

OUR PEOPLE

George Spalton KC

CALL 2004

SILK 2021

LEGAL 500

“George is the complete article. He is an astute strategist, an excellent advocate and a great team player.”

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George Spalton KC specialises in complex commercial litigation and international arbitration.

He is rated in Chambers and Partners / Legal 500 in the following eight areas, reflecting extensive experience of blue-chip litigation across a range of areas of commercial practice (Tier 1/New Silk):

1. Commercial Litigation;
2. International Commercial Arbitration (previously nominated as Junior of the Year);
3. Offshore;
4. Professional Liability;
5. Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory work;
6. Insurance and Reinsurance;
7. IT and Telecoms; and,
8. 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.

He is highly regarded as an advocate with Foxton J recently noting that George conducted cross-examination during a heavy 3 week fraud trial with “*considerable skill*” (HPII at [26]).

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

- *Honda Group-UK Pension Scheme Trustee Limited & Another v Mercer Limited & Another* [2022] EWHC 3197 (Ch) – successfully resisting a summary judgment application in a high value pensions dispute.
- Successfully acted for Nissan resisting strike out application in ongoing, high-profile civil fraud claim before Wallbank J *Nissan Motor Co Ltd v Carlos Ghosn (and others) Claim BVIHCM2019/0121*.
- *HPII (In Liquidation) & Others v (1) Andrew Ruhan; (2) Anthony Stevens and Interested Parties* [2022] EWHC 383 (Comm) – 3 week Commercial Court trial before Foxton J with issues encompassing directors’ duties; equitable compensation; dishonest assistance; knowing receipt; ss. 21(1) and 32 LA 1980.
- *Province of Balochistan v Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited* [2021] EWHC 1884 (Comm) (Arbitration Claim: ss 66, 68 and 73 of the 1996 Act)
- *Trappit SA; (2) Trappit Tecnologias S.l. (3) 2MC v (1) American Express Europe LLC; (2) GBT Travel* [2021] EWHC 1344 (Ch) (jurisdiction challenge under Arts 25, 29 & 30 Brussels Recast and abuse of process in Chancery Division).

- *Jones v Zurich Insurance Plc* [2021] EWHC 1320 (Comm) (insurance claim with issues relating to CIDRA 2012 and inducement).
- *Premier Cruises Limited v DLA* [2021] EWHC 151 (Comm) (application for stay under s 9 of the Arbitration Act 1996).
- *Stephenson Harwood LLP v (1) Medien Patentverwaltung AG; (2) Michael Kagan (as administrator)* [2020] EWCA Civ 1743 – jurisdiction appeal in stakeholder action.
- *Livingston Properties Equities Inc (Respondents) v JSC MCC Eurochem and others (Appellants)* [2020] UKPC 31 – successful jurisdictional appeal before the 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.
- *HPII 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 sits on the European Users’ Council of the LCIA and in 2022 was appointed as one of the UK delegates to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. He was elected to the Executive Committee of COMBAR (the Commercial Bar Association) for 2020-2022, having previously been elected to the committee from 2013 to 2016 and having acted as Chair of Junior COMBAR from 2011 to 2013, and now Co-Chairs the Gulf Sub-Committee. 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 KC.

Transparency Statement

Click here for the [Transparency Statement](#) for George Spalton KC.

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

George has been ranked for commercial litigation in both major directories for a number of years.

He has acted in a number of major cases in recent years in the Commercial Court and abroad, including for sovereign states, and has appeared in 25 reported decisions in the period 2016-2021. In the last two years he has acted in high profile claims as lead QC (including Nissan's claims against Carlos Ghosn and the HPII litigation).

He was previously nominated as Junior of the Year for International Commercial Arbitration by Chambers and Partners. In addition, George was recognised by Legal Week in their survey 'Stars at the Bar'.

