

Brief History

After graduating from the University of Manchester, Stuart qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1980 with a large city firm, subsequently moving to a smaller London practice as an Audit Senior.

In 1981, he was promoted to Audit Manager and then to Partner in 1982, becoming an Equity Partner in 1984.

Stuart joined HW Fisher & Company in 1987, and became a Partner in 1988.

Presently

Stuart has 28 years of forensic accounting/litigation experience. He is head of Fisher Forensic, the firm's specialist forensic accounting department, which deals with a broad range of fraud and criminal work and other litigation matters. These include breach of contract claims/defences and consequential loss, business disputes and claims under Section 994 of the Companies Act (previously S.459) as well as valuation of companies for matrimonial matters. Other areas in which he routinely works are business interruption, fraud and criminal investigations, partnership disputes, intellectual property valuations and professional negligence. In this latter respect, we are called upon to determine quantum of damages arising from negligent actions, involving investment strategy, tax and related matters. We also deal with royalty recovery work in respect of intellectual property, carrying out hundreds of audits each year, both in the UK and internationally, representing a number of global brands.

Reports suitable for service in court are routinely prepared in respect of forensic assignments undertaken by the department. I have given evidence in court on over 60 occasions, in the high court, crown court, county tribunal, international court of arbitration etc.

He is a certified fraud examiner and a member of the Academy of Experts.

Stuart acts as expert witness in respect of some 30 new cases each year in addition to around 20 forensic assignments, both contentious and non-contentious, in which the firm is not involved in the Court process. The claims made in respect of such cases range from tens of thousands to millions of pounds.

As well as dealing with forensic accounting matters, Stuart also maintains a significant portfolio of corporate and partnership clients, for whom the firm provides a range of audit, accountancy, tax and other specialist services. Over the years, other services

have included company share sales and acquisitions, providing advice on transaction terms and earn-out arrangements, critical review of transaction documents, etc.

Single Joint Expert

Since the advent of the Woolf reforms, culminating in the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) effective from 26 April 1999, I have been appointed on a number of occasions as Single Joint Expert, discharging my responsibility in strict accordance with CPR.

The President's Appointment Scheme

Stuart also receives appointments from the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in respect of expert determination work, where he is required to consider all of the facts and evidence available in a given matter, to carry out his own enquiries and to make a determination which is then binding on both parties. Many of these assignments are share valuations.

Intellectual Property and Royalty Recovery

Fisher Forensic acts for some of the largest global brands, carrying out royalty audits of licensees around the world. These audits test the royalty reporting by the licensee against the requirements of the contractual terms of the license agreement. As a result, Fisher Forensic is instrumental in recovering millions of pounds of under-reported royalties for its clients.

About HW Fisher & Company

The firm is a 29 partner practice ranked in the top 25 accountancy firms in the UK. Based upon the largest of firms in terms of its structure, it provides a service of excellence rarely seen outside the largest firms in the country. A founder member of the Leading Edge Alliance international network, it is able to provide cross-border advice to clients with disparate business interests. It also has offices in Hong Kong and Singapore.