OUR PEOPLE

Lucy Colter KC

CALL 2008 | SILK 2026

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

"Lucy Colter's attention to detail is outstanding and her advocacy is superb."

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Lucy Colter KC practices in commercial litigation including complex civil fraud, construction and professional liability claims.

Lucy has recently worked on some of the biggest and most complex cases in the Commercial Court and is also a highly experienced and robust advocate. She is ranked as a leading junior in the Legal 500 for Commercial Litigation, Offshore, Construction and Professional Negligence and in Chambers & Partners for Commercial Dispute Resolution, Construction, Professional Negligence and Professional Negligence: Technology and Construction. Lucy has been shortlisted for Junior of the Year in the Professional Negligence category at the Legal 500 Awards, and was also nominated for Professional Negligence Junior of the Year at the 2024 Legal 500 Bar Awards

Lucy has been described as "*Destined to be one of the stars of the English Bar – she is extremely bright, personable and tactically incisive*"; "*perfect with clients and one of the cleverest barristers I have worked with*"; "*she has incredible work ethic, forensic attention to detail, excellent responsiveness, and is a team player*"; "*first-rate – someone who works hard under difficult circumstances and is very approachable and normal*"; "*extremely hard-working, very bright and has an exceptional mastery of the detail of complex matters. She provides invaluable input.*"

Commercial litigation

Lucy's practice is dominated by complex litigation, including high-value civil fraud. Led by Justin Fenwick KC and George Spalton KC, she represented Nick Suppipat in his US$billion fraud claims against multiple defendants in the Commercial Court, obtaining a judgment for US$850 million after a 20 week trial (*Suppipat v Narongdej and others* [2023] EWHC 1988 (Comm)). In 2022, led by Justin Fenwick KC, Lucy represented Beny Steinmetz in an 11-week Commercial Court trial before Mr Justice Andrew Baker, defending deceit and conspiracy claims for c.US$1 billion+ brought by the Brazilian mining company, Vale. The claim collapsed midway through trial. Lucy was instructed for Georgy Bedzhamov in *Vneshprombank v Bedzhamov* and worked for several years on *Deripaska v Chernukhin*. Lucy also has a growing practice in commercial arbitration, including in the UAE. She also practices as an arbitrator.

Professional Liability

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Lucy acts in challenging and high-value claims. She is instructed with Patrick Lawrence KC to defend loss of a chance claims for US$100m+ against a leading private client firm involving issues of international and cross-border enforcement. She was instructed by a UHNW client bringing lost litigation claims worth US$500 million+ against a City firm in respect of claims arising out of a failed joint venture and the dissipation of the client's funds worldwide. She acted (led by Graeme McPherson KC) in a claim against a senior tax barrister instructed as an expert in respect of the demerger of a property empire, involving allegations of conflict and bias.

Construction & Engineering

Lucy has extensive trial experience in construction and engineering matters (in the TCC, arbitration and adjudication), acting for multinational construction service companies and development companies, usually as lead or sole advocate. She represented the successful defendant on a preliminary issue in terms of duties owed in *Multiplex Construction Europe Limited v RNP Associates Ltd (in liquidation) and others* [2021] EWHC 590 (TCC), leading Will Cook. She undertakes advisory work in respect of complex contractual issues arising on projects.

Offshore

Lucy's practice involves substantial and diverse offshore work in the Channel Islands; Cayman; BVI and Bermuda. She is instructed in trust matters and litigation; construction matters concerning offshore arbitration and on-shore court claims; and contractual disputes. Her commercial litigation practice very frequently involves an offshore element including in respect of enforcement issues. She has excellent experience of sanctions issues and is presently working on contentious sanctions issues impacting trust arrangements in Bermuda.

Details of Lucy's practice in each area can be found below.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a Privacy Policy for Lucy Colter.

Transparency Statement

Click here for a Transparency Statement for Lucy Colter.