Comments include:

- **"George is cool, calm and collected – clients love him." "He really stands out for his commercial approach." "He is an excellent barrister, who is always able to frame his legal advice in a relevant commercial context." – Chambers & Partners, 2023**
- **"George is as charming as he is bright. Extremely accessible and combines prodigious legal skill with pragmatism and common sense. The epitome of a role-your-sleeves-up modern barrister who leads by example." – Legal 500, 2023**
- **"George is the complete article. He is an astute strategist, an excellent advocate and a great team player." – Legal 500, 2022**
- **"A real team player, who is quick, efficient and easy to work with. George is one of the more effective barristers at altering his approach depending on the client in question, and is equally good on paper as he is on his feet." – Chambers & Partners, 2022**
- **"An exceptional advocate – he rises above any unfortunate point-scoring by the opponent, never losing sight of the key issues."**
- **"He is client-friendly, clever and very commercial." – Chambers & Partners, 2021**
- **"Beyond well prepared and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of his files." – Legal 500, 2020**
- **"George is incredibly smooth. He has a really deft touch with clients, and he absolutely knows how to explain tricky stuff in a sensible, digestible fashion." "He stands out for his commercial approach." – Chambers & Partners, 2020**

George has experience of an extremely broad range of commercial disputes, extending from conflicts of law/jurisdictional issues, enforcement, asset tracing, shareholder disputes (with particular expertise in SPA related matters and Earn Out disputes), insurance and reinsurance, to commodities and civil fraud.

In addition to his work in the Commercial Court in London he has been instructed on disputes in a wide range of jurisdictions including Dubai, Oman, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Trinidad & Tobago, BVI and the Channel Islands.

As well as acting in trials and international arbitrations (as to which please follow the link to 'Arbitration'), George regularly appears in pre-action and interlocutory hearings such as freezing and proprietary injunctions, pre-action disclosure applications, security for costs applications and jurisdictional disputes.

Examples of recent reported decisions

- Successfully acted for Nissan resisting strike out application in ongoing, high-profile civil fraud claim before Wallbank *J Nissan Motor Co Ltd v Carlos Ghosn (and others) Claim BVIHCM2019/0121*.

- *HPII (In Liquidation) & Others v (1) Andrew Ruhan; (2) Anthony Stevens and Interested Parties* [2022] EWHC 383 (Comm) – 3 week Commercial Court trial before Foxton J with issues encompassing directors' duties; equitable compensation; dishonest assistance; knowing receipt; ss. 21(1) and 32 LA 1980.
- *Province of Balochistan v Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited* [2021] EWHC 1884 (Comm) (Arbitration Claim: ss 66, 68 and 73 of the 1996 Act)
- *Trappit SA; (2) Trappit Tecnologias S.l. (3) 2MC v (1) American Express Europe LLC; (2) GBT Travel* [2021] EWHC 1344 (Ch) (jurisdiction challenge under Arts 25, 29 & 30 Brussels Recast and abuse of process in Chancery Division).
- Acting successfully for BVI Government in an arbitration arising out of a international airline project (see 'News' section for Government's Press Release).
- *Jones v Zurich Insurance Plc* [2021] EWHC 1320 (Comm) (insurance claim with issues relating to CIDRA 2012 and inducement).
- *Stephenson Harwood LLP v (1) Medien Patentverwaltung AG; (2) Michael Kagan (as administrator)* [2020] EWCA Civ 1743 – jurisdiction appeal in stakeholder action
- *Livingston Properties Equities Inc (Respondents) v JSC MCC Eurochem and others (Appellants)* [2020] UKPC 31 – successful jurisdictional appeal before the 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.
- *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).
- *Palliser v Fate Ltd & Ors* [2019] EWHC 43 (QB)
- *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)
- *EuroPools Plc (In Administration) v Royal and Sun Alliance* [2018] EWHC 46 (Comm)
- *Premier Motorauctions Ltd (In Liquidation) v PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP* [2017] EWCA Civ 1872
- *Towergate Financial (Group) Ltd v Clark & Others* [2017] (Comm) (Leggatt J)
- *Dalecroft Ltd v Certain Lloyds Underwriters* [2017] EWHC 1263 (Comm)
- *TJH and Sons Consultancy Limited v CPP Group Plc* [2017] EWCA Civ 46.
- *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.
- *Harlequin Property (SVG) Ltd & Harlequin Hotels and Resorts Ltd v Wilkins Kennedy* [2016] 3188 EWHC (TCC)
- *Stokors S.A. & Others v I G Markets Ltd; v Craigcrook Management Services Ltd* [2013] EWHC 631 (Comm)

