

OUR PEOPLE

## William Harman

CALL 2016

LEGAL 500

"A remarkable barrister who is not only consistently on top of the detail and willing to get 'stuck in', but he thinks creatively and strategically and adds value throughout."



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**Will Harman specialises in commercial litigation and international arbitration. His broad practice encompasses civil fraud, professional liability claims in a commercial context, insurance and sports law.**

*"A remarkable barrister who is not only consistently on top of the detail and willing to get 'stuck in', but he thinks creatively and strategically and adds value throughout." – Legal 500*

*"Strengths include exceptional advocacy skills and in particular highly persuasive written work; he also has a remarkable ability to build rapport with the judge or tribunal." – Legal 500*

*"Highly intelligent, articulate and sharp. Has a pragmatic approach in dealing with a variety of issues. Quickly grasps key evidential points." – Legal 500*

Alongside his busy practice, Will co-authored the latest edition of *Toulson & Phipps on Confidentiality*.

For examples of his recent and ongoing work, please see the individual practice areas below.

## Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Will Harman.

## Transparency Statement

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## Expertise

### Commercial Litigation

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Will acts in a range of complex commercial disputes before courts and international arbitral tribunals. He also has particular expertise in securities fraud litigation having acted in a number of the most significant cases under s.90 / s.90A FSMA in recent years.

Alongside his busy practice, Will co-authored the Banking and Arbitration chapters in the latest edition of *Toulson & Phipps on Confidentiality*.

### Featured Commercial Dispute Resolution cases

- Acting for institutional investors in multiple securities fraud claims under s.90 / s.90A FSMA. One of these cases was in The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases and another is listed for a 4-month trial in the Financial List.
- Acting for the defendants in Commercial Court proceedings relating to the purchase of a high-end residential construction business.
- Acting for the first defendant in a complex fraud claim relating to the collapse of a Russian bank pleaded at more than £1bn.
- Acting for the claimant in a jurisdiction dispute before the Commercial Court relating to a foreign-law contract.
- Acting for the defendant to a contractual claim arising from PPE procurement during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Acting for a company director defending breach of fiduciary claims in the Chancery Division.
- Challenging an arbitration award relating to the beneficial ownership of a significant Moscow-based company under section 67 of the Arbitration Act 1996.
- Acting for defendants to a Commercial Court claim for conspiracy pleaded at c. £130m.
- Acting for multiple Premier League football clubs in contractual disputes before multiple courts and Rule K Arbitration panels.
- Acting for trustees in a high-value, multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of fraud by creditors to a personal guaranty.
- Acting for a South Korean university in a successful claim in the Chancery Division for *Norwich Pharmacal* relief in connection with a substantial fraud relating to the purchase of aircraft from an Austrian manufacturer. Premier League footballer.
- Instructed by the Government Legal Department in respect of a complex procurement claim against a government department.

Will is a member of COMBAR and the Young International Arbitration Group.

### International Arbitration

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Will acts in international disputes before a range of arbitral institutions, including the LCIA, ICC and Court of Arbitration for Sport.

He also edits the arbitration chapter in *Toulson & Phipps on Confidentiality*.

### Recent and ongoing examples include:

- LCIA Arbitration. Complex unjust enrichment claims arising from alleged loans from a Georgian bank.
- LCIA Arbitration. Claims against an African bank arising from a series of open-ended funding agreements.
- ICC Arbitration. Contractual and conspiracy claims relating to a major international energy project.
- CAS Arbitration. Dispute between major football club and former player in respect of sponsorship rights.
- CAS Arbitration. Dispute between a major football club and an investment consortium relating to player transfers.

## Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Will specialises in complex claims involving allegations of dishonesty. He has particular expertise in multi-party securities fraud claims under s.90 / s.90A FSMA in addition to claims for injunctive relief.

