



Equine law

"A good result!"

I was extremely impressed with how my case was dealt with by Helen Niebuhr. I was put in a very stressful situation and I felt Helen did everything to keep the matter clear, calm and concise. There were no "hidden extras", she was very knowledgeable on the equine subject matter and living and working with the equine industry. I will wholeheartedly recommend her services to anyone who is in need of assistance with equine law."

Equine Sector Client 2006

Equine specialists

The equine industry is large and diversified, with its own language and characteristics. It has particular legal issues and problems that are better dealt with by specialist lawyers.

This is why, several years ago, we established a team to provide a full range of legal services for individuals, businesses, professionals, societies and governing bodies.

The team has a remarkable breadth of expert knowledge which is enhanced by our network of equine specialist contacts. Two of the partners are Legal 500-recommended specialists in equine law. Each member of the team owns and rides horses.

We can swiftly understand your situation and your personal and commercial objectives. In most cases we can negotiate a practical solution that is agreeable to both parties – but we are also experienced and firm in pursuing actions through the courts if necessary.

Whatever your question you can be sure that we will look after your interests.

Key practice areas

Contentious:

- Personal injury and accidents
- Contractual disputes
- Veterinary negligence
- Commercial disputes
- Liability under the Animals Act 1971

Non-contentious:

- Livery and loan agreements
- Health and safety
- Business advice and contracts
- Commercial property and planning
- Immigration
- Employment
- Syndicates
- Stud contracts

Please contact us for more information

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Darbys Equine Law Team at Blenheim Palace – Photograph by kind permission of the Duke of Marlborough – Image by Andrew Kitchen Photography

Proud to sponsor

Leslie Law MBE, Olympic Gold Medallist

Athens 2004, Team Gold Medallist FEI

Blenheim Petplan European Eventing Championships 2005

The B E Open Championship at Gatcombe Park 2007

Blenheim International Horse Trials 2007

Event Horse Owners Association

The team

Helen Niebuhr is a partner and is listed in the Legal 500 directory as a recommended specialist in equine matters. She represented Darbys' Equine law team as a speaker on equine law at the 2006 International Equine Lawyers Conference and is a speaker on 'equine law' for CLT training courses. Helen enjoys owning, riding, showing and breeding horses and is a regular contributor to the BHS Newsletter Journals.

Nick Hedges is a partner and is listed as a specialist in the Legal 500 directory for equine and sports related matters. He advises equestrian sector business clients on commercial and property matters. Nick's four children are all keen competitive riders.

Rebecca Hewitt, solicitor, has enjoyed showing success with her prolific 153cm WHP winner Chaddock Rainbow with whom she competed regularly at the Royal International Horse Show and The Horse of the Year Show. Rebecca is a regular contributor to a variety of equestrian publications. She advises

equine businesses on general commercial issues, with particular interest in new business set ups, and also deals with cases relating to disputes over the sale of horses, ownership disputes and veterinary negligence cases.

Julia Davis, solicitor, has a wealth of competitive experience previously winning the Junior Regional Three day Event Championships and receiving an award for the most promising under 21 British Event rider. Julia now competes with her horses Iron Will and Amacord. Julia advises on a range of disputes including sales, veterinary negligence and syndicates. Her personal experience enhances the quality of her practical advice.

Sara Kromann, solicitor, has competed successfully on her horse Prisco at the British Dressage National Finals at preliminary and elementary levels. Sara currently competes at medium and advanced medium levels and is bringing on her youngster, Copyright. Sara advises on a range of disputes including veterinary negligence cases.