



NEW SQUARE

Usman Roohani

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Usman has a broad commercial and modern chancery practice with a particular focus on company and insolvency law, banking and financial services, civil fraud and asset tracing.

His current and recent instructions include:

- Acting as junior counsel in a civil fraud claim worth US\$60m+ (led by Tim Akkouch of Essex Court Chambers);
- Assisting in the investigation of a substantial multi-jurisdictional fraud claim (instructed by Signature Litigation);
- Appearing in the Court of Appeal in *Sara & Hossein Asset Holdings Ltd v Blacks Outdoor Retail Ltd* (led by Morayo Fagborun Bennett; instructed by Gateley Plc);
- Defending an unfair prejudice petition in the High Court (sole counsel);
- Advising a foreign bank on the scope of its Quincecare duties under English law (junior counsel in a multi-counsel team);
- Appearing (successfully) in three contested interlocutory applications in the Chancery Division in a £13m fraud claim (sole counsel at the interlocutory stage); and
- Advising on various office-holder claims arising out of a BVI insolvency (junior counsel).

Usman has appeared in the High Court and before arbitral tribunals on multiple occasions in his own right and has been led in the Court of Appeal.

Prior to pupillage, Usman taught property and trusts law as a Visiting Lecturer and Examiner at King's College London and spent a year working in the Professional Indemnity Department at Linklaters.

Privacy Policy

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Areas of Expertise



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Civil Fraud & Asset Tracing

Usman has experience of assisting with some of the largest and most complex civil fraud matters before the English courts, including the long-running *JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov*. He has worked on applications for interim relief, including freezing injunctions, search orders and *Norwich Pharmacal* orders. He is familiar with both the urgency and the particular sensitivities required by such applications.

His experience includes:

- Acting as junior counsel in a civil fraud claim worth US\$60m+ (led by Tim Akkouch of Essex Court Chambers);
- Assisting in the investigation of a substantial multi-jurisdictional fraud claim (instructed by Signature Litigation);
- Acting as junior counsel in a commercial fraud claim (led by Paul Strelitz);
- Assisting with a commercial fraud claim worth over £300 million involving numerous *ex parte* applications;
- Assisting with a civil recovery claim brought under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; and
- Advising on the operation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Most recently, Usman acted for the Claimant in a two-day fraud trial before HHJ Monty QC. The trial was described by the judge as “high stakes litigation” as it involved cross-allegations of fundamental dishonesty and the forgery of documents in evidence. The Claimant succeeded on every issue, including on every allegation of forgery, and obtained a highly favourable indemnity costs order.

Qualifications & Memberships

QUALIFICATIONS

- BA Law, First Class (Trinity College, Cambridge); 2013
- BCL (Brasenose College, Oxford); 2015
- BPTC, Outstanding (City Law School, London); 2016

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Lord Denning Scholarship, Eastham Scholarship and Hardwicke Award, Lincoln’s Inn; 2013-2017
- The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Prize (top BPTC performance in Civil Litigation and Commercial Law); 2016
- Buchanan Prize, Lincoln’s Inn; 2016
- City University Academic Scholarship; 2015
- Trinity College Tripos Prize (achieving the highest college first in law), Trinity College, Cambridge; 2013
- Senior Scholarship, Trinity College, Cambridge; 2013
- Lizette Bentwich Prizes, Trinity College, Cambridge; 2012-2013

CSR

Usman is an active member of Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit).

He also participates in two mentoring initiatives aimed at assisting disadvantaged applicants hoping to study at the University of Cambridge.