

overview



Speechly Bircham at a glance

Who are we?

Speechly Bircham is a City-based law firm with a strong focus on personal service and building long-term relationships with our clients. Nearly 250 lawyers provide transactional, advisory and dispute resolution services to our three main client markets: business clients; private clients and clients in the real estate, construction and engineering sector.

We believe that close partner involvement and an emphasis on personal service are key to building long-term relationships with our clients. Our teams work energetically to deliver commercial and practical solutions and to advise clients in an efficient and cost-effective way.

Our commercial clients include UK and international listed companies, banks, financial institutions, funds, professional services organisations, entrepreneurs and privately owned businesses. Our highly regarded private client practice looks after the interests of private individuals, families and trusts.

We provide advice for both UK and international clients doing business around the world. This often involves managing and co-ordinating international projects involving independent professional advisers in a range of jurisdictions. In many cases we will assist in the selection of overseas lawyers to be appointed from the firm's network of preferred law firms. This is a long-standing informal network of firms with whom we work and share the same professional standards and service values.



“We are an ambitious fast-developing firm that works energetically to get the right results for our clients. We have a clear vision and a robust strategy that we are committed to achieving.”

Michael Lingens, Managing Partner

Organised to meet your needs

We service three principal client markets, so we are structured around the needs of our clients. This ensures our clients benefit from ready access to integrated teams of advisers, accustomed to working together, who combine a range of legal expertise.

Business Services

Our commercial clients benefit from the breadth of experience of the specialist teams in Speechly Bircham's Business Services division. With more than 120 lawyers, the firm has teams providing businesses with integrated transactional, advisory and dispute resolution services to meet their developing needs across the areas below.

- The *Banking & Finance* team advises both lenders and borrowers and is particularly experienced in complex cross-border and syndicated transactions. It has a notable securitisation practice, acting for investment managers.
- The *Commercial Dispute Resolution* team handles domestic and international disputes whether by High Court litigation, arbitration or mediation. Specific areas of expertise include insolvency and professional negligence.
- The *Corporate Finance* team has three areas of focus: it acts for a number of well known quoted companies and routinely handles AIM IPOs and secondary issues; it advises on M&A for large corporate clients and privately-owned companies alike; it advises private equity investors, investee companies and management teams on venture and development capital financing and buy-outs.

- The *Corporate Tax* team provides integrated tax advice on the planning and implementation of transactions for entrepreneurs, privately owned companies and companies held through trust structures. The strength of the team is a particular feature of the firm's practice.
- The *Employment* team has expertise in handling sensitive and complex issues relating to the employment relationship, including contentious, non-contentious matters and industrial relations. The team includes specialist expertise on business immigration issues. Clients include businesses in the UK and overseas, operating across a range of industrial sectors with a strong focus on financial institutions. We also act for senior executives.
- The *Financial Services* team is recognised for its regulatory, funds and insurance advisory and transactional work. Clients include established financial institutions, start-ups and other businesses supporting the sector.
- The *Intellectual Property, Technology & Commercial* team's expertise includes patents, trade marks and designs, digital media and e-commerce, computer and biotechnology contracts, data protection and information security, franchising and sport.
- The *Pensions* team has expertise in dealing with all types of schemes in the private and public sector. In today's world its particular expertise in final salary schemes, whether advising trustees or corporates, is highly relevant to corporate transactions.

Our clients include major quoted companies, multi-nationals and financial institutions as well as family companies and entrepreneurs, and operate across sectors including financial services; pharmaceutical and healthcare; engineering; media; computer games; IT; fashion; consumer goods and retail.



Private Client Services

Our leading Private Client practice is ranked as one of the top ten in the world (Chambers Global), and it is the second largest private client group in London. We are widely known for providing a complete service to UK and international wealthy individuals, shareholders, families, trustees, private banks and trust companies which integrates wealth protection, tax and succession planning, family, property, philanthropy and trust and probate litigation. Providing integrated practical advice on wealth protection, tax and succession planning, charities (philanthropy), family and real estate issues in difficult and sometimes contentious circumstances is a key feature.

