

## 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 London real estate disputes team. He is Vice-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



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### Languages

English

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### Practices

Business Restructuring and  
Insolvency

Litigation Services

Real Estate

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### Industries

Real Estate

Private Capital

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### Education and

press commentator and speaker at industry conferences. In their latest editions, Chambers & Partners placed Mathew as a Band 1 practitioner in his field and the Legal 500 named him as a leading individual.

## 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 various High Court challenges to retail and leisure CVAs, including Debenhams, Monsoon Accessorize, Seventy-Three Retail (Timberland) and Regis.

## Awards and rankings

## admissions

### Education

Inns of Court School of Law,  
London

The University of Nottingham

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### Memberships

Property Litigation Association

Property Litigation Association Law Reform Committee

Associate Member of R3  
(Association of Insolvency Professionals)

Joint Insolvency Committee

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### Accolades

"one of the best in the business... an extraordinary appreciation of commercial and legal issues and an ability to stay in control of cases"

*Chambers UK 2020*

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"young and energetic, leader in his field"

*Legal 500 UK*

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- Property Litigation, *Legal 500 UK*, 2021
- Band 1, Real Estate Litigation, *Chambers and Partners UK*, 2021

## Latest thinking and events

- News
  - Five minutes with Mathew Ditchburn
- News
  - Pre-packaged goods
- News
  - The Sun Also Rises on Pre-pack Administration Reform
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - UK COVID-19: Government extends protections for commercial tenants *Keeping It Real Estate*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - COVID-19 UK: Use Classes Order - notes on the class system
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - COVID-19 UK: The Business and Planning Bill - a break in the clouds for the development industry