George also has particular expertise of disputes in the corporate and offshore context, including civil fraud claims (for example acting for the *Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago* in high value claims in the Caribbean) and minority shareholder disputes and warranty claims.

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 2019/2020, 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.

International Arbitration

George is a specialist international arbitration practitioner – with experience across the spectrum of international commercial disputes, investment arbitration and arbitration challenges in the Commercial Court. He has acted as counsel and arbitrator in numerous arbitrations over the last c 20 years in a range of jurisdictions (including – by way of example of recent work – claims heard, or with seats in, Dubai, Zurich, Paris, Hong Kong, Moscow, Singapore and Egypt); as well as acting for and against nation states.

Experience of applications and claims in the Commercial Court is set out below by reference to certain decided cases and includes:

- Acting in anti-suit injunctions (both seeking injunctions and opposing);
- Acting in s 9 Arbitration Act applications to stay proceedings;
- Acting in s 44 Arbitration Act applications concerning injunctive relief and anti-enforcement injunctions;
- Acting in ss 67-69 Arbitration Act claims.

George sits on the European Users' Council of the LCIA and in 2022 was appointed as one of the UK delegates to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. 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 in Chambers Global).

Comments in Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners include:

- **"George is extremely responsive and works as part of a team. He is commercially minded and technically strong. His oral advocacy in particular is presented clearly and logically, and is highly persuasive."** – *Legal 500, 2023*
- **"He's really strong on commercial disputes and very smooth with clients; he has a relaxed confidence and authority."** – *Chambers & Partners, 2023*
- **"Strategic and forceful in cross-examination, managing to draw devastating concessions from otherwise uncooperative and evasive witnesses."** – *Legal 500, 2022*
- **"He is very polished and he is a fantastic all-rounder."** **"He is very thorough."** – *Chambers & Partners, 2022*
- **"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*

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:

- Acting in successful, high-value civil fraud arbitration (LCIA) concerning property in Moscow following 3 week hearing in 2021.
- Acting as expert witness on English law in ICSID arbitration in 2021.
- *Province of Balochistan v Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited* [2021] EWHC 1884 (Comm) (Arbitration Claim: ss 66, 68 and 73 of the 1996 Act).
- Acting successfully for BVI Government in an arbitration arising out of an international airline project (see 'News' section for Government's Press Release).
- *Premier Cruises Limited v DLA* [2021] EWHC 151 (Comm) (application for stay under s 9 of the Arbitration Act 1996).
- *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.
- 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 Tynney 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

Professional Liability

“He inspires a lot of confidence in clients and he’s very efficient and skilled.” – *Chambers & Partners, 2023*

“A very solid, charming advocate and a very decent guy.” “He is effective and to the point.” “A robust and pugnacious barrister, and he’s very good with clients.” – *Chambers & Partners, 2022*

“He is brilliant: down to earth and very good to work with.” – *Legal 500, 2022*

“George is very commercially aware and properly explores the needs of the client. He is calm under pressure and has a significant intellect which, combined with charm, makes him a formidable opponent. A pleasure to work with.” “George is incredibly bright and very commercial.” – *Chambers & Partners, 2023*

“He is brilliant: down to earth and very good to work with.” – *Legal 500, 2023*

“George is a thoroughly modern barrister, easy to engage with and sensible. He is very strong on strategy and good on his feet. Clients engage with him. All in all, a safe pair of hands.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

George has extensive experience of professional liability claims, both in terms of claims involving different professions and in respect of the value and type of claims. He is recommended by both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. Amongst other things he is said to be **“very bright, thorough and commercial in his approach. He is very good with clients”, “superb on paper and on his feet”, “a top notch advocate”, “a real up-and-coming star” with a “real intellect” and a “very calm manner with clients”.**

George has particular experience of acting for and against accountants and auditors, financial services professionals, insurance brokers & agents, actuaries, barrister, solicitors and surveyors. He also has good experience of disciplinary claims and tribunals.

