



DAVID LAWS

A REFERENCE

15 December
2005.

FROM SIMON DAVENPORT, Barrister.

To the reader,

This is a general reference for David Laws whom I have known professionally for more than 12 years. My contact with him has come from working together on litigation cases and other non-litigious matters. Therefore our respective roles have been as solicitor and barrister. We have worked together alone and as part of bigger teams. Such is the exposure that we have had over this period of time that we have worked on in excess of thirty (30) substantial cases. Some of those cases have lasted many years and I have had contact with David on literally hundreds of occasions. I probably speak to him averagely twice a week every week and have done so for some years now. I feel that I have got to know him very well and have seen him in almost all work scenarios.

For my part I am a barrister of 18 years call (1987), a member of Inner Temple and a member of 3, Hare Court Temple, London. I am a commercial barrister who also has a practice in constitutional and commonwealth appeals to the Privy Council. I am an elected member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in the US.

David has handled and at the time of writing is still handling very large scale and large value domestic and international commercial and common law litigation, arbitration and mediation. He has handled it for the whole time that I have know him as the leader of whatever lawyer structure has been in place to deal with the particular case. He is one of the senior partners of his law firm, Rogers & Norton. I believe he is the highest earning of his partners.

I know that he has handled, for example, a number of significant cases involved in the oil industry in the UK, Nigeria, Mexico and Scandinavian water sectors. These cases have involved international joint venture issues with sensitive local jurisdictional matters and government involvements.

He has handled control of an interlinked series of shareholder control issues involving the profits and application of ultra deep spallation drilling technology in UK, US and Libya also involving argument over the ownership of US litigation proceeds. These claims involved mediation by the foremost mediator/s in the UK and ground breaking argument in relation to abuse of confidence.



He has handled ultra sensitive emergency closures of one of the biggest metal re-processing plants in the UK and its involvement in a series of pieces of litigation in the commercial and environmental fields.

His general commercial activity has made him one of the leading commercial practitioners in the Anglian area with a city style client base of faithful corporate and individual clients.

I put this unusual run of success down to his ability to have a fastidious approach to case preparation allied with an obvious warmth and approachability which gives his clients a considerable confidence that they have the right man.

He is an effective negotiator and above all has very good judgment about the likelihoods in a case and which way a ruling (legal or factual) is likely to go. This considerably helps him plan campaigns in advance and helps weed out the unnecessary and focus on the critical.

Good judgment helps him manage client expectations well and I have never known him fall out with a client or vice versa, not easy over an extended period of concentrated litigation.

But more than anything David is far and away the nicest man I have ever worked with in the law at any level at any time. He has fantastic team building capacities and he extracts the very best efforts from barristers that he instructs because they all want to do well for him. He is without question a decent and self-effacing man with no side or hostility to him. Not only does it make him marvellous to work with or for (or indeed against sometimes) but it allows him not to be de-focused and to concentrate on what really matters.

I unhesitatingly recommend him; I know that anyone who has the privilege to work with David will be increased by the experience and will find him an able and amicable colleague. I know that he has planned to leave the UK for his own well considered personal reasons and has therefore left his law practice on his own terms.

I would be very content to discuss any other matters that may arise and to that extent give my email address as a point of first contact.

It is sdavenport@3harecourt.com

Simon Davenport