

## Daniel Saoul QC

Call: 2008

Silk: 2019

DD: +442078222024 d.saoul@4newsquare.com

M: +447947048989

---

**Clerk: James Barrass**

j.barrass@4newsquare.com

+442078222047

+447715859771



*Absolutely outstanding: he is the complete counsel*

- Chambers & Partners

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

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 "*a first class arbitration advocate*" with "*a brilliant intellect*" and "*thoroughly commercial instincts*".

The legal directories rank him as a leading silk in seven areas: commercial dispute resolution, civil fraud, international arbitration, professional negligence, offshore disputes, 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 commercial practice is wide-ranging, spanning the full spectrum of corporate, civil fraud, banking and finance and professional negligence disputes. His sports law practice is equally broad and includes anti-doping, governance, disciplinary issues, selection, player/agent disputes and other commercial matters arising in a sports context. 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 in the UK and before the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He is a highly experienced cross-examiner and also has substantial experience of heavyweight and often urgent applications, having acted in a number of legally ground-breaking cases relating to freezing and other injunctive relief as well as committal for contempt of Court.

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



NEW SQUARE

- *"A fabulous silk with great technical skills"*
- *"He has a real courtroom presence, is really incisive and has a great rapport with judges"*
- *"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 is excellent in all respects - everything you want in a silk dealing with complex and high-value fraud matters"*
- *"He has a wonderful advocacy style and is a calming influence on a team"*
- *"Has a razor-sharp mind combined with thoroughly commercial instincts"*
- *"A methodical tactician and excellent advocate. Thinks of every angle, and is very easy to work with"*
- *"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.

### **Transparency Statement**

Click here for the **Transparency Statement** for Daniel Saoul.

## **Areas of Expertise**

---

### **Sports**

**"A methodical tactician and excellent advocate. Thinks of every angle, and is very easy to work with."** – *Legal 500, 2021*

**"He is an excellent advocate and a meticulous barrister."** **"Dan is extremely knowledgeable and provides pragmatic solutions to the issues."** – *Chambers & Partners, 2021*

**Dan is one of the leading sports lawyers at the Bar.** The directories consistently recognise him as **one of the foremost barristers in this field.**



A former rowing cox, with honours at the Rowing World Cup, Commonwealth Rowing Championships and Henley Royal Regatta to his name, he has remained actively involved in the sport having subsequently been Secretary of Britain's leading rowing club, Leander and also served on the Council of British Rowing, the national governing body of the sport in the United Kingdom. He therefore has first-hand experience as a competitor, coach and administrator of the kinds of legal issues that arise in sport.

Dan acts for sporting governing bodies, athletes, clubs and other entities in the full range of sports related matters, including relating to selection, doping, funding, governance, media concerns, disciplinary issues, sponsorship contracts, broadcasting deals and other commercial matters.

He is instructed in a wide range of sport-related disputes and also takes instructions in non-contentious matters, such as constitutional or transactional advice and drafting. He has appeared before domestic and international tribunals at all levels, including the National Anti-Doping Appeal Panel and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

He also sits as arbitrator in sports matters, and is a member of Sport Resolutions' Panel of Arbitrators.

Examples of Dan's sports work include:

- Acting in numerous eligibility and selection disputes relating to participation in major Games and Championships, both for and against National Governing Bodies, National Olympic Committees and International Federations, including in athletics, boxing, rowing, wrestling, shooting, taekwondo, fencing, bobsleigh, badminton and speed-skating amongst others. He has also been appointed as independent chairman of Olympic selection panels, as well as in an arbitral capacity in selection disputes, and has advised upon and drafted numerous selection policies.
- Being instructed on a wide range of doping matters both for prosecuting authorities and for athletes and other third parties implicated in breaches of the World Anti-Doping Code. Dan has been involved in landmark cases relating to the use of anabolic steroids, synthetic hormones, stimulants as well as recreational substances, and has handled matters involving breaches of whereabouts requirements as well as the provision of substantial assistance. He has also advised governing bodies on their anti-doping policies and compliance with their anti-doping obligations generally.
- Advising on myriad governance matters at the national and international level, including re-writing the constitutional documents of governing bodies, navigating member unrest at general meetings, guiding boards of directors on corporate best practice and managing relationships with international federations and other overarching sporting bodies and stakeholders.
- Representing National Governing Bodies in challenges to funding decisions taken by UK Sport.
- Representing athletes and agents, as well as sitting as arbitrator, in player-agent disputes in a range of sports, including football, boxing and rugby, resulting in hearings before bespoke panels such as FA (Rule K) arbitral tribunals and British Boxing Board of Control tribunals.
- Prosecuting and defending a range of disciplinary matters, including acting as prosecutor before the Motor Sports Association's National Court and defending high profile Olympic athletes accused of misconduct. Dan has also been instructed to draft or update governing bodies' disciplinary policies.
- Advising governing bodies, sponsors and other stakeholders in relation to commercial issues arising in sport, including substantial commercial agreements relating to major events.

## 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.