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

"***Lucy demonstrates outstanding expertise in complex legal matters and has a deep understanding of underlying business processes.***" *Chambers & Partners*

"***Lucy is very meticulous and displays an immense ability to get to grips with a massive amount of factual material.***" *Chambers & Partners*

"***Lucy is very responsive, incredibly hardworking, and a fantastic team player. She is a real pleasure to work alongside and to instruct.***" *Legal 500*

"Lucy is an incredibly diligent barrister who knows the bundle backwards and has a natural intuition for what will and what will

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not work in a court room. *Legal 500*

"Destined to be one of the stars of the English Bar – she is extremely bright, personable and tactically incisive." *Legal 500*

Lucy has an extremely busy commercial practice and is ranked as a leading junior in Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. She is particularly interested in matters with an international element and in which fraud, conspiracy and large-scale dishonesty have been alleged. She has deep experience of fighting highly complex and difficult fraud claims at trial.

Lucy's recent experience includes:

- Acting for Nick Suppipat in *Suppipat and others v Narongdej* and others on US$2bn+ claims brought by the founder of a Thai wind farm enterprise against a range of defendants including Nop Narongdej and Siam Commercial Bank. The team secured a US$850 million judgment on behalf of Mr Suppipat and a post-judgment WFO and orders for enforcement in Hong Kong [2023] EWHC 1988 Comm. (Led by Justin Fenwick KC and George Spalton KC).
- Acting for Beny Steinmetz in *Vale SA and others v Steinmetz and others*, in respect of US$1bn claims in fraudulent misrepresentation, deceit and conspiracy in respect of a joint partnership arrangement, alleging bribery. The trial collapsed part-heard, Vale's claims were dismissed and the WFOs discharged. (Led by Justin Fenwick KC).
- Acting for Cyprus companies in an arbitral dispute with Russian-controlled companies arising out of a joint venture processing waste metal in western Russia.
- Acting in an arbitration concerning investment in a Bulgarian shopping mall and allegations of dishonesty and collusion. (Led by Justin Fenwick KC).
- Acting for Georgy Bedzhamov in proceedings against him in Russian law including for fraud and controlling persons liability, for more than £1bn, brought by the Russian bank VPB. Lucy was instructed in applications where the defendant successfully sought permission to rely on documents in litigation in Russia, and where the claimant abandoned its application for summary judgment worth c.US$30 million. (Led by Justin Fenwick KC).
- Acting for Oleg Deripaska in long-running litigation against Vladimir Chernukhin, in arbitration, in a section 67/section 68 Arbitration Act challenge in the Commercial Court (6 week trial) and an appeal by Mr Deripaska to the Court of Appeal. The litigation, worth in excess of US$100 million, concerned the ownership of valuable real estate assets in Moscow. It involved allegations of fraud and corruption and oppressive conduct in the takeover of a business under section 202 of Cyprus Companies Law, along with extensive satellite issues including in the Royal Court in Jersey, impacted by US sanctions against Mr Deripaska. (Led by Justin Fenwick KC). Reported as *(1) Filatona Trading Limited (2) Oleg Vladimirovich Deripaska v (1) Navigator Equities Limited (2) Vladimir Anatolevich Chernukhin* [2019] EWHC 173 Comm and [2020] EWCA Civ 109.
- Acting for an insurer in a dispute with a state-owned oil company in ICC arbitration in Abu Dhabi. (Led by David Turner KC).
- Acting for a Jersey trust company in respect of proceedings in the Royal Court to recover losses allegedly suffered by a discretionary trust. The claimant alleged failures to implement an adequate investment strategy and risk profile together with allegations of gross negligence and fraud in respect of LIBOR and fx manipulation.
- Acting for Dubai-based claimants to advise on strategy in respect of potential claims against investment advisors arising out of a fraud in their pension and investment arrangements and the payment away of significant sums, dissipated through an unprotected offshore investment in Mauritius.
- Acting for a technology company in administration seeking to bring claims against its directors for asset stripping and breach of trust and in particular, the transfer away of assets and funds to related companies in the US and the Philippines.

