

## John Pears



**Telephone: 020 7152 6550**

**Fax: 0845 458 9398**

**[john.pears@keystonelaw.co.uk](mailto:john.pears@keystonelaw.co.uk)**

## Overview

John joined Keystone in January 2014 as a consultant in the Private Client team. He is an experienced tax and estate planning specialist, with particular expertise in inheritance tax and capital gains tax. John's work includes complex will drafting, advising on the creation, administration and winding-up of all types of trust, and the associated taxation implications and estate administration. He is particularly experienced in working with high-net-worth entrepreneurs and the agricultural community. John is also a trustee of a number of sizeable private charities. Professional memberships include the Law Society Private Client Section and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

## Areas of Expertise

- Estate planning and succession issues
- Wills
- Trusts
- Inheritance tax
- Charity administration

## Key Achievements

- Has acted for numerous high-net-worth clients including four who feature in the Sunday Times Rich List
- As Chairman of the Law Society Probate Section [now the Private Client Section] he represented over 3,500 lawyers specialising in private client work across England and Wales in dealings with HMRC, the Law Society, The Press, various major national charities and numerous other interested organisations
- Successful claim of an active service exemption for a deceased client in respect of wounds received 62 years prior to death thereby obtaining a refund of £585,000 of inheritance tax and interest to the deceased's estate
- Advised the trustees of various trusts holding multi-million pounds worth of assets on a successful application under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958
- Assisted in persuading HMRC that £1.5m worth of trust income received during a ten-year period should still be regarded as income and therefore excluded for an IHT ten-yearly charge
- Acts as a trustee of a large number of private and charitable trusts on behalf of clients

## Recognition

"excellent trusts adviser" - *Legal 500 2013*

"... administratively excellent and the clients really like him" - *Chambers & Partners 2012*

"Incisive" - *Legal 500 2011*

"... exceptional breadth of knowledge" - *Legal 500 2009*

Law Society Probate Advisory Committee 1996–1997

Law Society Probate Sector Executive National Committee 1997–2008, Chairman 1999–2001

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners 1993–to date

## Career History

<b>2013</b>	<b>Keystone Law   Consultant Solicitor</b>
<b>2010-2013</b>	<b>Shakespeares   Partner</b>
<b>2002-2010</b>	<b>Berryman   Partner</b>
<b>1991-2002</b>	<b>Warren &amp; Allen   Solicitor then Partner</b>
<b>1986-1991</b>	<b>Browne Jacobson   Solicitor</b>
<b>1986</b>	<i>Qualified as a Solicitor</i>