### Featured Civil Fraud cases

- Acting for institutional investors in multiple securities fraud claims under s.90 / s.90A FSMA. One of these cases was in The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases and another is listed for a 4-month trial in the Financial List in 2026.
- Acting for the first defendant in complex fraud proceedings relating to the collapse of a Russian bank pleaded at more than £1bn.
- Acting for a South Korean university in a successful claim in the Chancery Division for *Norwich Pharmacal* relief in connection with a substantial fraud relating to the purchase of aircraft from an Austrian manufacturer.
- Acting for a company director defending a claim in the Chancery Division involving allegations of dishonest breach of fiduciary duty.
- Acting for an international client in a ground-breaking asset tracing case before the Commercial Court.
- Acting for defendants to a Commercial Court claim for conspiracy pleaded at c. £130m.
- Instructed to give urgent advice in relation to the variation of a post-trial worldwide freezing order.
- Defending trustees in high-value, multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of fraud by creditors to a personal guaranty.
- Advising on an application for tracing relief pursuant to foreign-law causes of action.
- Defending a claim for unlawful means conspiracy by the organisers of a prestigious sporting event against ticketing companies.
- Acting in the defence of a claim alleging fraud in the preparation of an application for planning permission.

Will is a member of the Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association.

## Professional Liability

***"Will is meticulous, and I am always confident he is on top of the detail. He is also a very good advocate."*** – Legal 500

Will is ranked as a leading barrister for professional negligence by the Legal 500.

As a co-author of *Toulson & Phipps*, he also has particular expertise in confidentiality and privilege issues arising from professional retainers.

### Featured Professional Liability cases

- Acting for a commercial silk defending a Commercial Court claim arising from high-profile bribery litigation.
- Acting for solicitors defending a claim for conspiracy pleaded at c.£130m in the Commercial Court.
- Defending auditors in claims by a travel business. This claim was dismissed after a 2-week trial in the London Circuit Commercial Court.
- Acting for auditors in Commercial Court proceedings arising from the administration of a national car dealership.
- Acting for leading criminal solicitors defending allegations of negligence by a high net worth former client. The claim was dismissed with indemnity costs following a 5-day trial.
- Defending a family barrister in a claim arising from a custody hearing. This claim was also dismissed following trial.
- Instructed by insurers in relation to a high-profile dispute involving allegations of breach of trust against lawyers practising between the UK and Italy.
- Defending SAR reporting accountants in a claim arising from a substantial fraud on a practice of solicitors.
- Acting for Danish insurers in multi-party proceedings in the Commercial Court involving allegations of negligent claims handling.
- Acting for accountant auditors in high-value claims arising from the administration of a Guernsey investment fund.
- Advising and drafting for an insurance broker in a dispute over the proper construction of an accident policy.

Will has also appeared in the SDT in regulatory proceedings following the administration of a well-known law firm.

## Insurance & Reinsurance

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Will has a wealth of experience in a range of insurance disputes.

### Featured Insurance & Reinsurance cases

- Acting for a leading UK insurer in Commercial Court proceedings relating to Covid-19 cancellations. This case involved a 4-week trial in 2023.
- Acting for Danish insurers in Commercial Court proceedings involving allegations of negligent claims handling and breach of the duty of fair presentation.
- Acting for UK insurers in substantial Commercial Court proceedings brought by more than a hundred professional liability claimants.
- Instructed by insurers in relation to a high-profile dispute involving allegations of breach of trust against lawyers practising between the UK and Italy.
- Advising both claimants and insurer defendants in respect of liability under the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.
- Acting for insurers in a coverage dispute relating to substantial property damage.

Will is also a member of the British Insurance Law Association.

## Sports Law

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***“Super smart, a first-class drafter, very personable and great with lay clients. A barrister who is all over the detail from the very beginning. A real creative mind.”*** – Legal 500

***” Will is a brilliant junior. Very easy to work with and has an easy, persuasive drafting style.”*** – Legal 500.

Will is ranked as a leading barrister for sports law by the Legal 500.

He receives instructions in a range of matters involving the sports industry with a particular focus on anti-corruption charges and financial fair play. Will is also regularly instructed in commercial disputes with a sports context and he is currently part of a team conducting a governance review for a major national governing body.