Offshore Litigation

"*Wholly committed to the case – diligent and hard working.*" *Legal 500*

"*Very bright and good attention to detail. Also very responsive. Worked well as part of a team.*" *Legal 500*

"*A very good junior – she thoroughly researches her cases."* *Chambers and Partners*

Lucy's practice includes substantial and diverse work in this area. Her commercial litigation practice (particularly Russian/CIS litigation) involves a strong offshore element. Lucy also has extensive experience dealing with contentious sanctions issues in various jurisdictions including Bermuda.

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Lucy's recent experience includes:

- Acting in contentious matters relating to sanctions and their impact on trust structures in particular in Bermuda.
- Advising on claims concerning the enforcement of English judgments in multiple offshore jurisdictions including Cayman.
- Representing a Jersey trust company in an action in the Royal Court in respect of losses allegedly suffered by a discretionary trust. The claim concerned allegations of a failure to implement an adequate investment strategy and allegations of gross negligence and fraud regarding alleged LIBOR and fx manipulation.
- Acting for Oleg Deripaska in applications brought in the Jersey Royal Court regarding the proposed enforcement of £100 million+ arbitration awards and English judgments, in the context of the US sanctions.
- Acting on multiple Royal Court claims and arbitrations in Jersey of large-scale construction disputes. Lucy is one of the go-to English counsel for Jersey/Guernsey construction claims. (See Construction.)

Civil Fraud

Lucy has been instructed in some of the largest civil fraud claims in the Commercial Court in recent years, including at trial, and she also has experience of LCIA and ICC arbitration in particular. Lucy's cases are frequently extremely high in value and highly contested proceedings involving serious and very complex allegations and issues.

Over the last 4 years, she has worked on *Suppipat v Narongdej and others* (a 17 week trial); *Vale v Steinmetz and others* (an 11 week trial in which Vale discontinued); and *Vneshprombank LLC v Bedzhamov and others*. She was involved for several years in the long-running dispute between Oleg Deripaska and Vladimir Chernukhin, representing Mr Deripaska in the LCIA; trial in the Commercial Court; and the Court of Appeal. She acts for both claimants and defendants. She has extensive experience acting for UHNW clients and associated entities. She also has extensive experience of proceedings concerning complex company and trust structures including offshore.

Featured Cases

- *Suppipat & Ors v Narongdej & Ors* – Lucy acted for Nick Suppipat, the Claimant in this US$2 billion+ unlawful means conspiracy, fraud and bribery claim with significant multi-jurisdictional aspects, securing judgment for US$850 million in 2023. This case was featured in The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2022. The 400-page judgment is reported as [2023] EWHC 1988 (Comm). Led by Justin Fenwick KC and George Spalton KC.
- Vale v Steinmetz and others – Lucy acted for Beny Steinmetz in this $1 billion+ fraudulent misrepresentation, deceit and conspiracy claim arising out of a disputed joint venture in respect of a mine in Guinea. Vale abandoned their claims in the 4th week of an 11 week trial. Led by Justin Fenwick KC.
- *Vneshprombank LLC v Georgy Bedzhamov & Ors* – Lucy acted for Georgy Bedzhamov in highly contested proceedings brought by a Russian bank in liquidation for a massive alleged fraud, seeking damages of over £2 billion, including in respect of issues arising out of a WFO and search order. Led by Justin Fenwick KC.
- *Deripaska v Chernukhin* – Lucy acted for Oleg Deripaska in this US$200 million+ litigation involving alleged fraud, corruption, bribery and arbitral claims with subsequent multi-jurisdictional litigation. The dispute concerned a joint venture and shareholding in respect of commercial property in central Moscow. Led by Justin Fenwick KC.

