

George Spalton

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A rising star with sound commercial acumen and a strong intellect, he's thorough, communicative and a determinedly tough negotiator.

- Chambers & Partners

George Spalton specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration.

He is one of the most experienced commercial juniors at the Bar and is rated in Chambers and Partners / Legal 500 in the following seven areas (as well as being listed as a 'Future Leader' by Who's Who):

1. International Commercial Arbitration (nominated as Junior of the Year in 2016),
2. Commercial Litigation,
3. Offshore,
4. Professional Liability,
5. Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory work,
6. Insurance and Reinsurance; and,
7. Sports law.

George has particular experience of high-value and high-profile international and cross-border work and has been involved in cases in a number of jurisdictions in recent years including BVI (called in 2015), Cayman Islands, Trinidad, Dubai, Oman, Hong Kong and Singapore. He also accepts appointments as arbitrator and has acted as sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator in LCIA, ICC and ICAC arbitrations.

Consistent with George's range of experience, in the last 2 years he has acted in a number of important reported cases, led and unled, including 8 hearings in the Court of Appeal and Privy Council:

- *Catlin Syndicate Limited & Others v Amec Foster Wheeler USA Corp* [2020] EWHC 2530 (Comm) - anti-suit injunction; decision of Jacobs J

- *Elite Property Holdings Limited; Decolace Properties Limited v BDO LLP* [2020] EWHC 1937 (Comm) (successful strike out of claim against BDO including on basis of abuse of process)
- *Stephenson Harwood LLP v (1) Medien Patentverwaltung AG; (2) Michael Kagan (as administrator)* [2020] EWHC 1889 (Ch) - jurisdiction appeal in stakeholder action.
- *Towergate Financial (Group) Limited v Hopkinson* [2020] EWHC 984 (Comm) - trial concerning SPA in Commercial Court.
- *HPH UK Ltd & Another v Ruhan & Stevens* [2020] EWHC 233 (Comm) (security for costs in the Commercial Court).
- *Al-Hasawi & NFFI Ltd v Nottingham Forest Football Club Limited* [2019] EWCA Civ 2242 (appeal on construction of clause in an SPA).
- *A v B* [2019] (decision of Jacobs J in Commercial Court) - Successfully obtaining anti-suit injunction restraining proceedings in Tel Aviv in favour of LCIA arbitration.
- *Al-Hasawi & NFFI Ltd v Nottingham Forest Football Club Limited* [2019] EWHC 1287 (Ch) (acting for Nottingham Forest at trial in dispute arising out of an SPA).
- *Euro Pools Plc v Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Plc* [2019] EWCA Civ 808 (Court of Appeal: notification of claims in PI insurance policy).
- *Law Society v Ete & Others* [2019] EWHC 864 (Ch) (urgent application for delivery up under Solicitors Act 1974 on behalf of Law Society).
- *Palliser v Fate Ltd & Ors* [2019] EWHC 43 (QB)
- *Towergate Financial (Group) Ltd v Hopkinson & Others* [2018] (Court of Appeal: concerning construction of an SPA).
- *Livingston Properties; Nimati & others v JSC MCC Eurochem* BVI HCMAP 2016/0042-0046 (BVI Court of Appeal - Jurisdiction Challenge).
- *Dreymoor Fertilisers Overseas Pte Ltd v Eurochem Trading GMBH & JSS MCC EuroChem* [2018] EWHC 2267 - anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunction in Commercial Court (section 44 of the Arbitration Act 1996).
- *Dreymoor Fertilisers Overseas Pte Ltd v Eurochem Trading GMBH* [2018] EWHC 909 (Comm) - jurisdiction challenges under ss. 32 and 67 Arbitration Act 1996.
- *Euro Pools Plc (In Administration) v Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Plc* [2018] EWHC 46 (Comm), an insurance dispute in the Commercial Court.
- *Premier Motorauctions Ltd (In Liquidation) v PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP* [2017] EWCA Civ 1872
- *Dalecroft Ltd v Certain Lloyds Underwriters* [2017] EWHC 1263 (Comm), an insurance coverage dispute.
- *TJH and Sons Consultancy Limited v CPP Group Plc* [2017] EWCA Civ 46; construction of consultancy agreement.
- *Adamovsky and Stockman Interhold SA v Andriy Malitskiy and Igor Filipenko* [2017] BVI HC MAP 2014/0031 and 2014/0022 – unfair prejudice petition in BVI.
- *Wright v Lewis Silkin* [2016] EWCA Civ 1308, claim against solicitors arising out of Indian Premier League cricket contract.



