

Libby Payne

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Libby is a partner in the employment team.

A former competitive fencer, she is now an equally enthusiastic employment and sports lawyer. She acts for both employers and senior executives and also for sports clubs' agents and athletes.

Having a real passion for the law, she enjoys coming up with creative and practical solutions to even the most novel issues. She has been praised by barristers for her '*cogent and coherent counter arguments*'.

Whether acting for employer or employee, or on either side of a commercial transaction, she is able to establish quickly the client's ideal outcome and formulate an appropriate strategy.

Complementary to her employment practice, she is also instructed on a range of sports law matters involving both employment and regulatory advice. Her clients include a professional football club, motorsport brand and several top level sports coaches, agents and managers. She has previously been a board director of British Fencing, with a particular responsibility for equality issues.

She is a member of Withers' dedicated luxury brands team and a number of her clients (both employee and employer) are from the design or fashion sectors.

Libby enjoys writing articles on novel or developing areas of law and practice and has been published on a number of occasions covering both employment and sports law matters. A confident public speaker, Libby enjoys delivering engaging and practical training on a variety of employment and sports law topics.

Track record

High court litigation

High court litigation to recover unpaid bonuses for employees.

Transfer of Ilkay Gündoğan

Advising on the transfer of Ilkay Gündogan to Manchester City Football Club.

Designer fashion retailer

Providing strategic and reactive employment law advice to a designer fashion retailer.

Acquisition of Lotus F1 team

Assisting with the acquisition of Lotus F1 team by Renault.

Appointment of Jürgen Klopp

Advising on the appointment of Jürgen Klopp as manager of Liverpool Football Club.

Whistle blowing claim

Successfully representing a claimant in a jurisdictional dispute relating to a whistle blowing claim.

Acquisition by LVMH

The acquisition by LVMH of stakes in British shoe designer Nicholas Kirkwood and British fashion house J W Anderson.

Admissions

England and Wales, 2009

Education

Brasenose College

Oxford University, BA (Hons) Jurisprudence

Languages

English

Memberships

Employment Lawyers Association

British Association of Sport and the Law

Key dates

Year joined: 2013

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