Professional Liability

"***Lucy is extremely good with clients and a reassuring presence. She is completely on top of the facts and legal issues.***" *Chambers & Partners*

"***Great to work with; she's a team player, who is down to earth and very bright.***" *Chambers & Partners*

"***Fantastic on the detail and produces very good advocacy.***" "***She's very able and gives very pragmatic advice.***" *Chambers & Partners*

"***She is on a different planet in terms of brains and the ability to absorb vast quantities of information quickly. She does all of that but she's also great with clients, which is a rare combination.***" *Chambers & Partners*

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"Brilliant. Works hard to cover every angle. Lucy is one to watch." *Legal 500*

"She is very bright and has great attention to detail. Calm under fire." *Legal 500*

"Provides very quick and commercially focused advice and inspires confidence in clients." *Legal 500*

Lucy is very experienced in the most large-scale and challenging professional liability matters, including claims alleging fraud and with a heavy commercial or international context. She acts for and against lawyers, financial advisors, valuers (and other professionals). She also has particular expertise in technology and construction related claims against professionals in particular engineers, architects and project managers. She is frequently instructed unled or as lead advocate against KCs.

Lucy's recent cases include:

- Acting for a private-client firm defending ultra-high value claims arising out of a divorce settlement concerning Russian assets and enforcement action involving the arrest of a superyacht. Led by Patrick Lawrence KC.
- Acting on behalf of a leading City firm successfully resisting applications that it be joined as a defendant to an action between offshore entities engaged in a £25 million+ debt dispute.
- Acting for consulting engineers in a £multi-million dispute concerning defective design and failures in a warehouse distribution facility. Involved important issues as to scope and extent of contractual duties to approve design.
- Representing barristers in respect of applications to strike out vexatious claims alleging collusion and conspiracy.
- Acting for a Guernsey-based financial services provider defending executor-led claims in respect of alleged failures to obtain critical illness/life insurance. Includes service-out and Guernsey law issues including in respect of prescription.
- Acting on highly sensitive claims against a well-known City firm of solicitors worth US$500 million+ arising out of a dispute over industrial interests between UHNW individuals involving allegations of fraud and conspiracy. Led by Ben Hubble KC.
- Acting on behalf of the defendant solicitor/company director in a claim pleaded at £20 million arising out of the claimant's conviction for large-scale VAT fraud and the subsequent restraint and confiscation of his assets. It was alleged that valuable real estate was sold against the claimant's interests as sole and controlling shareholder.
- Advising Dubai-based claimants in respect of claims against financial, pensions and investment advisors arising out of negligent and potentially fraudulent advice on their pension arrangements. The claimants had entered into an Occupational Retirement Benefit Scheme, which had presented difficulties, and the bulk of their funds were then lost by way of an unprotected investment offshore in Mauritius.
- Acting for a leading tax barrister in unusually complex civil proceedings and disciplinary proceedings including allegations of fraud, collusion, bribery and bias, in circumstances where he had accepted instructions to act as an expert in the demerger of a London property empire. (Led by Graeme McPherson KC). See *Joseph Ackerman v (1) Andrew Thornhill QC (2) Naomi Ackerman (3) Barry Ackerman (4) Bana One Limited* [2017] EWHC 99 (Ch).

Construction, Energy & Natural Resources

Lucy was shortlisted for the 2020 Chambers & Partners Construction Junior of the Year award.

