



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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Companies, Joint Ventures & Partnerships

Usman has a broad range of experience in both contentious and advisory work in the areas of company and partnership law. He has worked on matters relating to public and private companies, partnerships, limited partnerships, LLPs, unregistered and overseas companies and unincorporated associations.

On the advisory side, his experience includes assisting in the preparation and delivery of advice given to:

- A FTSE 100 company on the operation of requisition rights under the Companies Act 2006;
- A FTSE 250 company on whether a proposed corporate transaction would violate the prohibition on financial assistance;
- A public company on the consequences of unlawfully declared dividends;
- An international bank (via a Magic Circle law firm) on the operation of the company charges registration regime;
- A local authority's pension fund on various points of limited partnership law;
- An investment fund on the enforceability of floating charge securities; and
- A public company ahead of a rights issue

Usman has considerable experience of advising on the construction of company articles, joint venture agreements, investment agreements and partnership deeds. He is often instructed to draft board minutes and written resolutions to support private company transactions (e.g. own-share buy backs).

On the contentious side, his experience includes assisting with:

- Substantial offshore company litigation (Royal Court of Guernsey);
- The arbitration of a partnership dispute;
- Drafting unfair prejudice Petitions and Defences to such Petitions; and
- An HMRC challenge to a 'tax plan' based on the *Ramsay* principle

Usman is currently instructed to defend a highly technical unfair prejudice petition in the High Court involving issues of accounting practices and the legality of dividends.

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



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Cambridge.