In 2012 George was named as one of ten ‘Stars of the Bar’ in a survey by Legal Week, having previously been named in the 2010 version as a ‘Highly Commended’ Junior.

George has been appointed to European Users' Council of the LCIA for a three year term from 2019 and has been appointed to the Executive Committee of COMBAR (the Commercial Bar Association) for 2020/2021, having previously been elected to the committee from 2013 to 2016 and having acted as Chair of Junior COMBAR from 2011 to 2013. He was on the Executive Committee of the PNBA from 2016-2018.

In May 2015 George was called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (British Virgin Islands).

Privacy Policy

Click here for a **Privacy Policy** for George Spalton.

Transparency Statement

Click here for the **Transparency Statement** for George Spalton.

Areas of Expertise

International Arbitration

In 2016 George was nominated by Chambers and Partners as **‘International Arbitration’ Junior of the Year** and he has been listed towards the top of the rankings in international arbitration for several years now (including as one of only 14 juniors listed in Chambers Global). He was recently appointed to the LCIA’s European Users’ Council for a three year term from 2019.

Comments in Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners include:

- **“He has excellent attention to detail but communicates ideas and explains strategy in a clear and concise manner.”** – *Legal 500, 2021*
- **“He is excellent on his feet, has a brilliant analytical mind and is able to give consistently high-quality advice.”** – *Chambers & Partners, 2021*
- **“A real team player with a very reassuring client manner.”** – *Legal 500, 2020*
- **“He understands the commerciality when developing strategy and is fantastic with clients.”** – *Chambers & Partners, 2020*
- **“Very polished with an excellent focus on what is important.”** – *Legal 500, 2019*
- **“He is well respected. He has a very sharp mind and has the ability to take a file and learn it thoroughly. A top-notch advocate.”** – *Chambers & Partners, 2019*
- **“Hungry and motivated, he always goes the extra mile. He is one of those barristers who can pull their sleeves up and get stuck in.”** – *Chambers Global, 2018*
- **“An excellent advocate, who makes submissions clearly and concisely.”** – *Legal 500, 2017*

He has built up a very strong arbitration practice in recent years – with a range of claims being heard in a wide range of jurisdictions under a wide variety of institutional rules (including claims with seats in Dubai, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Egypt). He is now considered to be one of the busiest arbitration practitioners at the Bar.

George is a member of a number of arbitration related bodies and has also written on this subject and provides case law updates to various journals.

He also accepts instructions to sit as arbitrator and has sat in LCIA, ICC, ICAC and ad hoc arbitrations as sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator.



A flavour of George's recent work and experience is provided by the following:

