



Fiona Hughes

Senior Associate

Email: fhughes@darwingray.com

Fiona is a Senior Associate in our highly regarded dispute resolution team. She draws from her varied experience in practice areas across a number of different firms over the last 20 years, and now closely works with Darwin Gray colleagues from all disciplines to advise on a wide range of commercial disputes.

Fiona has built a wealth of experience advising individuals and businesses, from local SMEs to multinational corporations, on commercial issues arising from disputes. She has most recently been trusted by financial services organisations including international clearing banks, title insurers and lenders to advise on a range of financial services disputes and investigations, involving fraud, professional negligence, trusts, title and security issues, consumer credit, payments and recoveries litigation.

Fiona has a specialism in business and contract disputes, and is particularly experienced in providing commercial advice and negotiating solutions in the context of sensitive, high-profile or reputationally challenging situations. Clients appreciate Fiona's understanding of their structure, vision and commercial drivers and she is known for her pragmatic and solutions-based approach.

She regularly delivers training sessions to clients on legal issues and processes critical to their business, and has extensive experience of delivering strategic advice and managing remediation projects for major financial institutions

Recent work

- Successfully representing clients in interim applications in money claims and in possession claims
- Successfully defending undue influence and mis-selling allegations against mortgage lenders
- Advising clients on recovery of secured and unsecured debts
- Obtaining enforcement orders against assets based in other jurisdictions
- Advising on taking possession of abandoned or high-risk properties
- Negotiating commercial settlements on disputed debt claims
- Advising lender clients on complex title disputes
- Advising on restructure of a client's internal organisation through creating processes and workflows to streamline efficiencies, reduce costs and improve productivity

(Fiona joined Darwin Gray in February 2024 and the above transactions were advised on prior to her joining.)

Expertise

- Contract disputes
- Professional negligence
- Company and business disputes
- Secured and unsecured debt recovery
- Settlements and alternative dispute resolution
- Property, land and title disputes
- Possession issues
- Financial services disputes and investigations
- Regulatory issue
- Corporate administrative applications
- Legal project management, operational review and system implementation

Career

Experience

- Senior Associate, Darwin Gray LLP – 2024 - present
- Associate, TLT LLP – 2016 – 2024
- Solicitor, DAC Beachcroft LLP – 2013 – 2016
- Solicitor, Darwin Gray LLP, 2011 – 2013
- Trainee Solicitor, Darwin Gray LLP – 2010 - 2011

Education

- Cardiff University
- Queens University Belfast
- Rathmore Grammar School

Membership

- Women in Banking and Finance (WIBF)