### Featured Sports Law cases

- Acting for the International Tennis Integrity Agency in multiple match-fixing cases under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program. Will has obtained convictions and provisional suspensions on behalf of the ITIA (and, previously, the Professional Tennis Integrity Officers) in numerous cases at first instance. Will has also represented the ITIA (with success) before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- Sole counsel for a Premier League football club in a contractual claim arising from matches being played behind closed doors as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Representing Birmingham City Football Club in financial fair play proceedings before an EFL Disciplinary Commission and on appeal to a League Arbitration Panel.
- Representing an athlete charged with bullying offences by the British Judo Association following a substantial independent investigation. All of the charges against the athlete were dismissed following a hearing.
- Acting for an international football agent in a substantial dispute involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty.
- Defending multi-million pound litigation in the Chancery Division concerning the sale of the share capital of Nottingham Forest Football Club.
- Defending charges of evading, refusing and/or failing to provide a urine sample for anti-doping testing. Following a two-day hearing, the NADP found that the athlete, who is a former Olympian, reasonably believed that they had retired and had not deliberately evaded the anti-doping personnel. This represents a rare instance where no anti-doping rule violation

was found despite the athlete knowing that testers were at the door.

- Acting for a professional boxer disputing the jurisdiction of the UK Anti-Doping Agency.
- Acting for a Championship footballer in confidential proceedings before an EFL Player Related Dispute Commission arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Representing a Scottish Championship footballer at a sanction hearing before a Scottish FA Disciplinary Tribunal in respect of charges of gambling on football.
- Part of a solicitor and barrister team conducting a governance review on behalf of a major national governing body.
- Acting for the successful claimant in a claim for breach of an endorsement contract against a Premier League footballer.
- Acting for a youth football coach facing violent conduct charges by the Football Association. After hearing evidence from more than ten witnesses, the Disciplinary Commission unanimously dismissed the charges.
- Acting for the respondent in confidential proceedings brought under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.
- Defending a claim for unlawful means conspiracy by the organisers of a prestigious sporting event against ticketing companies.
- Giving urgent advice to British Shooting in relation to its selection policy and procedure.

Will is a member of the British Association for Sports Law.

## Offshore Litigation

Will spent three months on secondment with Ogier in Jersey during which he experienced a range of complex offshore litigation. Much of Will's work centred on proceedings in the Royal Court relating to the distribution of a trust settled by the former National Bank of Yugoslavia between the existing successor states. He also assisted with a variety of non-trust matters encompassing construction, share purchase and company disputes.

## Featured Offshore cases

- Acting for the defendant in a high-value claim against accountant auditors following the administration of a Guernsey investment fund.
- Defending Isle of Man trustees in a multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of fraud by creditors to a personal guaranty.
- Acting for the defendant in a substantial payment notice and defective works dispute in Jersey.
- Advising on limitation in respect of a complex claim by a Guernsey trustee against an English bank.
- Acting for the claimant employer in substantial proceedings against architects in the Royal Court of Guernsey.
- Advising on English law for the purposes of a construction dispute in Alderney.

## Awards



## Directory Rankings

### Legal 500

- Professional Negligence
  - Sport
  - Insurance and Reinsurance
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### Qualifications

Before joining 4 New Square, Will undertook the Bar Professional Training Course (graded Outstanding) and the Graduate Diploma in Law (with Distinction) at City Law School. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn as a Lord Denning Scholar, Hardwicke Scholar and Buchanan Prize winner.

Will previously worked as a journalist in Rome covering the 2013 Italian election. He also holds a first class degree in Modern and Medieval Languages from the University of Cambridge, where he received the prize for the best performance in Italian.

**Education** – BA, Cambridge (First Class Honours); GDL, City (Distinction); BPTC, City (Outstanding)

**Memberships** – COMBAR; PNBA; TECBAR; CFLA; Government Legal Department Junior Junior Scheme; Young International Arbitration Group; British Association for Sports Law

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