist clients both under investigation by the relevant competition authorities and also with regard to the implementation of compliance policies.

Intellectual property law - we regularly advise a wide range of clients on all aspects of contentious and non-contentious intellectual property ('IP'). Our non contentious service includes the drafting of licence agreements and strategic advice on all areas of IP and our contentious service spans copyright, design right, trade mark, passing off and patent litigation.

Insolvency law - we are very experienced in insolvency matters and provide a dedicated and tailored recovery and insolvency service to our clients whether they are banks, lenders, venture capitalists or insolvency practitioners.

Immigration law – we have a specialist team advising on all immigration matters and in particular in relation to the legal status of workers in the UK and also the movement of workers from Europe and beyond into the UK.

Litigation - we advise on all forms of dispute resolution procedures including mediation, adjudication, arbitration, and formal litigation and will act on any type of commercial dispute. Many of our partners are accredited mediators.

New media/IT – we are a recognised leader in the new media field, with particular expertise in legal issues surrounding social media and digital content.

Property, planning and construction law - our large and very experienced real estate team has advised on all aspects of commercial and residential property matters including planning and construction law.

Publishing/media law - our expertise covers online, literary and music publishing, and we have provided content and defamation clearance for a number of high profile publications as well as negotiating contract terms for content creators. In broadcast media we regularly advise on television and film production issues, broadcasting law, website content and regulation, online video content issues, advertising law and music exploitation across multiple formats.

Lead Contact



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Expertise

John will be your main contact at Gateley. John will lead the relationship and ensure that your requirements are met by the appropriate level of expertise within the firm.

John's main areas of expertise are intellectual property exploitation, franchising, brand licensing, commercial agreements, sports, media and competition law.

Successes

- Has acted for a wide range of sports clients including football clubs, agents, athletes and leading sports brands.
- His experience spans advising on the protection and exploitation of personality rights and drafting and negotiating a vast range of commercial agreements including merchandising and sponsorship agreements.
- Acts for both brand owners and licensees and has acted in some of the biggest deals in sport, including multi million pound kit and licensing agreements and advising on the naming rights of new stadia.

"John Burns is a highly regarded non-contentious expert with particular experience in the sports and media sectors" Chambers 2012