

Using the law as a force for good

A review of our litigation team's positive impact

**Your charity needs to work with
organisations that maximise your positive
impact, not maximise their own profits.**

At Bates Wells – the UK's leading charity law firm and the first in the country to certify as a B Corporation – we have always balanced purpose with profit. And as we reflect on our work over the last year, we are proud of the extensive impact our litigation team has made to the lives of so many people. Here we set out some of the team's most ground-breaking, impactful cases from the last year.

Representing the chair and president of Big Win Philanthropy in the Supreme Court

We advised Jamie Cooper in a landmark case relating to the establishment of her charity, Big Win Philanthropy, and the negotiation of a grant of \$360M from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. We successfully pursued payment of that grant before the High Court and eventually the Supreme Court.

The case was one of the most important and significant charity rulings in recent years, reaffirming that members of charitable companies have fiduciary duties and can be controlled by the courts.

**We successfully negotiated
payment of a grant worth**

\$360M

Defending trustees of Kids Company against disqualification proceedings in the High Court

We successfully advised five former trustees in relation to the Charity Commission and Insolvency Service inquiries into the collapse of Kids Company and the claim brought against them in the High Court by the Official Receiver seeking their disqualification as company directors.

A trial of charity trustees on these grounds is unprecedented and the message that highly qualified, diligent and honest charity trustees, doing their best to rescue a charity

in difficult circumstances, might be pursued in this way by the Official Receiver had caused much disquiet in the sector.

The High Court decisively ruled in our favour, praising the 'highly impressive and dedicated' trustees. This case could have had dire consequences for the charity sector had we not won it, potentially causing many people to consider that the risk of taking up a trusteeship was too great. The judgment goes a very long way to restoring confidence in the current systems of charity governance and the protection that the courts will give to volunteer trustees.



An uber result for an estimated

45,000

Uber drivers, which will have enormous implications for the employment status of the

2.8M

people working across the so-called "gig-economy"

Representing Uber drivers in their employment case against Uber in the Supreme Court

We represented the two test Claimants taking on Uber in the Supreme Court, in a landmark case concerning the employment rights of an estimated 45,000 drivers across London. We successfully argued that Uber drivers should be classified as workers rather than independent contractors, as Uber had argued. The Supreme Court ruled decisively in our clients' favour. In response, Uber has awarded its workers many of the rights associated with being an employee, including holiday pay, automatic enrolment into a pension plan, and entitlement to the National Living Wage.



Get in touch

Should you have any questions or would like to find out how our market-leading dispute resolution and litigation team could help you, do not hesitate to get in touch.



Robert Oakley
Partner & Head of Dispute Resolution
T: 020 7551 7792
E: r.oakley@bateswells.co.uk



Leticia Jennings
Partner
T: 020 7551 7657
E: ljennings@bateswells.co.uk



Philip Kirkpatrick
Partner
T: 020 7551 7762
E: p.kirkpatrick@bateswells.co.uk



Paul Jennings
Partner
T: 020 7551 7694
E: p.jennings@bateswells.co.uk