Examples of reported decisions

- *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)
- *Premier Motor Auctions Ltd (In Liquidation) v PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP* [2017] EWCA Civ 1872
- *Towergate Financial (Group) Ltd v Clark & Others* [2017] (Comm)
- *Harlequin Property (SVG) Ltd v Wilkins Kennedy (A Firm)* [2015] EWHC 1122 (TCC)
- *Wright v Lewis Silkin* [2016] EWCA Civ 1308

- *Planetree Nominees Ltd v Howard Kennedy LLP* [2016] EWHC 2302 (Ch)
- *Stokors S.A. & Others v I G Markets Ltd; v Craigcrook Management Services Ltd* [2013] EWHC 631 (Comm)
- *Webb v (1) JMQC (2) Dakers Green Brett* [2010] EWHC 93 (Ch); (2010) NPC 12
- *Reader v Molesworths Bright Clegg* [2007] EWCA Civ 169; [2007] 1 WLR 1082

George is an Editor of “Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability” and from 2013 to 2016 was one of the four co-editors of Sweet & Maxwell’s “Encyclopedia of Financial Services Law”.

His professional liability experience includes offshore work (largely focused on claims involving accountants, auditors and actuaries) – in Cayman, BVI and Trinidad & Tobago.

In 2015 George was called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI).

Accountants, Auditors & Actuaries

George has particular experience of claims against accountants and actuaries (recently acting for KPMG, PwC and BDO). He is the editor of the chapter on actuaries in Jackson & Powell and his work in this area is supported by accountancy courses which he took as part of his LLM in New York.

George also has significant experience of tax related claims (whether investment schemes, such as the Ingenious litigation or claims against individual tax advisers). In this regard, he was one of the panel of barristers retained by the Chartered Institute of Taxation for several years.

Featured cases

- Acting for Big Four auditor in proceedings in Hong Kong
- *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)
- *Premier Motorauctions Ltd (In Liquidation) v PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP* [2017] EWCA Civ 1872
- *Harlequin Property (SVG) Ltd & Harlequin Hotels and Resorts Ltd v Wilkins Kennedy* [2016] 3188 EWHC (TCC)
- Acting for major city council in claim arising out of negligent audit.
- Acting for liquidators of insolvent hedge fund in offshore proceedings.
- Acting against a top firm in relation to negligent advice on a share transaction.
- Acting for Central Bank of Caribbean Country and liquidators of insolvent multi-national insurance company against top firm relating to alleged failure to warn about a significant fraud.

In addition, George has acted in a number of warranty claims arising out of SPAs which tie in with his accountancy related experience and also disciplinary proceedings involving ATT, ACCA and ICAEW and in high profile proceedings brought by the FRC (defending firm of accountants and actuaries).

Financial Services Professionals

George has significant experience of professional liability claims in the financial context. That experience is based both on his accountants/actuaries related work and also work for and against IFAs.

Having worked as co-editor of Sweet & Maxwell’s 5 volume ‘Encyclopedia of Financial Services Law’ he has a very good understanding of the relevant statutory framework.

He has successfully represented an individual said to have given negligent advice in relation to CFDs (contracts for difference) at a five week commercial court trial: (*Stokors v I G Markets & Craigcrook* [2013] EWHC 631 (Comm)).

Insurance Brokers

George's experience of insurance broker related work has ranged from claims defending coverholders (e.g. *Markerstudy v Synergy*) to claims against brokers for advice on cover, e.g. *Crowson v HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd* [2010] Lloyd's Rep. I.R. 441.

