

Graham Chapman QC

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He consistently provides robust and commercial advice, as well as advocacy of the highest quality.

- Chambers & Partners

Graham Chapman QC specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration (domestic and international), with a particular focus on commercial fraud, investment disputes, offshore work, insurance disputes and professional liability claims in a commercial context. Graham took silk in 2014 at the age of 38.

Recognised as a Leading Silk in the directories for Commercial Litigation, Offshore, Civil Fraud and Professional Negligence, Graham is described as someone who "combines excellent technical abilities with commercially savvy and practical advice." "He is approachable, a pleasure to work with and someone who always sees solutions to problems." (Chambers & Partners, 2021: Commercial Litigation). "He is impressive, analytical, competitive and strategic." "A very good barrister who is very user-friendly." (Chambers & Partners, 2021: Offshore). "Very attentive and user-friendly, and an excellent advocate. He is able to give great advice because he sees the strategic reasons for doing things." "He is helped by his previous experience as a solicitor and as a result, comes up with very practical and commercial solutions." (Chambers & Partners, 2021: Professional Negligence). "He provides enormous confidence that no stones have been left unturned." (Legal 500 2021: Professional Negligence). "Excellent intellect and very user friendly." (Legal 500 2021: Commercial Litigation). "An intellectual heavyweight with first-rate advocacy skills." (Legal 500 2021: Offshore). "Our leading counsel of choice on large value, complex fraud claims; works well as part of a team and has strong advocacy skills." (Legal 500 2021: Civil Fraud). "Graham Chapman QC is held in high esteem by peers thanks to his impressive advocacy in commercial and civil fraud litigation." (Who's Who Legal: Civil Fraud and Professional Negligence).

Previous editions have described Graham as "fiercely bright, a gentleman with instructing solicitors and clients, and a tactful and robust advocate in the courtroom" (Chambers & Partners, 2019: Commercial Litigation). "Exceptionally bright, a great strategist and someone who is fantastically good with clients." "He's hands-on, responsive, and someone with a good eye for detail" (Chambers & Partners, 2019: Offshore). "Charming with clients and utterly dedicated to winning. He cuts through cases and picks out the right strategy every time" (Chambers & Partners, 2019: Professional Negligence). "Incredibly bright and very easy to work with" (Legal 500 2019: Professional Negligence). "Absolutely brilliant. He puts in the hard work and is also a really nice bloke. Authoritative and clever" (Chambers & Partners, 2018: Professional Negligence). "He's energetic, very easy to work with and very experienced in commercial disputes", "always thinks about ways to get the other side's attention"(Chambers & Partners, 2018: Commercial Litigation). "He's a very statesmanlike person, who's great with clients and delivers clear, succinct messages very effectively. Working with him is an enormous pleasure. He's absolutely on the ball the whole time, and he's very practical." (Chambers & Partners, 2018: Offshore). "A tough and no-nonsense operator, and extremely user friendly and supportive" (Legal 500, 2017: Commercial Litigation). "Technically excellent and very client-friendly" (Legal 500, 2017: Professional Negligence). "Utterly brilliant - he has terrific focus and brain power and his communication couldn't be clearer. He is very commercial and sensible and clients just love him"; "he has extraordinary gravitas for someone who's only just ceased to be a junior - when you meet with him you know you're talking to someone who's highly skilled in the advice he gives"(Chambers & Partners, 2016: Professional Negligence). "A ferociously hard worker who will rapidly rise through the ranks" (Legal 500, 2015: Commercial Litigation). "Extremely impressive and invaluable in complex high-value litigation" (Legal 500, 2016: Commercial Litigation).

Before taking silk he was described as "The first choice of junior for many", "thorough, robust and in complete control", "so good that he is doing work far beyond his years of call" and as being "consistently involved in high-profile cases". Graham has a broad commercial practice which falls into three core areas: commercial litigation, professional liability claims in a commercial context and construction and engineering law. Graham has been described as "very able", "quick and hardworking" and "intellectually gifted". He appears in Court and arbitrations and has a growing advisory practice in the field of financial services regulation.

"He's never afraid to make a decision and he's well able to lead a devastating forensic attack on his opponent's case" - Chambers & Partners 2015; "He has a growing presence in high-value claims." - Legal 500 2015

"He gets through voluminous and complex instructions at impressive speed, and consistently provides robust and commercial advice, as well as advocacy of the highest quality." "He is quietly spoken, but his words are powerful and his advice is terrific." - Chambers & Partners 2015

Graham's commercial practice spans the full range of commercial disputes and often his cases have an international dimension to them. His professional liability work includes claims against accountants and auditors, construction professionals, financial service professionals, insurance brokers and agents, lawyers and surveyors and valuers. He also has experience of professional disciplinary matters. His practice includes insurance and reinsurance work and he is regularly instructed in cases concerned with the interpretation of policy-wording and coverage disputes. In the construction field he has acted for and against contractors, architects and engineers in claims concerning projects both in the UK and overseas. He has experience of acting in domestic and international arbitrations both in the commercial and construction fields.

Graham is a contributor to the 6th Edition of Jackson & Powell on Professional Negligence (Sweet & Maxwell 2006) and is the co-author of the chapter on tort in the Construction Law Handbook (Thomas Telford).

