

**XXIV**  
OLD BUILDINGS

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# **XXIV Old Buildings Commercial Litigation Conference 2025**

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Thursday 15 May 2025  
Lincoln's Inn, London

**“Able to handle complex  
and sophisticated matters  
with ease”**

Chambers and Partners

# Conference chair's welcome

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual Commercial Litigation Conference, here in Lincoln's Inn, London. We are delighted to be able to offer you talks from so many of our members of Chambers. The speakers look forward to sharing their expertise and insights into the latest developments in commercial litigation, and discussing these hot topics with you in the course of the afternoon.

The conference has five sessions, with contributions from 17 members of Chambers. They will explore the complex and often hard-fought disputes arising in company, shareholder, financial services and fraud disputes, both in litigation and arbitration. The programme will bring you the latest news from the commercial litigation front, and issues that are at the cutting edge of your practices including updates on freezing assets, claims involving shareholders, and enforcing court and tribunal orders.

We begin with an examination of the Court's most powerful interim remedies, including freezing, Norwich Pharmacal, and search orders, followed by a discussion of anti-suit injunctions, a rapidly evolving area in cross-border litigation. That is followed by a session dipping into the shifting landscape of shareholder disputes, such as unfair prejudice claims, as well as discussions about pre-action disclosure, and the standing of former shareholders to bring claims. We revisit the shareholder rule in light of the important decision in *Aabar Holdings v Glencore*, and conclude with a practical discussion on how best to enforce and give teeth to court and tribunal orders.

After the conference programme, we warmly invite you to join us for drinks and canapés, where you can continue the legal discussions or network with members of Chambers and fellow practitioners. Or both!

I would like to thank you for taking the time to join us here today. And we do hope you find our conference interesting, informative and useful.

**Steven Thompson KC**

# Commercial Litigation Services

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The members of XXIV Old Buildings provide specialist legal advice and advocacy in a wide range of commercial litigation sectors concerning domestic and international disputes for individuals, companies, corporations and institutions.

We are frequently instructed in high-value, complex commercial litigation, especially civil fraud allegations, asset tracing, shareholder litigations, and banking and finance disputes.

Many members are called to the Bars of various offshore and foreign jurisdictions, and regularly appear in others under special admissions, as well as in international arbitrations. Our understanding of the nuances of the various common law court systems ensure that we are adept in dealing with not just domestic but also complex cross-border disputes. We pride ourselves on our capacity for working hard with solicitors and lawyers both here and abroad to find effective and efficient strategic solutions and the best possible outcomes for our clients.

Members of XXIV Old Buildings are also instructed in a wide range of commercial chancery matters involving elements of professional negligence, trusts and partnership law, drawing on the set's established strengths in these areas.

The strength of the whole set at XXIV Old Buildings means we are uniquely placed in our ability to provide teams of counsel for advisory and advocacy services in disputes that cross several areas of the Commercial and Chancery Bar.



## Our specialisms

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- ADR
- Art, Cultural Property & Luxury Assets
- Aviation & Travel
- Banking & Financial Services Disputes
- Civil Fraud & Asset Recovery
- Commercial Litigation
- Company & Partnership Law
- Construction & Energy
- Crypto & Digital Assets
- Insolvency
- International & Offshore
- Media, IP & Sporting Disputes
- Real Estate Litigation
- Trusts, Probate & Estates

## Notable cases

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Members of XXIV Old Buildings have appeared in some of the most important cases in the UK and abroad in recent years, including in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Privy Council.