"***Lucy Colter's attention to detail is outstanding and her advocacy is superb.***" – *Chambers & Partners*

"She is exceptional at what she does. She is highly organised, tough, determined and yet highly accessible." – *Legal 500*

"***She's impressive, confident and has ability beyond her call. She's extremely good with clients and a reassuring presence***." – *Chambers & Partners*

"***Lucy is meticulous in her analysis of the facts and the law. She's a very capable advocate.***" – *Chambers & Partners*

"Lucy is incredibly able and a pleasure to work with. Her written work is of the highest quality." "Lucy Colter is very hands-on and easy to work with." *Chambers & Partners*

"Lucy is extremely bright, highly personable, and very hard working. Her drafting is first class, and she advises with exceptional clarity. She also has a detailed technical understanding of the subject matter." *Legal 500*

"***Brilliant. Works hard to cover every angle – she is one to watch."*** *Legal 500*

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"She has incredible work ethic, forensic attention to detail, excellent responsiveness, and is a team player." *Legal 500*

"She is on a different planet in terms of brains and ability to absorb vast quantities of information quickly." "She's excellent to work with, very personable and down to earth, but also delivers concise and relevant advice." *Chambers and Partners*

Lucy works on complex construction disputes, including the TCC, arbitration and adjudication. She acts for leading construction engineering companies and development companies and has dealt with the major forms of contract. She has worked extensively on construction disputes in Jersey and Guernsey. Lucy has exceptional ability in respect of complex technical and scientific evidence.

Lucy has equal experience of professional negligence claims against construction professionals, acting for and against architects, project managers and quantity surveyors. She has acted on multiple claims against heritage architects / architects working on listed or protected buildings.

She is an experienced advocate in all relevant forums and is usually instructed alone or as lead counsel in this area of work.

Recent experience includes:

- Acting for consulting engineers in a £multi-million dispute concerning defective design and failures in a warehouse distribution facility. Involved important issues as to scope and extent of contractual duties to approve design.
- Advising on potential claims in a failed residential project, including against development managers for unauthorized contracts and limits of liability.
- Representing the successful defendant on a preliminary issue in terms of duties owed in *Multiplex Construction Europe Limited v RNP Associates Ltd (in liquidation) and others* [2021] EWHC 590 (TCC), leading Will Cook, in a dispute worth £12million+.
- Acting for a private client in intimated claims against well known heritage architects in respect of a disastrous renovation of Grade II* listed property in Hampstead, which led to threatened prosecution and enforcement action.
- Instructed in an adjudication arising out of long-running litigation concerning a waste disposal plant constructed under a PFI contract, involving the proper interpretation of the insurance requirements under a construction contract. Led by Gordon Nardell KC (Essex Court Chambers).
- Acting for claimant employers in respect of claims against an architect relating to a failed and seriously defective new-build residential development, and concerning mitigation strategy including demolition and rebuilding.
- Acting in claims for declaratory relief against McAlpine Grant Ilco Ltd concerning multiple adjudications and the issue of whether a PPM/project services contract has actually been entered into.
- Instructed by Dandara, a major property developer on Jersey, in Royal Court claims against a civil engineering contractor, arising out of allegedly defective subcontract works on the foundations of a beachfront property. Lucy led Marie-Claire O'Kane and Benjamin Fowler on these matters.
- Acting for the claimants in claims in Guernsey against architects relating to the renovation of an ancient property into a modern home, which suffered from serious water ingress. Lucy led Will Harman.
- Acting for the claimants in two related arbitrations in Jersey concerning the construction of two multi-million pound projects. Allegations were of defective works including a pattern of construction failures to waterproof and protect coastal properties. With George McDonald.
- Representing the successful contractor in preliminary issues in a claim against its subcontractor for negligent installation of a sprinkler system at an office block development. The preliminary issues concerned the proper construction of the contractual mechanism for determining practical completion: *GB Building Solutions Ltd (In Administration) v SFS Fire Services Ltd* [2017] EWHC 1289.
- Acting on behalf of the successful project manager/quantity surveyor in *William Clark Partnership Ltd v Dock St PCT Ltd* [2015] EWHC 2923 (TCC), defeating a "global" claim that the project manager had caused the entirety of a £1 million costs overrun. Lucy was instructed to appear on her own against Justin Mort KC (Keating Chambers). The Court of Appeal refused permission to appeal.
- Acting on behalf of a development company in respect of a claim against architects and quantity surveyors arising out of the construction of a clubhouse, using a log-shell constructed in Russia.

