

## Daniel Saoul QC

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Silk: 2019

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**Clerk: James Barrass**

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*Absolutely outstanding: he is the complete counsel*

- Chambers & Partners

**Daniel Saoul QC has a commercial practice encompassing business disputes, sports law and public law. He is one of the leading barristers practising in these fields.**

He took silk in 2019, after just ten years at the Bar, and was recognised by the legal press as one of the most outstanding barristers taking silk that year. He is described as "*the complete counsel*", as an "*outstanding advocate*" who "*commands the court*", and as being "*excellent strategically*" and "*exceptionally good to work with*". He is also described as having "*a brilliant intellect*" and "*thoroughly commercial instincts*".

The legal directories rank him as a leading silk in six areas: commercial dispute resolution, international arbitration, civil fraud, professional negligence, sports law and costs litigation. Prior to taking silk he was also a member of the Attorney General's Panel of Counsel, and he continues to advise UK Government departments and agencies on sensitive and complex legal matters.

His practice is wide-ranging, spanning the full spectrum of commercial, civil fraud, banking and finance and professional negligence matters, as well as sports law. He is also instructed on cases involving public and regulatory law, often connected to his other areas of practice. His work is frequently international in nature, including English Court litigation involving cross-border legal issues or foreign law, and includes an extensive international arbitration practice as well as instructions in relation to litigation in overseas jurisdictions, in particular offshore. The cases in which he is instructed often involve allegations of dishonesty or other intentional wrongdoing and he has been instructed in some of the biggest commercial fraud cases to come before the English Courts in recent years.

His work also frequently arises out of, or is connected to, corporate collapse, and he has substantial experience of related areas of insolvency law and insurance law. He is also an expert in the law relating to solicitors' costs, typically acting in matters connected with substantial commercial litigation.

He has appeared in leading cases across all of his areas of expertise, both at trial and appellate level, including as advocate in the Supreme Court. He is a highly experienced cross-examiner and also has substantial experience of heavyweight and often urgent applications, including for freezing and other injunctive relief as well as for committal for contempt of Court, in respect of which he has appeared in a number of legally groundbreaking cases.

Recent comments from Chambers & Partners, Legal 500 and Who's Who Legal include:

- "*Absolutely outstanding. He is the complete counsel: he has a brilliant intellect, he's always able to find one extra first-rate*



*point of argument, he's excellent at paperwork and he's a particularly outstanding advocate"*

- *"He commands the court and is extremely eloquent"*
- *"A first class arbitration advocate"*
- *"Has a razor-sharp mind combined with thoroughly commercial instincts"*
- *"Incredibly astute and intelligent"*
- *"His commerciality and passionate advocacy make him stand out from the crowd"*
- *"A tough opponent, who knows his stuff and will always give you a hard fight"*
- *"Technically excellent and has an excellent feel for a case, he is exceptionally good to work with"*
- *"Excellent strategically, he integrates himself seamlessly into the team"*
- *"He creates solutions to complex problems"*

Dan joined 4 New Square after training and practising as a solicitor-advocate at City firm Herbert Smith (now Herbert Smith Freehills). He has also worked as a litigator in the British Virgin Islands for leading offshore firm Conyers Dill & Pearman and was called to the Bar of the BVI in 2009.

He has served on the Executive Committee of both the Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR) and the British Association for Sport and Law (BASL).

More information about Dan's specific areas of practice is set out below.

### **Privacy Policy**

Click here for a **Privacy Policy** for Daniel Saoul.

## **Areas of Expertise**

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### **Commercial Litigation**

**"Very efficient and very good on his feet, he commands the court and is extremely eloquent." "He's very ambitious and he works hard – he really buys into the case."** – *Chambers & Partners, 2020*

Commercial litigation forms the core of Dan's practice. Having worked as a commercial litigator for Herbert Smith in London and Conyers Dill & Pearman in the British Virgin Islands before practising at the Bar, he has very substantial experience in this field. He is ranked by the directories as a leading practitioner in this area.

Dan's commercial practice is a broad one: it encompasses all types of business and corporate disputes across a variety of industry sectors, including banking and financial services, retail, consumer goods, manufacturing, commodities and energy amongst others.

Dan deals with the full range of commercial legal issues, including contractual matters, commercial fraud, shareholder and partnership disputes, allegations of negligence, breach of directors' duties and breach of trust, and corporate insolvency. His work often has an international element to it, and he has significant experience of advising on substantive and procedural conflicts of law issues and is comfortable engaging with foreign law.



He is also regularly instructed to deal with time critical or complex interim applications, such as freezing injunctions (including against third parties), search and seizure orders, anti-suit injunctions and Norwich Pharmacal orders.

Further, thanks to his City background – he worked in the front and back offices of two leading investments banks before training as a lawyer – Dan is well suited to more sophisticated corporate or financial disputes.

Examples of Dan's recent commercial work include:

- Being instructed on a US\$300million commercial fraud claim by a group of Kazakh companies against their former directors
- Acting on a multimillion dollar claim relating to investments in a Cayman based fund, including the obtaining of worldwide freezing orders and the unwinding of fraudulent transactions under Section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986
- Acting in a high profile dispute relating to alleged fraud, unfair prejudice and breach of directors' duties in the management of a telecommunications company
- Appearing for a well known retailer in a multimillion pound claim for alleged economic duress, intimidation and negligent misrepresentation
- Being instructed on a €200million claim arising out of an alleged conspiracy to defraud an Italian hedge fund, involving freezing and mandatory injunctions
- Advising on a £15million warranty claim by a leading US biochemical company following a corporate acquisition it had made
- Appearing in a £10million claim relating to a fraud on an investment management company allegedly perpetrated by one of its directors, involving freezing and proprietary injunctions
- Appearing as sole advocate on multimillion pound claim brought by the founder of a private equity fund, relating to commission fees due for business introductions
- Acting in a high profile matter for a former partner in a defunct Wall Street law firm in relation to claims brought against him by alleged creditors of the firm
- Working on a substantial arbitration arising out of an alleged \$500million commodities fraud in Central Asia
- Acting on a £150million professional negligence claim against a magic circle firm of solicitors, relating to advice received in connection with a complex corporate transaction
- Advising on a very significant claim arising out of interest rate swaps entered into by a European public authority
- Acting on a multimillion pound claim brought by an offshore private bank against an ultra-high net worth former customer from the CIS

## Qualifications & Memberships

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Before commencing practice Dan gained prize-winning first class degrees from the University of Edinburgh (incorporating a year at the University of California, Berkeley) and the University of Oxford, where he was elected to a scholarship. He also taught trusts law at the University of Southampton.

He is a member of COMBAR, CFLA, PNBA and BASL.

He speaks fluent French and has a working knowledge of Spanish.