- FW Aviation v VietJet [2025] EWHC 928 (Comm)
- G I Globinvest v XY ERS UK [2025] EWHC 740 (Comm)
- Humphrey v Bennett [2025] EWHC 448 (Ch)
- Athena Capital v Secretariat of State of the Holy See [2025] EWHC 355 (Comm)
- El-Husseiny v Invest Bank [2025] UKSC 4
- Alimov v Mirakhmedov & ors [2024] EWHC 3322 (Comm)
- Advanced Multi-Technology for Medical Industry v Uniserve [2024] EWHC 1725 (Ch)
- Al-Thani v Al Thani [2024] UKPC 35
- Manolete Partners v Karim [2024] EWHC 2053 (Ch)
- Bahia v Sidhu [2024] EWCA Civ 605
- Day v FXCM [2023] EWHC 1349 (Comm)

# XXIV Old Buildings Commercial Litigation Conference 2025

## Programme and speakers

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14:00 - 14:20 Arrival and registration at the Ashworth Centre,  
Lincoln's Inn London

14:20 - 14:30 **Chair's opening remarks**

Steven Thompson KC

14:30 - 15:00 **Nuclear Remedies: How and when to drop the bomb with injunctive relief**

John Carl Townsend, Timothy Sherwin, Jessica Lavelle and Niamh Davis consider how and when to deploy freezing, Norwich Pharmacal and search orders, and discuss the scope of the duty of fair presentation.

15:00 - 15:30 **Don't stop me now: critical features of Anti-Suit Injunctions**

Hugh Miall, Max Archer and Tim Koch explore the law on anti-suit injunctions, reviewing recent cases and discuss how to obtain, resist and enforce them.

15:30 - 16:00 **Shareholder lucky D.I.P.S!**

Steven Reed, Harry Samuels and James Kane consider recent developments in shareholder litigation, in particular: pre-action Disclosure, Intervention by minority shareholders in third party litigation, Personal claims for dilution of shareholding and the Standing of former shareholders to bring unfair prejudice claims, in a panel session, moderated by Bajul Shah.

16:00 - 16:30 Refreshment break

16:30 - 17:00 **Are reports of the death of the shareholder rule greatly exaggerated?**

Nicole Langlois, Sarah Bayliss and Catherine Hartston investigate the scope of the shareholder rule since *Aabar Holdings v Glencore* in a panel discussion, moderated by Edward Cumming KC.

17:00 - 17:30 **The sharp end of the spear**

Oliver Assersohn KC and Tom Stewart Coats lead a panel discussion discussing methods of enforcing and making effective court and tribunal orders, moderated by Steven Thompson KC.

17:30 - 21:00 Drinks and canapé reception

## Conference materials

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To download the presentations and any related materials from the conference, please use the QR code below.



# Nuclear Remedies: How and when to drop the bomb with injunctive relief

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**John Carl Townsend**

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*"John is a really able and creative practitioner with fabulous attention to detail. A very accomplished advocate."*

Legal 500

John Carl is recognised for his particular expertise in complex financial and reputational disputes where there is the potential for civil, regulatory and criminal liability and is frequently instructed for his ability to advise and represent corporate clients in all three forums.

His practice encompasses a variety of commercial chancery disputes, with a particular focus on claims that derive from allegations of financial misconduct and misrepresentation (including claims for breach of fiduciary duty, unlawful means conspiracy, deceit, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt). He is currently instructed as leading counsel in two of the largest crypto currency disputes before the High Court.



**Timothy Sherwin**

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*"Very easy to deal with", "Knowledge and strategic nous well beyond his years."*

Chambers & Partners

Timothy is regularly instructed in commercial cases as part of his busy commercial-Chancery practice. Much of the litigation in which Timothy is involved are commercial cases which also engage other areas of his practice, such as insolvency, trusts, company and partnership law, banking law or fraud. Timothy is very comfortable dealing with such multi-faceted cases.



## Jessica Lavelle

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*"Intelligent and dedicated to her craft with the ability to inject a healthy dose of reality into any situation, she picks up technical points very quickly."*

*Legal 500*

Jessica Lavelle is a commercial chancery barrister whose busy practice spans chambers' core areas, with interests in civil fraud and asset tracing, commercial disputes, company law, and insolvency law. She is instructed regularly in both domestic and offshore matters. A Legal 500 "Rising Star", Jessica has been described as *"a pleasure to work with"* and someone who *"is good at focusing on the key issues and makes sure the clients know she is on their side"*.