- *Catlin Syndicate Limited & Others v Amec Foster Wheeler USA Corp* [2020] EWHC 2530 (Comm) – anti-suit injunction.
- *A v B* [2019] (*decision of Jacobs J in Commercial Court*) – *Successfully obtaining anti-suit injunction restraining proceedings in Tel Aviv in favour of LCIA arbitration.*
- 5 day DIAC arbitration in Dubai concerning major Middle Eastern Construction Project
- *Dreymoor Fertilisers Overseas Pte Ltd v Eurochem Trading GMBH & JSS MCC EuroChem* [2018] EWHC 2267 – anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunction in Commercial Court (section 44 of the Arbitration Act 1996) (**Click here** for GAR article).
- *Dreymoor Fertilisers Overseas Pte Ltd v Eurochem Trading GMBH* [2018] EWHC 909 (Comm) – successfully resisting jurisdiction challenges under ss. 32 and 67 of the 1996 Act
- *Sutton Energy Ltd (BVI) v APMT & Bolloré* (ICC arbitration) – Long-running shareholder dispute concerning port in Ghana (**Click here** for GAR article).
- Acting for Albania in a high value ICC arbitration brought by a US firm relating to a concession agreement.
- Advising in relation to an ICC arbitration between a Trinidadian holding company and a European investor in relation to an energy dispute.
- Acting for an offshore company in relation to minority shareholder dispute concerning an African port (ICC).
- Acting for a main contractor in Dubai in long-running ad hoc arbitration against employer (involving five separate hearings in Dubai).
- Acting for contractor in defence of claim brought by MEP subcontractor in DIAC arbitration in Dubai.
- Acting for a multi-national commodities trader and agri-business in proceedings before the LCIA in a dispute arising out of a joint venture in Eastern Europe. Led by Roger Stewart QC.
- Advising and acting in an LCIA arbitration for an Israeli company against Russian and Finnish companies in respect of a dispute over oil and gas supply contracts.
- Advising an Indian Respondent to arbitration proceedings brought by an Australian mining company in an ICC arbitration.
- Advising on LCIA rules and whether a party appointed arbitrator should recuse himself as a result of potential conflicts of interest.
- Acting in high value civil fraud arbitrations before ICC and LCIA (instructed by Russian/Swiss commodities trader).

In addition, George regularly [speaks at international arbitration events](#) and conferences. Recent examples include:

- GAR Live: Hong Kong, Dubai, London
- LCIA IBA Event – Milan, March 2017, LCIA Tylney Hall September 2018, LCIA/YIAG Zurich 2018.
- Paris Arbitration Week (Event hosted by Freshfields) – Paris, April 2017
- British Virgin Islands Arbitration Week – BVI, May 2017

Qualifications & Memberships

MA Oxon; LL.M Columbia University (New York); Called 2004.

Memberships: COMBAR, LCIA, ChBA, PNBA, TECBAR.

Before commencing practice George read history at Oriel College, Oxford where he was a scholar and won the John Shannon prize for Modern History. After converting to law, George obtained a Masters in Law (LL.M) from Columbia University, New York where he was a Stone Scholar.

Insights

Enka v. Chubb in the Supreme Court: Which Law is it Anyway?

14 October 2020

Where the law governing a contract containing an arbitration agreement differs from the law of the nominated “seat” of the arbitration, which law – absent any express choice – governs the arbitration agreement itself? That was the question that the Supreme Court had to grapple with in *Enka Insaat Ve Sanayi AS v. OOO Insurance Company Chubb* [2020] UKSC 38, in which judgment was handed down on 9 October 2020. George Spalton and Ian McDonald of 4 New Square consider the decision.



Editor of the 7th and 8th Editions of Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability

1 February 2017

Previously Co-Editor of the Encyclopedia of Financial Services Law (Sweet & Maxwell)

1 May 2016

"Ethical Obligations of Lawyers Acting as Legal Representatives in Arbitrations" (Lexis Nexis)

1 May 2015

"Core Procedural Standards in International Arbitration" (Lexis Nexis)

1 May 2015

"ENE Kos v Petreleo Brasileiro SA (The Kos) [2012] UKSC 17" (Case Note) Insurance Law Monthly

1 August 2012

"The Business of Sport after the Bribery Act 2010" (S.L.A&P)

1 October 2011

"The Cross-Border Mediation (EU Directive) Regulations 2011: Confidentiality, Limitation Periods and Enforcement of Settlement Agreements" – IBA (with Jeremy Stuart-Smith QC)

1 September 2011