His experience of insurance work more generally provides helpful experience for this area of work (see e.g. *Dalecroft Ltd v Certain Lloyds Underwriters* [2017] EWHC 1263 (Comm) and *Euro Pools Plc (In Administration) v Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Plc* [2018] EWHC 46 (Comm)).

Lawyers

George has been involved in a substantial number of claims against solicitors and barristers where the underlying subject matter relates to both civil and criminal matters.

He has appeared in a number of significant cases, with three cases in the Court of Appeal on issues relating to lawyers' liability:

- *Wright v Lewis Silkin* [2016] EWCA Civ 1308 (led by Justin Fenwick QC);
- *David Frost v Wake Smith & Tofields (A Firm)* [2013] EWCA Civ 1960 and
- *Reader v Molesworths Bright Clegg* [2007] EWCA Civ 169; [2007] 1 WLR 1082.

His work for firms of solicitors has led him to acting for (and against) magic circle law firms, top tier US firms and a range of smaller firms across diverse practise areas.

George has also acted in a number of cases involving barristers, across a range of areas of expertise (such as company law, criminal law and employment law).

George also has extensive experience of costs related matters on behalf of lawyers, such as wasted costs applications, security for costs in the context of ATE and non-party costs orders (for example he acted for the solicitors in *Weddall v Barchester Healthcare Limited*; *Germany v Flatman* [2011] EWHC 2945 (QB), a decision of Mr Justice Eady concerning non-party cost orders against a firm of solicitors under section 51 of the Senior Courts Act 1981).

Surveyors & Valuers

George has extensive experience of claims against valuers involving both residential and commercial property. He has been instructed both by banks seeking to recover losses caused by negligent valuations and also by valuers defending such claims. He also has been involved in a number of mortgage fraud cases.

Offshore Litigation

"George commands the details very quickly and is full of sage practical advice. He is a realist when needed. He is excellent on his feet and doesn't miss a beat. He is approaching the top of his game in the fraud and asset recovery field and he is a trusted name among peers. He is approachable, a team player and works extremely hard for the client." – *Legal 500, 2023*

"Always on top of strategy and details, clients love him and he turns work round very quickly." – *Legal 500, 2022*

"George is a pleasure to work with: he is very pragmatic and user-friendly. He is adept at managing difficult situations and can be relied upon to keep demanding clients happy." – *Legal 500, 2021*

"He adds value by offering strategic and tactical advice that takes in to account client objectives." – *Legal 500, 2020*

George is ranked for offshore work in the directories. He is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (British Virgin Islands) and has been instructed in cases in BVI, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Cayman Islands.

Featured Offshore Litigation cases

- Successfully acted for Nissan resisting strike out application in ongoing, high-profile civil fraud claim before Wallbank *J Nissan Motor Co Ltd v Carlos Ghosn (and others) Claim BVIHCM2019/0121*.
- Acting as lead counsel for BVI Government in successful arbitration arising out of an international airline project.
- Acting as lead counsel for Nissan in ongoing proceedings against Carlos Ghosn in the BVI.
- *Livingston Properties Equities Inc (Respondents) v JSC MCC Eurochem and others (Appellants)* [2020] UKPC 31 – successful jurisdictional appeal before the Privy Council.
- Ongoing arbitration for an Eastern Caribbean Government.
- *Livingston Properties; Nimati & others v JSC MCC Eurochem* BVI HCMAP 2016/0042-0046 (BVI Court of Appeal and Privy Council Jurisdiction Challenge).
- Acting over the course of several years in high-profile, high-value litigation in Trinidad & Tobago on behalf of the Central Bank of Trinidad.
- Appearing before the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in the BVI in the context of a high-value unfair prejudice dispute between Kyiv-based shareholders (see: *Adamovsky and Stockman Interhold SA v Andriy Malitskiy and Igor Filipenko* [2017] BVI HC MAP 2014/0031 and 2014/0022).
- Appearing before BVI Commercial Court in *JSC MCC Eurochem v Livingstone Properties Equities Inc & Others* (May 2017).
- Acting for a firm of accountants in proceedings brought by two offshore companies, which involved hearings in St Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Acting for a BVI based individual in proceedings before the Privy Council.
- Acting for a major fund (in liquidation) in proceedings arising out of the collapse of the fund against Cayman Island defendants.

