

English law and the English legal profession

A national success story

Summary

The English legal system provides a flexible and adaptive rule of law, coupled with a legal services industry which advises at the forefront of an increasingly international and technologically driven world. This means that English law, its judiciary and its lawyers combine to provide a unique legal system on which all businesses and governments can rely, wherever they are based. From an industry perspective, the UK legal profession is a business sector worth approx. £60bn per annum. It facilitates millions of deals and transactions annually and positions the UK as a leader on the international business stage.

Why English law?

- Tried and tested
- Flexible and adaptable
- Predictable and consistent
- Objective and simple rules of interpretation and application
- Pro-business and not interventionist
- Freedom of contract means parties can meet their commercial goals/allocate risk
- Damages are compensatory, not penal or punitive
- Legal privilege protects legal advice from disclosure in proceedings
- No jury trials for civil cases
- Independent and non-political judiciary
- Specialist judges are assigned to industry-specific claims
- English law is a law of choice for international agreements (40% of cross-border business/financial transactions)
- English judgments are accepted almost everywhere
- A wealth of case law and judicial reasoning has created a unique body of legal precedent

Why English lawyers?

- UK-based firms have global reach (45% of lawyers in top 100 UK law firms are based overseas)
- International talent pool (approx. 7,000 foreign lawyers are registered with the UK's legal regulator, the SRA)
- The UK's quality legal education system attracts a global student population
- English solicitors and world-class advocate barristers combine to create a powerful legal eco-system
- The dominance of English law in international transactions and disputes gives English lawyers unprecedented experience of handling foreign transactions and disputes
- Proficiency in legal English is a significant advantage for complex drafting, negotiation and dispute resolution
- The UK's time zone (directly between US and Asia) enables real time deal-making across all parts of the world
- The UK as a global innovation hub puts English lawyers at the forefront of the cross-border, technological revolution now impacting businesses across the world