International Arbitration

Lucy has extensive experience of arbitration and an unusual amount of experience of section 67/section 68 challenges under the

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Arbitration Act. She has recently acted for Cypriot entities in an arbitration arising out of a failed joint venture in waste metal processing plants in Russia; and in an arbitration arising out of another failed joint venture in a shopping plaza in Bulgaria. She also accepts appointments as an arbitrator.

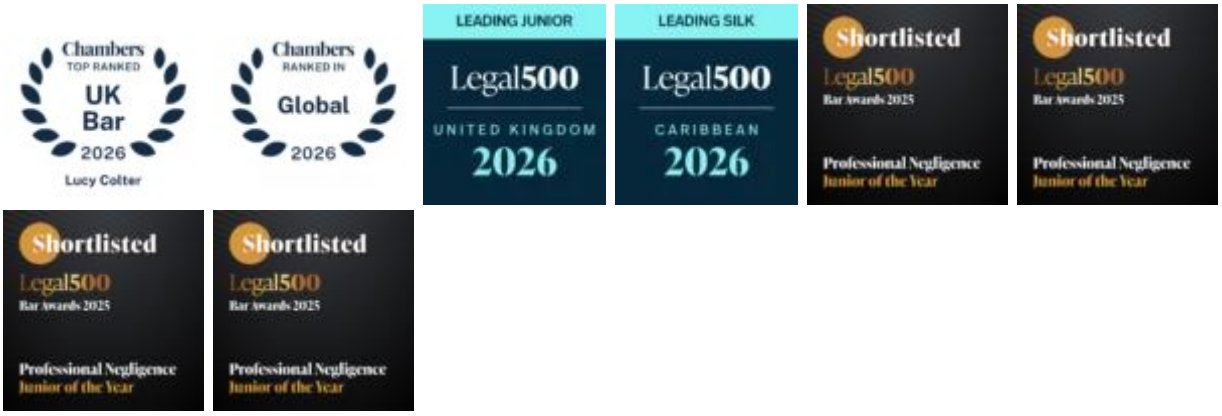
Insurance & Reinsurance

Lucy particularly enjoys insurance coverage disputes – and disputes purely concerning the construction of insurance policy wording. She also has experience of professional liability claims which require a thorough understanding of multiple issues of insurance law.

Recent experience includes:

- Recent instructions from administrators/liquidators in high-value liquidations to advise on the proper construction of terms of policies including D&O policies.
- Acting for an insurer in a dispute with a state-owned oil company in ICC arbitration in Abu Dhabi. Led by David Turner KC.
- Acting in an adjudication arising out of long-running litigation concerning a waste disposal plant constructed under a PFI contract, involving the proper interpretation of insurance requirements under a construction contract. Led by Gordon Nardell KC.

Awards



Directory Rankings

Chambers & Partners – UK

- Professional Negligence
- Construction
- Construction: Professional Negligence

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- Commercial Dispute Resolution

Chambers & Partners Global Guide

- Construction
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial

Legal 500

- Commercial Disputes (Offshore)
- Construction
- Professional Negligence
- Commercial Litigation
- Fraud: Civil

Qualifications

Lucy is a member of Lincoln's Inn. She is a member of COMBAR, TECBAR and PNBA.

Lucy sits on COMBAR's Equality & Diversity Committee and is a former chair of the Young COMBAR committee.

Education

Lucy read English Language & Literature at Trinity College, Oxford, where she achieved a First Class Degree (coming top of her year in Moderations). She was a Percival Exhibitioner and Scholar at Trinity College, and won the Mrs Claude Beddington and the Violet Vaughan Morgan university prizes. She obtained a distinction in the law conversion (CPE), and took a year out to travel in Russia, China, Hong Kong and South East Asia, before the Bar Vocational Course.

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