Our clients include chairmen of FTSE 100 companies, entrepreneurs in the property, media and financial services sectors, and members of the UK and foreign royal families, and many individuals in The Sunday Times and Forbes Rich Lists. Much of our work is international and the team has developed excellent relationships with other advisers in all the key international jurisdictions.

Real Estate, Construction & Engineering Services

Over 70 lawyers work in multidisciplinary teams to provide transactional, advisory and dispute resolution advice to lenders, investors, developers, occupiers, contractors and engineers. Clients include major quoted and international companies, blue chip financial institutions, funds, house-builders, private investors and consultants.

We operate across all major real estate sectors including commercial and industrial property, strategic land and regeneration; urban estates; healthcare; retail and leisure. Our team of construction and engineering lawyers also handle major construction and infrastructure projects and disputes, both domestically and internationally.

Our services include real estate, finance, tax, planning and environment, sustainability, construction and dispute resolution. Our key strength is our ability to manage complex, high profile projects where we have the full range of specialists to handle onshore and offshore projects from start to finish.

Our clients tell us we have “that elusive blend of people, culture, knowledge and ability” which distinguishes us from other law firms.

How do we help clients achieve their goals?

We make it our business to understand fully how our clients operate, fostering long-term relationships and providing an exceptional combination of commercial knowledge and legal expertise to achieve desired goals.

Whilst our teams have knowledge spanning numerous business sectors, we also have cross-practice sector groups, including those focusing on the needs of financial services, healthcare and technology organisations.

Practical advice and impeccable service delivered by partner-led teams lie at the heart of our offering. Our approach means clients get a personal and tailored service from a team which consists of a high proportion of partners and fee earners with specialist skills, some with in-house experience as our lawyers are often seconded to clients. We provide bespoke in-house training for many clients and intermediaries.



Our clients receive a service that is responsive and timely, from a team of people who are commercial, accessible and approachable.

Key contacts

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Real Estate, Construction & Engineering Services

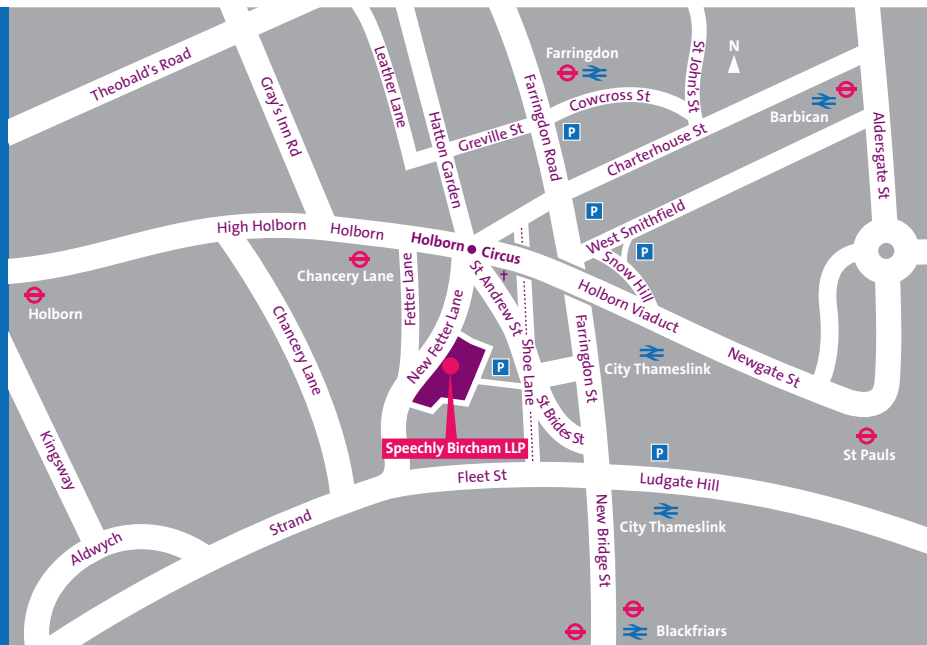
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