## Niamh Davis

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Niamh's commercial litigation experience encompasses a wide range of contractual and general business disputes. In particular, she has experience in civil fraud, shareholder disputes, commercial litigation including aviation and sale of goods, and insolvency matters. Recent matters she has been involved in have required the consideration of complex question of jurisdiction and private international law issues.

# Don't stop me now: critical features of Anti-Suit Injunctions

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**Hugh Miall**



*"He has the Midas touch and can spot winning points that others do not."*

Chambers & Partners

Hugh specialises in commercial chancery matters, with a particular emphasis on complex civil fraud, commercial litigation, insolvency, company law and contentious trust litigation. He has significant experience of asset tracing claims, and his work often includes offshore or other international elements. He has experience across a wide range of commercial litigation and arbitration, including contractual disputes, misfeasance, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, conspiracies and other tortious claims.



**Max Archer**

*"Max is extremely sharp and skilled at recognising risks at the very beginning of the case."*

Legal 500

Max Archer is recognised as a leading aviation, commercial, private international law and group litigation practitioner. He is consistently involved in high profile, complex litigation across his fields of practice. Max has a substantial commercial practice, acting in a wide range of commercial disputes across various industries and fields, often in international arbitrations. His work usually has an international dimension, he is highly experienced in jurisdiction and conflicts of laws issues. Max also often acts in a broad range of group actions including consumer actions, shareholder disputes, mass tort cases and environmental actions.

## Tim Koch

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Tim has established a busy practice across the full spectrum of Chamber's core practice areas, with a particular focus on civil fraud, insolvency, aviation and art and cultural property related disputes. He regularly appears unled in the High Court and County Court. Some of Tim's recent and ongoing cases include (i) resisting fraud claims relating to the termination of a joint venture in Pakistan (led by Steven Reed), (ii) acting on an art related LICA arbitration (as sole counsel), and (iii) advising on a dispute relating to the termination of a well-known West End production (as sole counsel).





# Shareholder lucky D.I.P.S!

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## Bajul Shah

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*"He has a very measured advocacy style and has an incredibly good calming influence. That sort of calm, measured style he has cuts through the nonsense."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth

Bajul has a broad commercial practice covering aviation, arbitration, commercial litigation, civil fraud, company and partnership disputes, insolvency, and jurisdiction disputes. He is currently acting for various reinsurers defending insurance claims by aircraft lessors who have not been able to recover their aircraft from Russia following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and for the family of the former chairman of Leicester City Football Club in product liability claims against the helicopter manufacturer. His other recent commercial cases include acting for Qatar Airways in its dispute with Airbus over the A350 aircraft, Melford v Digby (a partnership dispute, with judgments on costs of interim injunctions and on jurisdiction challenge over a counterclaim), Sodzawiczny v McNally (civil fraud, and enforcement of arbitration award relating to foreign property), and Coward v Ambrosiadou (jurisdiction dispute). Bajul has been recommended for a number of years in aviation, civil fraud, commercial litigation, Chancery (Commercial), and offshore work by Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners.



## Steven Reed

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*"Steven excels in oral advocacy, making his points firmly and succinctly. His advice is tailored to maximise the chances of success at hearings."*

Chambers & Partners Global

Steven has a substantial, heavyweight commercial and chancery practice and regularly appears in the Business and Property Courts dealing with everything from procedural and interim applications, including freezing injunctions, search and seize orders, interim injunctions, strike outs and disclosure issues, to multi-day trials.

## Harry Samuels

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Harry is a busy junior with a thriving commercial practice. With expertise across several sectors, he is regularly instructed to appear on heavyweight litigation both led and unled, including in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. His recent experience includes acting for the successful appellant directors in *Humphrey v Bennett* [2023] EWCA Civ 1433, acting for two defendants in multi-jurisdictional fraud proceedings said to be worth €100million (*Durnont Enterprises Ltd v M-JWK Management*), and acting in the Court of Appeal on a c. £40million debt claim arising out of complex arbitral proceedings (*Betta Oceanway Company v SC Tomini Trading SRL* [2025] EWCA Civ [2025] EWCA Civ 595).



