



harwoodhutton

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING
SERVICES

Professional Negligence

Forensic accountants are often called in to assist and investigate negligence claims against accountants, auditors, tax advisers and other professionals.

Given the complex nature of financial cases, the most successful forensic accountants are those who can combine their accounting and auditing skills with an ability to think 'outside the box' and an instinct for knowing where to probe for information.

Harwood Hutton will set out to examine all the relevant financial information, and once everything has been collated, calculated and tabulated, it can be presented to the court.

By providing our service at the earliest stages - whether that is mediation, arbitration or alternative dispute resolution - Harwood Hutton can also help keep a case out of the courts.

REASONS TO CHOOSE HARWOOD HUTTON

- ◆ With our background in professional practice, we can apply 'real world' experience in the process of providing expert evidence to help assess liability in professional negligence claims
- ◆ We can also call on our experience as registered auditors, insolvency, tax specialists and general accountancy practitioners
- ◆ We are experienced in performing in-depth analysis of such factors as part of the process of preparing detailed loss calculations and expert reports for use in court proceedings.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Our forensic team will seek to establish whether the professional concerned owed a duty of care to the claimant. We will also consider the purpose and scope of work agreed between the parties (on the basis of the professional's contractual or engagement terms), and assess the extent to which that scope was addressed by the professional. In cases where professional negligence is found to have occurred, we will quantify the financial impact of the negligence (i.e. consequential losses).

In professional negligence cases concerning the conduct of accountants, auditors or tax advisers, Harwood Hutton is well placed to give expert evidence on the liability of the professional

as well as quantum of the losses suffered by the claimant. In doing so, we will apply our skill and expertise to assess whether the professional has failed to comply with generally accepted practice or applicable laws and regulations.

ACTING FOR CLAIMANTS AND DEFENDANTS

We are experienced in acting for both claimants and defendants in the context of professional negligence claims and have undertaken a significant number of professional negligence cases as either expert witness, shadow expert or expert adviser.

When acting for claimants, we can advise on the strengths and weaknesses of a potential professional negligence claim and can prepare robust and reliable loss calculations in support of a claim. When acting for defendants, we can identify areas of the claim for challenge or rebuttal and in cases against accounting professionals can provide expert evidence to help disprove liability and successfully defend a claim for professional negligence.

We work with clients and their legal advisers as required to ensure the detailed loss calculations and/or expert evidence on liability issues we deliver are fit for purpose and provide the end client with cost-effective advice and support. We are committed to providing work that is objective and independent, and we subscribe to the highest professional quality and service standards.

DELIVERING SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

- ◆ Appointed as expert on behalf of a UK 'Big 4' bank in a Channel Islands case concerning allegations that trust accounts were operated incorrectly and trustee fees were not appropriately accounted for.
- ◆ Appointed as a party expert in a High Court professional negligence case, assessing the value of a well-known retail brand (with equity value assessed at up to £85.5m).
- ◆ Advised on an employment law case in the High Court concerning alleged manipulation of the financial statements of a Saudi limited company and alleged financial irregularities in an Egyptian company.
- ◆ Advised the former CEO of a trading business (turnover of £25m) in defending allegations of financial incompetence and fraud at disciplinary hearings following the merger of his business with another.
- ◆ Appointed as an expert in a professional negligence case concerning the audit of a plc operating in the construction industry, assessing the auditor's work in support of a qualified audit opinion on the company's financial statements.

WE OFFER AN INITIAL FREE, NO-OBLIGATION TELEPHONE CALL OR MEETING

harwoodhutton

harwoodhutton

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING
SERVICES

Our Team



ADAM STRONACH

is a forensic accountant, registered auditor, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of the Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute.

He has been involved in forensic accounting, expert witness and litigation support work for more than 20 years, receiving instructions from solicitors on a wide range of matters.

Adam has given oral evidence in the High Court and in the family courts and has acted for claimants, defendants and as a single joint expert, preparing reports for court, meeting experts to prepare joint statements and assisting counsel where appropriate.



EMMA TREDGETT

is an experienced Chartered Accountant who previously worked as a Senior Manager in the Deloitte Forensic & Dispute Services group.

Emma has worked on expert witness and litigation support assignments, company valuations, financial investigations and sale and purchase disputes.



AMANDEEP DHILLON

is a specialist in preparing forensic reports and has experience across a variety of business sectors.

Previously with Mazars, Amandeep has assisted in matrimonial cases where assets were across continents, and has supported the Expert in company valuation work and shareholder disputes. She also has experience dealing with HMRC on technical issues.

Harwood Hutton is a trading style of Harwood Hutton Advisory Services LLP, which is registered in England and Wales (OC398518).

Registered office: 22 Wycombe End, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1NB.

Harwood Hutton Advisory Services LLP is a member of the Network of Independent Forensic Accountants (NIFA) whose member firms are legally separate and independent entities.



Contact Us

If you would like to speak to a member of our team regarding any disputes concerning your clients, please call us for a no-obligation discussion on 01494 739500. Or email: adamstronach@harwoodhutton.co.uk

WE OFFER AN INITIAL FREE, NO-OBLIGATION TELEPHONE CALL OR MEETING

harwoodhutton