In addition to the above, George was one of the four co-editors of Sweet & Maxwell's 'Encyclopedia of Financial Services Law' for a number of years giving him additional expertise in both financial services and regulatory issues.

Construction & Engineering

George is an experienced lead advocate in complex and high-value construction matters. Recent cases range from international claims (especially in Dubai and the Middle East) to domestic litigation and adjudication. By way of example of ongoing cases he is currently instructed in a multi-million pound construction dispute listed for 10 weeks in the TCC in 2023 and several international arbitrations (including in the energy and mining sectors – with two ongoing cases involving nation states).

George also has considerable experience of PFI related claims, including in a recent adjudication in a high-value PFI contract worth in excess of £700m and in the context of cladding claims (acting for architects in the one of the most important cladding disputes post-Grenfell).

Featured Construction & Engineering cases

- Acting successfully in a high-value DIAC arbitration as lead counsel arising out of the construction of large scale hospitals in Riyadh and Jeddah.
- Acting in ongoing litigation for English firm in relation to high value and high profile cladding dispute.
- Acting in high-value, long-running onshore/offshore wind-farm dispute in Ireland arising out of allegedly negligent construction of the turbines, with English law and Irish law issues. Settled before 5 week TCC trial.
- *Harlequin Property (SVG) v Wilkins Kennedy* [2016] EWHC 3233 (TCC) (which gave rise to a number of reported decisions, including on security for costs, and which culminated in a seven week trial before Coulson J in the TCC).
- Ongoing PFI dispute in the context of the waste disposal industry (worth in excess of £1BN).
- Acting for a main contractor in Dubai in long-running ad hoc arbitration against employer (involving five separate hearings in Dubai over a two-year period).
- 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.

- Advising an Indian Respondent to arbitration proceedings brought by an Australian mining company in an ICC arbitration.

George is a member of the Technology and Construction Bar Association and has experience as an arbitrator in construction disputes (including as sole arbitrator in an ongoing LCIA arbitration).

Insurance

“Commercially astute and able to get to the central issues in dispute. Thoroughly charming, including with opponents which helps to diffuse difficult situations. A good commercial advocate.” – *Legal 500, 2023*

“George is phenomenal. He is always on top of strategy and details, clients love him, and he turns work round very quickly.” – *Legal 500, 2022*

“George is an excellent advocate and particularly good with clients. He is technically excellent, with a detailed knowledge of insurance law, which he is able to apply effectively in any given case.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

“Terrific on his feet and very calm under pressure.” – *Legal 500, 2020*

George has considerable experience of insurance claims, whether advising on questions of policy construction and coverage; non-disclosure and avoidance issues or fighting disputes on behalf of both insurers and insureds at trial.

Featured Insurance cases

- Acted for underwriters in a successor practice arbitration (instructed by CMC) under the MTCs.
- *Jones v Zurich Insurance Plc* [2021] EWHC 1320 (Comm) (insurance claim with issues relating to CIDRA 2012 and inducement).
- *Catlin Syndicate Limited & Others v Amec Foster Wheeler USA Corp* [2020] EWHC 2530 (Comm) – anti-suit injunction and issues relating to coverage and defence costs.
- *Euro Pools Plc v Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Plc* [2019] EWCA Civ 808 (Court of Appeal: notification of claims in PI insurance policy).
- *Palliser v Fate Ltd & Ors* [2019] EWHC 43 (QB)
- *Euro Pools Plc (In Administration) v Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Plc* [2018] EWHC 46 (Comm)
- *Towergate Financial (Group) Ltd v Clark & Others* [2017] (Comm) (Leggatt J)
- Acting for Claimant company in coverage dispute concerning range of alleged misrepresentations, non-disclosure and alleged moral hazard in Commercial Court Trial: *Dalecroft Ltd v Certain Lloyds Underwriters* [2017] EWHC 1263 (Comm)
- He was instructed as junior on behalf of RSA in the latter stages of the *Coles v Hetherton* litigation;
- He was instructed in a successful coverage arbitration worth £10m arising out of a fire at a hotel in the Isle of Man.