## James Kane

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James has a busy commercial practice and has appeared both led and unled in the High Court and the County Court. He welcomes instructions across Chambers' areas of specialism and is happy to work both as sole counsel and as part of a wider team. Examples of his recent work include:

- Acting (with Sarah Bayliss) for a respondent to a multi-million pound unfair prejudice petition involving the responsibility of directors to scrutinise their co-directors' actions (*Re Solid Star Ltd* [2023] EWHC 2277 (Ch))
- Representing (as sole counsel) the defendant investment firm in a contractual construction claim (*Kigen (UK) Ltd v NOR Capital Ltd* [2024] EWHC 3164 (Ch))
- Acting for a partner in a dissolved partnership defending a claim by his former partner for breach of duty

# Are reports of the death of the shareholder rule greatly exaggerated?

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**Edward Cumming KC**

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*"Destined for the very pinnacle of the London Bar",* Edward prides himself on his multi-disciplinary expertise, rigorous yet commercial advice and effective advocacy tailored to the needs of each case. Described in the latest directories as *"an advocate who can go toe to toe with anyone and come out on top"*, and *"unbelievably quick, razor-sharp in his cross-examination and incredibly commercial in understanding what clients want to do and what they can really get"*, Chambers & Partners recommends him as a leading silk in ten categories in its latest edition, and Legal 500 in nine. With extensive experience of many different kinds of commercial, banking and finance, company and insolvency, civil fraud and trust disputes, as well as niche specialisms in both the aviation and the art markets, Edward enjoys both trial and appellate advocacy, particularly relishing the most high-stakes, high-value and complex litigation.



**Nicole Langlois**

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*"Intellectually strong but strategically aware and astute too. Very strong advocacy."*  
Legal 500

Nicole's main areas of specialisation are commercial disputes, trust and company litigation. With a flourishing international practice she is regularly instructed in multi-jurisdictional matters. Recent commercial disputes include acting in a claim for misrepresentation in the context of a contract relating to a multi-million pound residential development; acting in a contractual dispute arising in the context of the acquisition of a corporate services business based in the Isle of Man; and acting for a leading investment management firm in a joint venture dispute.

## Sarah Bayliss

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Sarah is a commercial and modern chancery specialist who takes a particular interest in complex offshore and banking disputes, fraud, company/commercial and insolvency cases. She is recognised in the directories as a leading junior in banking and offshore litigation. Legal 500 describes her as *'a user-friendly and measured junior, with an assured grasp of both the law and the practicalities of a case. She inspires real confidence in her clients and instructing solicitors'*. Sarah has extensive experience of high value offshore disputes in jurisdictions including Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the BVI, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.



## Catherine Hartston

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Catherine maintains a busy practice across Chambers' core practice areas, with particular expertise in civil fraud, commercial disputes, trust law, financial services, insolvency and company law. She appears regularly in the High Court and the County Court as sole counsel and as part of larger counsel teams, and she is frequently instructed in complex and high-value disputes. Catherine has considerable international experience and has acted in proceedings concerning various Caribbean and other offshore jurisdictions. She has spent time on secondment at a leading law firms in London and in Guernsey.

# The sharp end of the spear

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## Oliver Assersohn KC

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Oliver is a leading financial services and commercial barrister.

He is called to the Bar of England and Wales and a registered DIFC (Part II) practitioner. The independent legal directories for 2024 state the following:

- Oliver is “incredibly intelligent and has a particularly effective written style. He is a real team player and can be depended on in high-stakes litigation” (Commercial Litigation, Legal 500 2024);
- Oliver “brings commerciality as well as excellent analytical skills to the team” (Banking and Finance, Legal 500 2024);
- Oliver is “client friendly” and “often in the high-profile, reported cases” (Financial Services, Chambers & Partners 2024); and
- Oliver is a “go-to counsel for financial services regulatory matters” (Financial Services Regulation, Legal 500, 2024).



