

OUR PEOPLE

Jack Steer

CALL 2013

LEGAL 500

“He’s extremely user-friendly and personable. He is very good on his feet and his cross-examination is impressive.”



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Jack has a broad practice with a particular focus on professional negligence, commercial litigation and insurance disputes.

Ranked as a leading junior by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, Jack has most recently been described as a “*future star*” of the bar, who “*gives excellent and thorough legal advice which looks at the whole issue and the wider impact of everything*”; “*quick, clever, very easy to get on with and an unstuffy, effective advocate.*”

Jack frequently acts unled in complex, document-heavy cases in the High Court, which often involve allegations of fraud. He is also regularly instructed as a junior on heavyweight litigation, including on appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

What the directories say

“*Jack is a future star; his advice is always clear, and he has a maturity beyond his years*” – Chambers & Partners, 2023

“*Jack is one of my absolute go-to barristers; he has the perfect blend of expertise, bedside manner and pragmatism*” – Chambers & Partners, 2023

“*A smiling assassin, Jack is always cheerful and yet is ferocious in putting forwards his arguments. I have no hesitation in suggesting Jack to my clients and for arranging conferences – I know that he will put my client at ease. I make sure to instruct Jack on the awkward cases, where he can offer innovative advice*” – Legal 500, 2023

“*He gives excellent and thorough legal advice which looks at the whole issue and the wider impact of everything*” – Chambers & Partners, 2022

“*He is a standout junior in professional negligence defence claims.*” – Legal 500, 2023

“*He’s quick, clever, very easy to get on with and an unstuffy, effective advocate*” – Chambers & Partners, 2022

“*He manages all the expectations, and his drafting is very good. He explains things very well, and he’s great with difficult clients. Destined to be instructed on the more complex cases*” – Chambers & Partners, 2022

“*A junior who is always very calm, and handles complex matters in a straightforward and sensible way*” – Legal 500, 2022

“He has strong technical ability and is always willing to give a firm and clear view. Very thorough and excellent drafting skills – does not miss anything” – Legal 500, 2021

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Jack Steer.

Transparency Statement

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Expertise

Professional Liability

“Jack is extremely knowledgeable and is incredibly experienced in dealing with solicitors’ negligence claims. He quickly gets to the crux of the matter, which hugely assists clients in dealing with claims quickly and cost-effectively” – Chambers & Partners, 2024

“He is a standout junior in professional negligence defence claims” – Legal 500, 2023

Ranked as a leading junior by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, Professional negligence is Jack’s main area of practice and he acts in claims against a wide variety of professionals, with particular experience in claims against lawyers, surveyors, valuers and financial professionals. He is frequently instructed to act in complex, document-heavy cases and has extensive experience in striking out unmeritorious claims, particularly those brought by litigants in person.

In addition to acting in litigation involving professionals, Jack is instructed to advise on regulatory issues, ranging from Ombudsman complaints to regulator investigations and past business reviews. He also acts in and advises on disciplinary proceedings commenced by professional regulators, including the SRA, the Architect’s Regulatory Board, the Health and Care Professionals Council and the SIRE Focus Group Disciplinary Committee (the disciplinary arm of the Oil Companies International Marine Forum, which regulates inspectors of oil and gas tankers).

Recent cases

- Acting for a law firm and its former partners in a £4.5m fraud claim that is currently proceeding in the Commercial Court.
- Acting for asbestos surveyors in a £1.3m claim arising from allegedly negligent surveying of asbestos a number of commercial sites.
- *Paul Langley v (1) GMB (2) Katharina Koester (3) Trade Union Legal LLP T/A Trade Union Law [2020] EWHC 3619 (QB)*, where Jack successfully acted for the Second and Third Defendants in a circa £800,000 claim brought by the Claimant in respect of allegedly negligence advice on the terms of a settlement agreement that terminated his employment with Birmingham Council.
- *(1) Karis Developments Limited (2) Karis Southern Projects Housing Limited v Howard Kennedy LLP*, where Jack acted for Howard Kennedy (led by Jamie Carpenter KC) in a £17m claim arising out of the failure of a large and controversial property development scheme in Lewes. The claim was ultimately withdrawn on day 4 of a 21-day trial in the Commercial Court in May 2022.
- *Frederick and others v Positive Solutions (Financial Services) Ltd [2018] UKSC 2018/0067*, in which Jack was instructed to act for Positive Solutions (led by Roger Ter Haar KC and Simon Howarth KC) in an appeal to the Supreme Court in a claim that concerned Positive Solutions’ vicarious liability for the fraud of an individual that was a member of its network of financial advisers.

Lawyers

Jack's lawyers' liability practice is extensive and includes claims arising out of both contentious and non-contentious work.

Jack's recent experience includes:

- Residential and commercial conveyancing negligence claims (including claims involving stamp duty avoidance schemes and multiple-dwelling relief)
- Claims involving data protection and cyber fraud
- Claims arising from the negotiation and drafting of commercial contracts
- Claims arising out of the conduct of family proceedings (including matrimonial finance disputes)
- Claims arising out of the conduct of personal injury and clinical negligence actions
- Claims arising out of the conduct of criminal proceedings
- Claims arising from errors in preparing wills and the wrongful administration of estates.

