

Benjamin Needleman

Call: 2025 (England & Wales); 2019 (Australia)



Benjamin Needleman joined XXIV Old Buildings in October 2026, following the completion of pupillage.

During pupillage, Benjamin gained experience across the full range of Chambers' work and is now building a broad Commercial and Chancery practice. He is happy to be instructed as sole counsel or as part of a team.

Examples of Benjamin's recent instructions include:

- A successful application for an injunction to restrain the removal of company directors in breach of a shareholders' agreement.
- An application for a company administration order.

Benjamin graduated with first class honours from Monash University with a Bachelor of Law (LLB) and a Bachelor of Engineering before also graduating with first class honours from the University of Cambridge with a Master of Law (LLM), winning multiple subject prizes. Before coming to the Bar, Benjamin worked for three and a half years as a solicitor in London at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, having previously completing his training contract at a leading Australian law firm in Melbourne. Benjamin also worked as a Judicial Assistant to the Honourable Justice Riordan at the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Expertise

International Arbitration

As a pupil, Benjamin gained experience of arbitration, including:

- Assisting with the preparation of closing submissions on the quantum phase of an UNCITRAL arbitration relating to a breach of trust claim.
- Assisting with preparation for the final hearing in a DIAC arbitration concerning alleged breaches of a distributorship agreement.

LCIA Arbitration (2021-2024) (London seat) – In his previous role as a solicitor at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, Benjamin represented investors in an Eastern European telecommunications company defending a claim concerning the exercise of a call option to purchase their shares. As the lead junior associate, Benjamin was involved in every aspect of the arbitral proceedings, from preparation of the memorial through to trial.

Aviation & Travel

- **Patel v Air India:** Sole Counsel successfully defending a claim for compensation under Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 for a cancelled flight.

Civil Fraud & Asset Recovery

During pupillage, Benjamin gained experience of civil fraud & asset recovery work, including:

- Drafting a claim to enforce a judgment of the People's Republic of China in England.
- Advising administrators on the existence of sham and illusory trusts.
- Drafting a claim for a property adjustment order under s. 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 in respect of property held by a spouse on trust.
- Advising on a claim under Gibraltar law for delivery up of stolen assets.

Commercial Litigation

During pupillage, Benjamin gained a wide experience of commercial litigation, including:

- Drafting an application in the DIFC for anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunctions against a foreign state.
- Drafting the skeleton argument for an appeal to the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on the Court's jurisdiction to determine conspiracy claims against foreign parties.
- Drafting pleadings in respect of various breach of contract claims.
- Drafting the defence to a claim for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duties and breach of confidence against a former employee for allegedly diverting corporate opportunities.

During his previous role as a solicitor Benjamin's commercial experience included:

- **IBM United Kingdom Limited v LzLabs GmbH [2025] EWHC 532 (TCC):** Benjamin worked on IBM's claim that the defendants reverse engineered its mainframe software in breach of contract. This case was featured as one of The Lawyers' top 20 cases of 2024. Benjamin drafted the Disclosure Review Document, prepared various applications for further disclosure, helped to manage the disclosure review process, and worked closely with a team of experts to prepare amended particulars of claim and expert reports.
- **Credit Suisse Virtuoso Sicav-Sif v Softbank Group Corp [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch):** Benjamin worked on the defence to a claim under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, drafting pre-action correspondence and working on an expert report on English insolvency law for the purposes of a s.1782 discovery motion in the US.

Company & Partnership Law

Benjamin has acted on a successful application for an injunction to restrain the removal of company directors in breach of a shareholders' agreement.

During pupillage, Benjamin gained experience of company and partnership law matters, including:

- Drafting an application in the ADGM for interim injunctions restraining a company from taking steps to implement resolutions passed at an EGM.
- Advising on a potential partnership claim and drafting pre-action correspondence.
- Advising on, and drafting a defence to, a misfeasance claim against the director of a BVI company.

Insolvency

Benjamin's insolvency experience includes acting on an application for a company administration order and on winding up petitions.

During pupillage, Benjamin gained experience of insolvency law matters, including:

- Drafting an application to set aside statutory demands.
- Advising on, and drafting a defence to, a claim in the BVI in respect of allegedly undervalue transactions and unfair preferences.
- Advising administrators on the principle in *Cherry v Boulton*.

Credit Suisse Virtuoso Sicav-Sif v Softbank Group Corp [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch): in his previous role as a solicitor at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, Benjamin worked on the defence to a claim under s. 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, drafting pre-action correspondence and working on an expert report on English insolvency law for the purposes of a s. 1782 discovery motion in the US.

Intellectual Property

IBM United Kingdom Limited v LzLabs GmbH [2025] EWHC 532 (TCC): in his previous role as a solicitor at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, Benjamin worked on IBM's claim that the defendants reverse engineered its mainframe software in breach of contract. This case was featured as one of The Lawyers' top 20 cases of 2024. Benjamin drafted the Disclosure Review Document, prepared various applications for further disclosure, helped to manage the disclosure review process, and worked closely with a team of experts to prepare amended particulars of claim and expert reports.

International & Offshore

During pupillage, Benjamin gained extensive experience of international and offshore matters, including:

- Drafting an application in the DIFC for anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunctions against a foreign state.

- Drafting the skeleton argument for an appeal to the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on the Court's jurisdiction to determine conspiracy claims against foreign parties.
- Advising on a claim under Gibraltar law concerning theft, breach of constructive trust and limitations issues.
- Advising on, and drafting a defence to, a claim in the BVI relating to undervalue transactions, unfair preferences, and director misfeasance.
- Drafting an application in the ADGM for an interim injunction restraining a company from taking steps to implement resolutions passed at an EGM.
- Drafting a claim to remove councillors of ADGM foundations.
- Drafting a claim in Gibraltar to set aside a will and lifetime transactions.
- Advising on the settlement and validity of various Gibraltar trusts.

Trusts, Probate & Estates

During pupillage, Benjamin gained extensive experience of trusts, probate and estate work, including:

- Drafting a claim in Gibraltar to set aside a will and lifetime transactions.
- Advising on the construction of a will.
- Advising trustees on their right to indemnity in respect of litigation costs.
- Advising administrators on the existence of a sham and/or illusory trust.
- Advising on a financial provision claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.
- Drafting a claim to remove councillors of an ADGM foundation.
- Advising on the prospects of a potential constructive trust claim and drafting pre-action correspondence.
- Drafting a claim for a property adjustment order under s. 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 in respect of trust property.
- Advising on the settlement and validity of various Gibraltar trusts.

Academic History

- Master of Law (LLM) – Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (First Class)
- Bachelor of Law (LLB) – Monash University (First Class)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) – Monash University (First Class)

Languages

- Russian (moderate)
- Hebrew (beginner)
- Yiddish (beginner)

Career history

Before coming to the Bar, Benjamin worked for three and a half years as a solicitor at a US law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP in London where he specialised in complex commercial litigation and international arbitration. He also completed a training contract at the leading Australian law firm Arnold Bloch Leibler in Melbourne and worked as a Judicial Assistant to the Honourable Justice Riordan at the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Scholarships and Prizes/ Awards

- 3 Verulam Buildings Prize (subject prize for 'International Commercial Litigation', University of Cambridge Faculty of Law)
- Gareth Jones Prize (subject prize for 'Law of Restitution', University of Cambridge Faculty of Law)
- Postgraduate Law Prize (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge)
- Simmons & Simmons Law Prize (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge)

Business Details

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