## Tom Stewart Coats

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*“Tom is a joy to work with. A highly intelligent and effective advocate. His in-depth knowledge of the law is particularly impressive”*

Chambers & Partners

Tom’s experience includes general commercial disputes (both litigation and arbitration), civil fraud, banking and financial services disputes, aviation, trusts and estates litigation, company and insolvency law, and public international law. He has a particular interest in complex multi-jurisdictional disputes, whether for companies, private clients or states, which involve multiple forums and different systems of law. Tom appears in both court proceedings (in the UK and offshore) and in arbitration. Tom has appeared unled against KCs in numerous significant hearings in the English High Court and in the DIFC Courts. Tom regularly appears in applications for urgent injunctive relief, including for pre- and post-judgment freezing orders, proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal and Bankers Trust orders, and passport orders. Tom is ranked in the legal directories for arbitration, aviation, public international law and Commercial (Middle East).

# Conference Chair

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**Steven Thompson KC**

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*"Steven is exceptionally bright and a brilliant advocate who can always be relied on to get great results, even with a difficult case. He has encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and so is particularly suited for appellate work, but he is equally good at interlocutory skirmishes."*

Legal 500

Steven has a commercial chancery practice with a particular emphasis on civil fraud actions, company/joint venture disputes and aviation disputes. He has been instructed in some of the largest civil fraud cases of recent years, both in London and overseas and is always working on a steady stream of aviation disputes.

Steven regularly appears in courts in London, the BVI, the Cayman Islands and Dubai International Financial Centre and has also advised, appeared and assisted in major disputes in Bermuda, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, the Turks & Caicos Islands and Hong Kong.



# Members

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- Elspeth Talbot Rice KC (1990, 2008)
- Michael Black KC (1978, 1995)
- Stephen Moverley Smith KC (1985, 2002)
- Francis Tregear KC (1980, 2003)
- David Brownbill KC (1989, 2008)
- Steven Thompson KC (1996, 2015)
- Lyndsey de Mestre KC (1999, 2018)
- Edward Cumming KC (2006, 2018)
- Adam Cloherty KC (2005, 2023)
- Oliver Assersohn KC (2003, 2024)
- Professor Graham Virgo KC (Hon) (1989, 2017)

“Top-quality set with ability across the board, good strength in depth and a user-friendly approach”

The Legal 500

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Michael King (1971)       | • Heather Murphy (2009)    |
| • Elizabeth Weaver (1982)   | • Timothy Sherwin (2014)   |
| • Helen Galley (1987)       | • Tom Stewart Coats (2014) |
| • Ian Meakin (1991)         | • Max Archer (2014)        |
| • Arshad Ghaffar (1991)     | • Ben Waistell (2015)      |
| • Stuart Adair (1995)       | • James Bradford (2016)    |
| • Alexander Pelling (1995)  | • James Fennemore (2017)   |
| • Bajul Shah (1996)         | • Catherine Hartson (2018) |
| • Jessica Hughes (1997)     | • Alex Peplow (2019)       |
| • Nicole Langlois (2008)    | • Jessica Lavelle (2019)   |
| • Edward Knight (1999)      | • Charles Strachan (2019)  |
| • Sarah Bayliss (2002)      | • Harry Samuels (2020)     |
| • Steven Reed (2005)        | • Bethanie Chambers (2019) |
| • Erin Hitchens (2006)      | • Rachel Carver (2021)     |
| • John Carl Townsend (2006) | • James Kane (2021)        |
| • Andrew Holden (2007)      | • Niamh Davis (2022)       |
| • Owen Curry (2009)         | • Tim Koch (2022)          |
| • Daniel Warents (2009)     | • Kyle Bonnell (2023)      |
| • Hugh Miall (2009)         |                            |



# Notes



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# Contact us

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The clerks are without exception responsive and diligent.

The Legal 500



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We offer bespoke in-house training on a variety of commercial litigation topics. To discuss your requirements in further detail, please contact the clerks on [events@xxiv.co.uk](mailto:events@xxiv.co.uk).

**“Heavy hitting leading  
counsels and very bright  
and knowledgeable juniors”**

Legal 500



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