



# MEET THE LEGAL MINDS



## MICHAEL SHAPIRO, PARTNER & CHARTERED LEGAL EXECUTIVE

● **SPECIALISM/AREA OF EXPERTISE:** Real estate litigation, Insolvency, Corporate Recovery & Dispute Resolution. The main focus of Michael's work is commercial and residential property litigation. He also does a lot of insolvency work, including dealing with company liquidations, bankruptcy and debt recovery, as well as partnership and shareholder disputes.

● **BACKGROUND:** Michael started at GSC as an office junior in 1988. He commenced studying for the legal executive exams in 1990 and qualified as a fellow in 1997, during which time he became an established member of the litigation team. In 2004 Michael was appointed head of GSC's Commercial Litigation Team. He was appointed partner in 2013.

With Michael born and raised in Hackney, London, and mother from Kolkata, grandparents from Bagdad and father from Poland, this heritage spanning vast continents has given this father of two (and avid Arsenal fan) the ability to be one of the power players in the firm.

● **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** Michael has undertaken cases in the County Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and in the Supreme Court, where

he succeeded in obtaining judgment in the clients favour in the landmark case of Daejan v Benson & Others. This case was notable as it granted the landlord, Daejan, dispensation from statutory requirements to consult its tenants on works which the tenants had to pay for under their leases' service charge provisions. He says: "It was a victory for every residential landlord in the country and, as an aside, it also helped to enhance the value of freehold residential properties. Being part of the winning team on this case felt like winning the Champions League as a footballer. It was a real achievement."

**WHY HE CHOSE GSC:** "I became an office junior at GSC immediately after school as I wasn't sure what career path I wanted to take. I love a challenge and so doing litigation suits my personality. Working at GSC is great, it's like working with family. We understand and support each other in and out of the office. Having this type of relationship with the people around you means we're able to do the same with clients, understand them and build long-term relationships."





IN THE LAST EDITION OF AWM WE INTRODUCED YOU TO THE SENIOR PARTNERS AT GSC SOLICITORS LLP, A BOUTIQUE LONDON LAW FIRM. NOW MEET TWO OF GSC'S OTHER PARTNERS, MICHAEL SHAPIRO AND AMEE POPAT. FROM CORPORATE LITIGATION TO COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE, IF YOU NEED A JOB DONE IN AN EFFICIENT, PROFESSIONAL MANNER, WITH A PERSONAL APPROACH, THEN THIS IS THE FIRM FOR YOU. HERE, MICHAEL AND AMEE SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WORKING AT ONE OF LONDON'S MOST SOUGHT-AFTER LAW FIRMS.



## AMEE POPAT, PARTNER

● **SPECIALISM/AREA OF EXPERTISE:** Real estate. Amee specialises in commercial property transactions for a wide range of clients with a particular focus on corporate occupiers acquiring or leasing premises including headquarters buildings. She also deals with high-level residential property transactions. The clients she advises range from individuals to companies, from small start-ups right up to clients like Channel Four and Universal Music.

● **BACKGROUND:** She read Law at the University of Leicester and subsequently attended law school at the College of Law in London. She trained with GSC, qualifying in 2006, and was appointed a partner in 2013.

● **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** Last year, Amee worked on the acquisition by Universal Music of their new headquarters building in King's Cross. They are taking 177,000 square feet of office space and it was one of the largest pre-lets in London in 2015. The King's Cross area has undergone a massive regeneration and the world's leading record company will be neighbours with the likes of Louis Vuitton, Google and media giant, Havas. Amee says: "It was amazing and satisfying to see a project go from

a few sheets of paper with agreed terms to the construction (now part-way) of a brand new building of this size."

**WHY SHE CHOSE GSC:** "We don't sell products, we are a legal services provider, and so the real assets of our firm are its people and their knowledge. Everyone at GSC is down-to-earth and easy to get on with, from a client's perspective and from the perspective of working within GSC. What is also great about GSC is that, because of our size, we are able to give clients a personalised service and at the same time we have the technical ability and resources which enable us to compete with larger firms. This means that we are able to give the best of both worlds and are able to service and retain a variety of types of client which makes working at GSC interesting and exciting."

For advice on all things legal contact GSC Solicitors on 020 7822 2222 or find out more at [gscsolicitors.com](http://gscsolicitors.com)

