

Issue 5 May 2014

Growth in International Commercial practice as we recruit a US Attorney

Unless you use us for your international commercial legal work you may be unaware that it is a major part of our commercial practice with perhaps 50% of our commercial and corporate work being for UK businesses working overseas or overseas clients with UK requirements.

We are currently acting for an Austrian company acquiring a UK business, bringing proceedings for trade mark infringement against an Italian state owned corporation...

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Steve Grant

stevengrant@warnergoodman.co.uk

Shares are a serious business

Owning shares in a private company will give you rights, but what exactly? Here Steve Grant, Commercial Partner at Warner Goodman Commercial, answers some of the most common questions asked by shareholders, and why these may be of particular importance today.

The majority of questions that come from shareholders focus around a few key areas; working with other shareholders in the business, your personal rights as a shareholder, and selling your shares.

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Franchisee...or employee?

A recent case involving a white goods supplier demonstrates the risks for franchisors and others who attempt to avoid the responsibilities of employers by offering contracts of self employment. Howard Robson, Employment Partner at Warner Goodman Commercial, here reviews the case and advises on how employers can be prepared.

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Howard Robson

howardrobson@warnergoodman.co.uk

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New European regulation is set to boost individual data protection rights

The globalisation of data processing and the increasing value of that information are key factors behind the planned changes to data protection legislation in European countries. In offering greater safeguards for the rights of individuals in how their data is handled by companies, this is set to create new challenges for business. Here, Geoffrey Sturgess provides an update on what companies should be thinking about in the run-up to implementation, which is likely to be in 2016.

The new European regulation will lead to a more complex data processing environment for business, with much tougher penalties for non compliance.

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Geoffrey Sturgess

geoffreysturgess@warnergoodman.co.uk



Helen Porter

helenporter@warnergoodman.co.uk

Guarantors Avoiding Liability

A recent Court of Appeal decision highlights the need for careful drafting of leases and commercial contracts to avoid the inadvertent release of a surety when dealing with licences for alterations or other amendments to the original contract. Helen Porter, Associate Solicitor at Warner Goodman Commercial, advises on the latest Court of Appeal decision on strict covenants and sureties' liabilities.

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New Enforcement Rules: Good News for Creditors?

When a creditor successfully obtains a court judgment, they will undoubtedly want to enforce that judgment if the debtor continues to avoid making payment. Torion Bowles, Solicitor in Warner Goodman Commercial's litigation team, suggests that one might be forgiven for thinking that a surprise visit from a bailiff might encourage the debtor to immediately make arrangements to pay rather than risk having any valuable goods seized from their premises in lieu of the debt.

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Torion Bowles

torionbowles@warnergoodman.co.uk

Private Investigator found guilty of "blagging"

Barry Spencer, a private investigator and director of ICU Investigations Ltd has been found guilty of conspiring to unlawfully obtain personal data under section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). Arezou Seyed-Rezai, Trainee solicitor within Warner Goodman Commercial, here reviews the case and the possible ramifications that lie ahead for those who use private investigators to retrieve personal data.

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Arezou Seyed - Rezai

arezouseyed-rezai@warnergoodman.co.uk

Landlords Secure Legal Victory over Games Station Ltd's Administrator

Commercial landlords will have been following the case of Games Station Ltd, which reached the Court of Appeal recently (February 2014), but it is of interest to all who supply goods and/or services to companies that then go into administration.

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Kirsten Edberg

kirstenedberg@warnergoodman.co.uk

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email enquiries@warnergoodman.co.uk,
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In brief...

- Hyperlinks to another website is not an infringement of copyright.
- Glee isn't singing anymore!
- The OFT is no more!
- Court of Appeal rules on adequate remedy test when damages are limited by contract clauses.
- IP Practice: The introduction of the Civil Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2014.

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