

# Joseph Cowles LLB (Hons); LPC; LEC

Attorney-at-law and solicitor



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## Jurisdictions and admissions

### Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales (2015)

Admitted to practice as a Solicitor in England & Wales; Solicitors Regulation Authority ID number 577135.

### Bar of Trinidad and Tobago (2019)

Enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Bar number COJ2019015

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## Summary of legal qualifications

### Hugh Wooding Law School (Sept 2018 – March 2019)

#### Legal Education Certificate (6-month transitional course)

- Attached to Trinity Chambers for duration of course.

### University of Law (Bristol) (2011-2012)

#### Legal Practice Course

- Overall distinction with an average mark of 74.5%. Awarded distinctions in Litigation, Business Law and Practice, Property Law, Employment Law and Advanced Criminal Law.

### Durham University (2007-2010)

#### Law LLB, 2:1 (67)

- Scored first class marks in the following modules; Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Family Law and International Human Rights Law.
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## Professional experience

### Ingram Winter Green LLP, London, U.K

#### *Solicitor, Litigation (2017 – 2018)*

- Fast paced and busy city practice
- Acted for high-profile clients in a civil, corporate, property and insolvency matters.



### Higgs and Sons Solicitors, Birmingham, U.K

#### *Trainee Solicitor (2013-2015)*

#### *Solicitor, Dispute Resolution (2015-2017)*

- Leading Midlands law firm;
- Trained in litigation, corporate, regulatory and private client



### Freshfields, Bruckhaus, Deringer, London, U.K

#### *Paralegal, Dispute Resolution (2012)*

- Worked on large scale disclosure and due diligence projects in big-ticket litigation and corporate deals.



**Significant  
and reported  
cases**

**Simon and others –v- Lyder and another [2019] UKPC 38**

- Acting for leading newspaper in successfully overturning a Court of Appeal decision at the Privy Council.
- The case is now the highest judicial authority on a well-known issue in the common law of defamation concerning when two or more statements made on different occasions can be aggregated for the purposes of giving rise to a cause of action.

**Farrington CR Limited –v- Home Counties Developments Limited [2017]; *High Court of Justice; Business and Property Courts of England & Wales (BPC); Chancery Division***

- Acting for the SPV of a high-profile London property development and investment company.
- Successfully obtained judgment for £1.4 million in damages arising from the termination of an agreement to purchase commercial development.
- Successfully opposed a relief from sanctions application following the defendant's failure to file a cost budget pursuant to CPR 13.3 (UK). This resulted in the defendant being barred from recovering its costs of the litigation even if successful.

**[confidential] [2018]; [High Court of Justice; BPC; Insolvency Division]**

- Acting for a creditor of a company placed into administration. Our investigations into the administration unearthed significant impropriety by the directors and, *inter alia*, circa £4million of unaccounted monies.
- Successfully obtained an order lifting the statutory moratorium imposed by Schedule B1 of the Insolvency Act 1986, which allowed our client to successfully pursue its claim for damages.
- Successfully secured a costs order against the administrators personally.

**Conviction of Dharam Prakash Gopee [2017-2018]**

- Instructed on a number of civil matters stemming from the highly publicised conviction of Dharam Gopee for flagrant and unauthorised consumer credit lending.
- Obtained declarations of invalidity of loans due to breaches of the Consumer Credit Act, the removal of restrictions and charges on properties and the lifting of a restraint order.

**[confidential] Arbitration under the LCIA Rules [2016]**

- Successful pursued a counterclaim alleging deceit and fraudulent misrepresentation in response to a claim for restitution and breach of contract in relation to the sale and purchase of gold bullion.
- Following a four day hearing, the tribunal accepted our allegations that the Claimant (one of the world's leading metal refiners) had systematically defrauded our client over the course of a three year trading relationship involving the sale and purchase of £83 million worth of gold bullion across nearly 2,000 transactions.

**Hadfield –v- Cooke (and another) [2015] EWHC 3480 (Ch)**

- Acted for the Defendant in a case concerning the disputed beneficial ownership of shares in a company operating in the recycling sector.
- The Claimant issued proceedings for declaratory relief, which culminated in a four day trial in the Chancery Division. The case turned on whether an oral trust had been declared in 2003 and the court ruled in favour of the Claimant.

**Saint Gobain Building Distribution Ltd –v- Hillmead Joinery (Swindon) Ltd**  
[2015] All ER (D) 226

- Acted for the Claimant who issued proceedings to recover unpaid invoices for goods delivered. The Defendant admitted the claim but pursued a counterclaim alleging that the Claimant had supplied defective laminate bonded panels.
  - Following an eight day trial at the Technology and Construction Court, the court ruled in favour of the Claimant, dismissed the Defendant’s counterclaim in its entirety and ordered the Defendant to pay the Claimant’s costs.
  - The case is best known for being a significant authority on the reasonableness of exclusion clauses in commercial contracts.
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**Other legal experience**

**Texas Defender Service, Houston, Texas** (Jan 2013 – May 2013)

*Amicus intern*

- Successfully came through competitive application process.
- Assisted attorneys representing clients serving time on death row.
- Involved in securing last minute stays of execution in two high profile cases; Duane Buck and Rigoberto Avila.
- Part of legal team successful in downgrading two death sentences to ‘life without parole’.
- Tasks included; interviewing witnesses, visiting clients, legal research, record collection, investigative work, summarising transcripts and case digestion.

**Training provider to Higgs & Sons’ corporate legal team** (2015-2017)

- Regularly provided internal training to corporate lawyers on various litigation issues affecting their practice.

**Training provider to Higgs & Sons’ dispute resolution team** (2015-2017)

- Provided bi-monthly training sessions on developments in the law and interesting cases.

**Pro Bono Legal Advice Clinic at St Mungos Hostel, Bristol** (2011-2012)

**Intern at Projects Abroad Human Rights Office, Cape Town, South Africa**  
(2009)

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**Achievements**

- Ran Dublin marathon in time of 3:45:39 (2016)
  - Cycled 1,500 miles from Vancouver to San Francisco in four weeks (2017)
  - Won charity white collar boxing bout (2017)
  - Vice President of English Law Students Association (2009-10)
  - Semi-finalist of College of Law mooted competition (2011)
  - ‘Best Student Radio DJ’ at Durham University Student Awards (2008)
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