Graham has been called to the Bars of the Grand Court of Cayman, of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI) and of the Isle of Man.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Graham Chapman QC.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Combines excellent technical abilities with commercially savvy and practical advice." "He is approachable, a pleasure to work with and someone who always sees solutions to problems." – *Chambers & Partners, 2021*

"Excellent intellect and very user friendly." – *Legal 500, 2021*

"Graham Chapman QC is a fine cross-examiner with great judgement, who is dedicated and tough." "He's a gentleman with solicitors and clients, and a tactful yet robust advocate in the courtroom." – *Chambers & Partners, 2020*

"A first-class silk – incredibly user friendly and very down to earth, he has a wonderful brain." – *Legal 500, 2020*

Graham has acted in a wide range of commercial disputes including those arising from international M&A transactions, sale of goods, claims against directors for breach of fiduciary duty and misappropriation of company funds, partnership disputes and a variety of contractual claims. He has experience of acting as counsel in arbitral proceedings including ICC Arbitrations. Often his work has an international element to it and he has experience of acting in forum disputes/challenges and dealing with expert evidence on foreign law and procedure.

Graham has undertaken a number of cases involving the automotive industry and has himself a keen interest in performance cars



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and motorsport. These have included a large, multi-million pound contractual dispute (including obtaining injunctive relief) in relation to attempts to terminate arrangements concerning the design and construction of GT motor racing versions of roadgoing sports cars (*CRS v. McLaren*), a contractual dispute concerning a multi-million pound roadside recovery contract on behalf of a regional police force, a claim concerning the provenance of a vintage Lancia rally car and dispute concerning the ownership and acquisition of a valuable McLaren racing car..

A flavour of Graham's work and experience might be provided by the following:

- Acting for a defendant company and individual alleged to have been engaged in a dishonest conspiracy to misappropriate an interest in a substantial European media company.
- Acting for both claimants and defendants in a series of breach of warranty cases arising from M&A transactions.
- Acting for a defendant outsourcing service provider in a dispute with a major financial institution including applications for injunctive relief.
- Acting for a defendant director in a substantial claim brought against him for breach of fiduciary duty relating to inter-company transactions within a group of companies.
- Acting for a claimant seeking to challenge the misappropriation of a substantial shareholding in a Russian company and to assert ownership over various assets held in offshore trust structures.
- Acting for a defendant professional trust company in a claim concerning the investment of trust property.
- Advising and acting in substantial offshore trust disputes arising out of commercial transactions and structuring.
- Advising a group of investors as to potential claims arising from failed investments in an investment bond.
- Acting for the Claimant investors in a circa £50m dispute arising from failed investments in technology investment schemes: see, for example, *Brown & Oths v. InnovatorOne Plc* [2009] EWHC 1376 (Comm); [2009] WLR (D) 205. He has experience of a wide number of different types of technology, film and charity tax-advantaged investment schemes
- Acting for the Claimant unit trust in a dispute concerning the acquisition of a factory outlet shopping centre.
- Acting for defendant directors who were alleged to have acted in breach of the duties they owed to the company by entering into interest rate Swap contracts on behalf of that company.
- Acting for the Defendant financial services company in a claim concerning margin calls and dealing in contracts for difference.
- Acting for a police force in defence of claims concerning alleged breach of a commercial contract and breach of the rules applicable to public procurement contracts.
- Acting for the defendant in a dispute as to domicile and on an application for permission to serve out: *Cherney v Deripaska* [2007] EWHC 965 (Comm); [2008] EWHC.
- Acting for the successful claimants in a claim arising from an investment in a US\$400m shipping line. The claim included claims for fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation together with contractual claims. See *Abu Dhabi Investment Co. v H Clarkson & Ors* [2007] EWHC 1267 (Comm) (and for related proceedings in which Graham acted for the claimants in successfully resisting an application for a stay for arbitration in the UAE see *Abu Dhabi Investment Co. v H Clarkson & Ors* [2006] 2 Lloyd's Rep 281).
- Defending former directors of an insurance company against a claim for breach of fiduciary duty.
- Advising in relation to disputes arising from the sale and development of residential property in the Middle East.
- Acting for a claimant import/export company in a claim against a former employee for misappropriation of company funds/unauthorised trading.
- Acting for a former director of a shipping agent in relation to various claims made by and against his former employers.
- Advising in a dispute concerning the supply of electronic equipment in the media industry.
- Acting on behalf of underwriters in arbitral proceedings against brokers.

Qualifications & Memberships

Graham has been called to the Bars of the Grand Court of Cayman, of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI) and of the Isle of Man.

B.A. (Oxon.) (First Class)

Insights



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Lessons in Wiful Default after Weaving (Turkish Commercial Law Review, June 2015)

1 June 2015

An article in the Turkish Commercial Law Review, June 2015 written by Justin Fenwick QC, Graham Chapman QC and Michael Ryan

Londongrad calling: Jurisdiction Battles in the English Courts, Dispute Resolution International, 2014, 8(1), 25-36.

15 May 2014

The authors focus upon applications for permission to serve a claim form outside the jurisdiction and, further, on applications to serve on a defendant who is not domiciled within one of the states of the European Union.

"Taking Care of Family Business"

12 January 2005

A search for consistency following *Wade v. Grimwood*