



LEGAL COSTS

Achieving the desired outcome for your disputes matter is what our lawyers do best. Achieving the best possible costs recovery, or minimizing the costs exposure, is where our Costs Team ensure we offer a complete service that sets us apart from many other disputes law firms.

Our Costs Team is happy to receive instructions on cases where we do not act on the underlying dispute. Again, this sets us apart from many other firms in this area.

We deal with a wide range of issues arising from legal costs from the outset of the matter through to the final costs recovery either justifying, or opposing them. Working as an integral part of the firm's Disputes teams gives us a valuable insight into costs disputes both pre and post the dispute, whether it be arbitration, litigation, mediation, or more specialised proceedings e.g. adjudication.

Costs Lawyers have "*rights of audience*" and "*rights to conduct costs litigation*" pursuant to the Legal Services Act 2007, which therefore avoids the need to instruct outside counsel, thereby saving costs.

How are we different?

- Part of a global firm, with access to global resources
- Able to offer advice and act on costs issues across many of the international courts and international arbitration institutions
- Advice and representation from the outset to completion of the matter
- No need to instruct separate costs counsel
- Able to act on costs matters even where we did not act on the underlying case

Services we offer :

Getting the right costs pricing at the outset:

- **Retainers/Client Care Letters**
 - Preparing bespoke fee agreements
 - Advising on fee agreements between HFW and our clients
 - Advising on fee agreements between HFW and counsel/experts
 - Working with our Funding Committee, advising on Third Party Funding arrangements; and
 - Advising on Legal Expenses Insurance (ATE and BTE)
- **Building estimates of legal costs**
 - Preparing estimates of costs and disbursements
 - Advising on counsel/expert's fee proposals
- **Managing legal spend**
 - Providing tracking services for agreed/ordered estimates of legal costs

Contentious Costs (between the parties)

- **Arbitration**
 - Preparing and opposing Schedules of Costs
 - Written and oral submissions on legal costs
- **England and Wales litigation in the High Court, Court of Appeal, UK Supreme Court, Privy Council, Employment Appeals Tribunal, and Competition Appeals Tribunal**
 - Advising on costs aspects of consent and final orders
 - Costs Management
 - Preparing and opposing Precedent H Costs Budgets

- Negotiating and compromising agreements on Precedent H Costs Budgets and preparing Precedent R Budget Discussion Reports
- Providing written and oral submissions on Precedent H Costs Budgets
- Attending Costs Case Management Conferences (CCMCs)
- Providing a tracking service for agreed/ordered Precedent H Costs Budgets
- Interlocutory Applications
 - Preparing and opposing Statements of Costs
- Detailed Assessment Proceedings
 - Preparing and opposing Bills of Costs (including the e-Bill which came into force in April 2018)
 - Commencing Detailed Assessment Proceedings
 - Preparing Points of Dispute
 - Preparing Points of Reply
 - Attending Interlocutory Applications
 - Preparing written and oral submissions
 - Attending Detailed Assessment Hearings
- **International Courts (DIFC Courts, Hong Kong High Court etc.)**
 - Interlocutory Applications
 - Preparing and opposing Statements of Costs
 - Preparing written and oral submissions
 - Drafting post claim costs resolutions
 - Detailed Assessment Proceedings
 - Preparing and opposing Bills of Costs
 - Providing written and oral submissions on legal costs

Contentious Costs (Solicitor and Client)

- Commencing proceedings under the Solicitors Act 1974
- Preparing and opposing costs breakdowns for:
 - Directions Hearings
 - Interim Applications
- Preparing written and oral submissions

Costs Auditing and Expert Reports

- **Auditing legal costs and WIP analysis**
 - Represent Solicitors – identifying and advising on inefficiencies and financial consequences
 - Represent previous Solicitors – analysing legal spend and advising on resolution strategies
 - Advice on Alternative Funding Agreements
- **Benchmarking and pricing for future costs**
 - Utilising sector specific historical data to project future legal spend

Expert Evidence

- Preparing Court compliant reports opining on legal expenditure
- Oral evidence

Training and Current awareness

• Conferences, Seminars and Webinars, the list of topics currently includes:

- Time recording
- File management
- Costs management
- Recent costs case law
- Solicitor and client issues

• Monthly costs case law updates and guides to best practice

Charges

- **Our charges are based either on reasonable hourly rates or Alternative Fee Arrangements (AFAs) are available**

Please contact any of the Costs Team to discuss further:



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