

Daniel Saoul QC

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Silk: 2019

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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

Costs

"A great team player and very bright." – *Legal 500, 2020*

"Incredibly astute and intelligent." " Good at complex disputes, he's very user-friendly, careful and considered." – *Chambers & Partners, 2020*

Recognised for his strong costs practice, **Dan is ranked as a leading barrister in this field by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.**

He has led teams of lawyers on large-scale costs litigation as well as dealing with more specific costs issues.

As a commercial practitioner he appreciates the implications of costs in wider litigation and also recognises the importance of costs law as a complex legal field in its own right. His background as a former solicitor leaves him well placed to understand the context in which costs are generated.

He accepts instructions across the full spectrum of costs matters: from costs budgeting issues at the outset of litigation, to issues of



funding and security for costs, as well as substantial detailed assessments and also complex arguments on discrete points of law.

He is also frequently instructed in claims by or against firms of solicitors in relation to their fees, and has been involved in some of the leading cases on the availability of liens and other relief such as freezing injunctions to protect solicitors' interests.

His strength undoubtedly lies in advising on and arguing difficult, novel or high-profile legal issues in the costs context, a challenge which he hugely enjoys and to which he brings a thorough understanding of the law, creative thinking and outstanding client care.

Examples of Dan's costs work include:

- Acting for the paying party on a very substantial detailed assessment relating to a costs claim of approximately £18million, giving rise to numerous strategic issues as well as undecided legal points
- Advising on the costs issues arising out of a substantial appeal to the Competition Appeal Tribunal
- Being instructed to argue important detailed assessments of lead PPI cases, in the Supreme Court Costs Office
- Appearing in the Court of Appeal on a matter relating to the amounts recoverable *inter-partes* for work done by unqualified fee-earners
- Acting for a firm of solicitors in a high profile High Court claim against former clients for unpaid fees incurred in pursuing various litigation on their behalf for over a decade
- Having won a fully contested summary judgment application in the Commercial Court in a contractual claim against a listed company, resulting in that company's de-listing and subsequent insolvency, advising on an application for costs against the company's directors
- Acting on the record breaking claim by Leigh Day & Co (in the name of their clients, Motto & Others) against Trafigura for over £100m of legal costs, following the settlement of a class action brought by residents of the Ivory Coast, a case raising a range of new or untested technical issues which were the subject of three appeals to the Court of Appeal

Qualifications & Memberships

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.