Financial Professionals

Jack has experience in acting in claims brought against a variety of financial professionals, including:

- Accountants.
- Auditors.
- IFAs.
- Tax advisers.
- Trustees.
- Pension professionals (in particular claims involving the duties and liabilities of SIPP operators).
- Insolvency practitioners.
- Mortgage brokers.
- Private equity clubs.
- Insurance brokers.

Jack has a particular interest in claims against accountants and IFAs arising out of investments in tax avoidance schemes. He has previously acted in a number of cases involving SDLT avoidance schemes and he is currently instructed as sole counsel in a high value claim involving a film finance scheme.

Property & Construction

Jack is regularly instructed in claims against property and construction professionals including:

- Building Surveyors.
- Valuers
- Property management companies.
- Letting agents/estate agents.
- Building contractors.
- Quantity surveyors.
- Architects
- Engineers
- Contract administrators.

Commercial Litigation

Jack acts for both Claimants and Defendants in cases that span the whole spectrum of commercial litigation. He has extensive

experience acting in deceit and fraudulent misrepresentation claims, breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty claims, sale of goods claims, partnership disputes, shareholder disputes, insolvency claims and debt recovery actions. Jack is instructed to advise, draft statements of case and provide representation at both the mediation and trial of these disputes. He also regularly appears as an advocate in the High Court in interlocutory applications, including interim injunctions that are listed on an urgent basis.

In addition to his domestic commercial litigation experience, Jack has also acted in a range of claims in offshore jurisdictions. He is currently instructed in a shareholder dispute in Jersey.

Jack has a particular expertise in shipping law, having previously held a research post at the Institute of Maritime Law, and he is happy to accept instructions in this area.

Recent cases:

- Advising the former owner of an EFL football club in relation to its new owner's alleged breaches of their sale agreement.
- Acting for a non-league football club in disputes with former directors and adjoining landowners.
- Acting for a former director and shareholder of a Jersey based patent licensing company in a dispute with other shareholders in relation to how he had been remunerated whilst he was a director and how company money had been managed more generally.

Civil Fraud

Civil fraud comprises a significant proportion of Jack's practice. He frequently acts in complex, document-heavy claims both within this jurisdiction and offshore that involve allegations of conspiracy, deceit, knowing receipt, dishonest assistance and receipt of secret commissions.

In this context, Jack has extensive experience of making/resisting a variety of interlocutory applications in the High Court, including those seeking freezing and proprietary injunctions, third party and pre-action disclosure, security for costs and Norwich Pharmacal orders.

Recent cases:

- Acting for a law firm and its former partners in a £4.5m fraud claim that is currently proceeding in the Commercial Court.
- Acting for an offshore law firm in two high value dishonest assistance claims, one brought by a former client and the other brought by a third-party creditor.
- Acting for a former director of a Jersey based company in a deceit claim in relation to the management company funds.
- Acting for banks and insurance intermediaries in respect of alleged secret commissions.
- *Frederick and others v Positive Solutions (Financial Services) Ltd* [2018] UKSC 2018/0067, in which Jack was instructed to act for Positive Solutions (led by Roger Ter Haar KC and Simon Howarth KC) in an appeal to the Supreme Court in a claim that concerned Positive Solutions' vicarious liability for the fraud of an individual that was a member of its network of financial advisers.
- *Kaplan v Super PCS LLP* [2017] EWHC 1165 (Ch), acting for an IFA in fraudulent misrepresentation claim arising out of the operation of a film finance scheme.

Insurance Law

Alongside Jack's professional negligence practice, he is instructed to advise on coverage under a range of professional indemnity policies and he has particular expertise in advising on successor practice issues, aggregation and issues of non-disclosure (including fraudulent non-disclosure) and late notification.

Jack also acts in insurance disputes outside the realm of professional indemnity insurance, with recent instructions relating to claims under property, yacht, flood, business interruption and general commercial insurance policies.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Jack was a member of the Insurance Law Research Group at the University of Southampton.

Recent cases:

- Advising an intelligence firm on the availability of cover for claims arising from certain work that the firm carried out for its clients.
- Advising the owner of a superyacht in relation to her insurer's reliance on a notification time bar under the policy to decline cover for damage to her vessel.
- *UK Acorn Finance Ltd v Markel (UK) Ltd*, where Jack acted for Markel (led by Michael Pooles KC at first instance and by Philip Edey KC on appeal) in defending its decision to decline cover under a surveyors' policy written on the RICS standard terms of insurance for fraudulent non-disclosure/misrepresentation.

Construction

Jack acts for employers, contractors and subcontractors in disputes in the High Court and the County Court and accepts instructions in cases arising from all of the major forms of construction and engineering contracts, including JCT and NEC3.

He is particularly sought after in disputes which overlap with his professional negligence expertise and is regularly instructed in claims against a variety of property and construction professionals including:

- Quantity surveyors
- Asbestos surveyors
- Architects
- Structural engineers
- Geotechnical engineers
- Building services engineers
- Building contractors and sub-contractors
- Contract administrators

Awards



Education

- 2012-2013 Kaplan Law School, Bar Professional Training Course, Very Competent
 - 2009-2012 University of Southampton (LLB), First Class (hons), Ranked 2nd in the year.
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Awards

- Lord Denning Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
 - Eastham Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
 - Hardwicke Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
 - Kaplan Advocacy Scholarship (Kaplan Law School)
 - Award for Academic Excellence (University of Southampton)
 - Thomas Eggar Mooting prize (University of Southampton)
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Memberships

- PNBA
 - BILA
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