



**ROBERT PATERSON**

**SOLICITOR, PARTNER – WEDLAKE BELL**

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Licensed Insolvency Practitioner since 2006
- Joint Insolvency Examination Board exams passed in 2004
- Practising Solicitor since 2000
- Common Professional Examination and Legal Practice Course (Commendation), College of Law (York)
- MA Hons (Modern and Medieval Languages: French and German), Cambridge University, Girton College

### **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

#### **June 2018 to present – Partner, Wedlake Bell LLP (merged with Moon Beaver LLP)**

Restructuring and insolvency advice to insolvency practitioners, directors, lenders and all stakeholders in the UK and also cross border. Recent highlights include:

- Acting for pension trustees in the *Wilson v McNamara* cross border pension litigation, in the High Court, Court of Justice of EU and Court of Appeal.
- Advised administrators of Nektan (Gibraltar) Ltd and obtained first ever English administration order of a Gibraltar incorporated company (*Re Nektan (Gibraltar) Ltd* [2020] B.C.C. 331). Negotiated business and asset sale as part of Group restructuring.
- Acted for English Administrators of German subsidiary of Karen Millen and obtained novel court direction for administrators to remit net realisations to secondary administrators for distribution to German employees under local priority laws.
- Advised joint liquidators of company within international media group as part of multi-million Group wide restructuring.
- Appointed as expert witness of English insolvency law in US Arbitration in New York; cross examined under oath remotely in arbitration proceedings.
- Acted for administrators of travel company during pandemic in which the company was successfully turned around and returned to directors on a solvent footing.

- Re-appointed to panel of Interim Managers of Charity Commission.
- Acted for French clients on purchase of TV production business from administrators.
- Advised purchaser of multi-million repair and service provider business from administrators, saving 170 jobs.

#### **2006 to 2018 – Partner (from 2013) – Gowling WLG (legacy Lawrence Graham)**

- Successfully defended Capmark against a seven figure priority/debt subordination claim brought by corporate trustees in the High Court and Court of Appeal in reported judgments *Dominion Corporate Trustees Ltd v Capmark Bank Europe Plc Court of Appeal (Civil Division)* - [2011] EWCA Civ 380.
- Represented the second appointed administrators of a sports newspaper and obtained a *Berkeley Applegate* Order in the reported case of *Re Sports Betting Media Ltd* [2007] All ER (D) 123 (Jul).
- Acted for the joint LPA receivers of Woolgate Exchange involving English, German, Luxembourg and Irish jurisdictions, sold in excess of £250 million.
- Acted as conflict counsel for a board of directors in the long running Cattles restructuring and subsequent scheme of arrangement.
- Acted on the administration of the London and Edinburgh Swallow Hotels group comprising some 700 hotels and pubs; multiple sales and trading issues.
- Numerous business and asset sales and purchases in administration, for example Adams Childrenswear.

#### **2016 – Secondment, Policy Unit, Insolvency Service**

- Worked as policy manager on the 2016 [A Review of the Corporate Insolvency Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), which led to the restructuring plan, moratorium and termination provisions in CIGA 2020.
- Advised and assisted on various aspects of HMG's policy in the context of insolvency and restructuring.

#### **2000 to 2005 – Solicitor, DLA Piper**

- Significant bank panel work, including review of bank security, advising on security enhancement, drafting and registering of all types of bank security, debentures, chattel mortgages, legal charges and assignments by way of security.
- Appointments of administrative receivers and advice on validity of appointment.
- Drafted and negotiated numerous business, property and asset sales, some (but by no means all) prepacked, for up to millions of pounds.
- Advice on retention of title claims, trading issues, liens, employee issues in administrative receiverships and administrations.
- Presented winding up petitions in Leeds District Registry on behalf of HMRC.

#### **1998 to 2000 – Trainee Solicitor, Brooke North LLP**

- Training contract with rotation in insolvency, litigation, private cent and property.
- Highlight was when boss left and I took *Lunnun v Singh* 1999 WL 477360 to the Court of Appeal and won, also won subsequent retrial.

## **Additional**

- Regular speaker: Recent examples include chairing a panel of Judges at INSOL Europe conference in Dubrovnik in October 2022; chairing a panel at the TRI conference 2021 on current insolvency market.
- Published in Journals, e.g. Paterson (2019) 12 C.R.I.5 on Non-preferential debts of financial institutions; and "Winds of Change" in Corporate Rescue and Insolvency Journal, February 2018.
- Member, General Technical Committee, R3 since 2022.