In the context of professional indemnity insurance, George has experience of issues relating to the Minimum Terms and Conditions for solicitors and has particular experience of acting in coverage arbitrations.

Sports Law

“He is not only technically excellent but is also commercially focused and has an in-depth knowledge of sport sector.” – *Legal 500, 2022*

“Adept at managing difficult situations and can be relied upon to keep demanding clients happy.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

George’s sports practice focuses on the following areas (i) disciplinary and regulatory work; (ii) governance and selection related issues and (iii) commercial work – whether general contractual advice or, more broadly, litigation or potential disputes between players/agents/clubs/professional bodies.

He is listed in Legal 500 in the context of professional disciplinary work. Comments in the directories note his **“real intellect”**, being **“an absolute pleasure to work with”**, an **“up-and-coming star”** who **“consistently produces high-quality work”** and picks up the **“key legal issues very quickly”** and a junior who **“really stands out for his commercial approach.”** He has experience of a wide range of disciplinary bodies and Tribunals – including (in the sporting context) the BHA and tribunals convened pursuant to

the Sports Resolutions Dispute Service.

By way of example of the scope of work, he recently acted for Nottingham Forest in a trial in the Chancery Division (*Al-Hasawi & NFFI Ltd v Nottingham Forest Football Club Limited* [2019] EWHC 1287 (Ch)) and he has built up considerable experience of acting for and against agents and he has in a number of high value Football Association Rule K arbitrations on behalf of agents against current or former Premier League players.

He is also acting for a top six Premier League football club in an ongoing arbitration.

George is also rated in the directories (Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners) for commercial litigation and international arbitration – areas of work which ties in well with commercial and international disputes in the sporting context.

Sanctions

George is currently acting and advising in a number of sanctions related matters involving both individuals and multi-nationals.

Since many of these cases are highly confidential please contact George for further information.

Disciplinary

“He has a very impressive intellect and a specialist knowledge of disciplinary and regulatory proceedings. Solicitor and client friendly, his reassuring presence inspires confidence.” – *Legal 500, 2023*

“A new silk who is great with clients. He has detailed knowledge of the law and procedure at the FRC.” – *Legal 500, 2022*

“George is a thoroughly modern barrister, easy to engage with and sensible. He is very strong on strategy and good on his feet.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

“He is excellent on his feet.” – *Legal 500, 2020*

“He represents Magic Circle partners in SDT cases.” – *Legal 500, 2019*

George has been recommended for several years by Legal 500 for his professional disciplinary work.

George enjoys disciplinary and regulatory work, recognising the importance of the cases to the professional bodies and the individuals or firms defending proceedings.

He recently acted for the Law Society in the context of an intervention: *Law Society v Ete & Others* [2019] EWHC 864 (Ch): urgent application for delivery up under Solicitors Act 1974 on behalf of Law Society).

He has acted on a regular basis as prosecutor and defendant before a number of different tribunals. For example, he has appeared before the Taxation and Disciplinary Board as Prosecutor for the Chartered Institute of Taxation and also the Association of Taxation Technicians and he has also appeared before the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal on behalf of defendant solicitors and he has also acted in a number of complaints brought by the ICAEW and ACCA against individuals and firms.

George has also acted in disciplinary proceedings brought by the FRC and also the Accountancy Investigation and Discipline Board (now the Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board) – for example he was instructed by the AADB in proceedings against PriceWaterhouseCoopers and a former director of Mayflower Plc.

George also acted in the recent proceedings before the SDT involving Clifford Chance LLP on behalf of one of the defendants.

Awards



Qualifications

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.