

# Ryan Hocking

Call: 2014

Ryan is a solid junior, very commercial minded and quick to understand all the issues/points in play.

Legal 500



Ryan has a busy, broad-based commercial and civil fraud practice which sits alongside, and is complemented by, his specialist practice in company law and insolvency in which he is recommended by the Legal 500. He is a sought-after trial and appellate advocate, and is often trusted with high-stakes litigation involving wider commercial or reputational significance for the client. Ryan's tactical acumen, robust advocacy, and user-friendly approach make him an invaluable member of any legal team, clients note he is "a solid junior, very commercial minded and quick to understand all the issues/points in play."

Ryan's expertise in relation to cross-border work and his experience of work in offshore jurisdictions is of particular assistance in fraud and asset tracing cases – he is called to the Bar in the British Virgin Islands and additionally has had experience of litigation in the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, the Bahamas, and Antigua (amongst other places).

Ryan's insolvency and restructuring practice includes both personal and corporate insolvency, acting for office-holders as well as creditors, individuals and directors. He advises and acts in respect of (amongst other things) antecedent transactions, misfeasance, disputed proofs of debt, litigation brought by office-holders, restructuring plans, and voluntary arrangements.

Ryan's commercial practice encompasses complex contractual disputes, civil fraud, breaches of fiduciary duty, partnerships and LLPs, unjust enrichment, emergency injunctive relief, and cases with an international dimension (including jurisdictional disputes and cross-border insolvencies). Ryan's company law experience bridges the divide with his specialist insolvency practice, and includes a variety of shareholder disputes: unfair prejudice petitions, just and equitable winding up petitions, and misfeasance proceedings.

## Expertise

### Commercial Litigation

Ryan's commercial disputes practice includes a wide gamut of contractual and tortious disputes, including both litigation and arbitration concerning commodities contracts, industrial equipment leases, service contracts, investment agreements, and brokerage and agency relationships. Many of these cases have an international dimension, and involve dealing with jurisdictional disputes, conflicts of laws issues, coordinating with legal teams running litigation in other jurisdictions, and cross-border enforcement (of both judgments and arbitral awards). Much of his practice in this area is oriented towards commercial chancery, overlapping with his expertise in company and insolvency law. This frequently involves disputes concerning breaches of fiduciary

duties, pursuing and defending unfair prejudice petitions, and acting in relation to claims arising out of shareholder agreements.

His experience includes:

- **Vitol SA and Anor v Municipiul Iași:** Ryan acts for the defendant as sole counsel against a silk and junior team for the claimant in (i) an ongoing claim against the defendant for over USD 21 million plus over €25 million and (ii) the defendant's counterclaim for over USD 49 million. The matter concerns a contract for the supply of a large quantity of coal to a Romanian public body, and involves issues of foreign law and trade sanctions against Russia.
- **Mold Investments Ltd v Holloway [2025] EWCA Civ 986:** Ryan acted for the intervener in the claimant's appeal against an order listing a defendant's application to discharge a freezing injunction for a 5-day hearing with cross-examination (including of the intervener and expert witnesses). He appeared as sole counsel for the intervener at the oral hearing of the appeal.
- **Soho House Limited and Ors v Orchard Energy Ltd:** Ryan acted for the claimant hospitality venues in their claim against their former energy broker for approximately £1.3 million for, amongst other things, partially concealed commission and misrepresentation. This matter was reported on by The Lawyer, see: <https://www.thelawyer.com/soho-house-and-the-ned-enlist-lewis-silkin-to-challenge-secret-commission/>
- **Soho House Limited v Stanlee Gatti:** Ryan acted for the claimant in their claim against a US-based events designer and media personality for sums owing in relation to his work as the wedding planner for a high-profile celebrity wedding.
- Ryan acted for a US-based claimant in an ICC arbitration in which it claimed approximately USD 8.5 million against an African entity which had defrauded it in relation to contracts for the sale of metal. He also assisted his instructing solicitors in liaising with lawyers in another jurisdiction in relation to parallel litigation against third-parties who were privy to the fraud.
- Ryan acted for a company pursuing a £2.1 million breach of fiduciary duty claim against a former director and his wife, the former head of finance. The claimant alleged the defendants had dishonestly taken the benefit of over 2,700 individual transactions over a period of years, causing further consequential losses in the form of tax penalties and interest. The defendants issued an unfair prejudice petition, with which the company's claim was jointly case managed.
- **Cavendish Square Holding BV v Talal El Makdessi and ParkingEye v Beavis [2015] UKSC 67:** Ryan appeared as second junior counsel, acting pro bono for the Appellant Mr This landmark case was the first authoritative review of the law of penalties since *Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co Ltd v New Garage & Motor Co Ltd* [1915] AC 847 decided almost exactly 100 years before.

## Civil Fraud & Asset Recovery

Ryan has experience of litigating civil fraud in a variety of contexts, from straightforward misrepresentation to breaches of trust, knowing receipt and dishonest assistance, through to conspiracy. He is frequently instructed at both the ex parte and inter partes stages of obtaining interim injunctions, including Norwich Pharmacal orders, proprietary injunctions, and freezing orders.

Ryan's deep familiarity with international litigation and his experience of offshore work is particularly valuable in this context, and he is skilled at dealing with matters such as jurisdictional disputes, following and tracing assets through complex structures, and cross-border enforcement. Ryan's proficiency in insolvency and company law is also sought after in civil fraud claims; he has the expertise to navigate matters involving overlapping fiduciary duties, 'arm's length' structuring (such as nominee shareholdings), and the impact of insolvency processes on recovery.

Ryan's recent experience includes:

- Appearing at an interim hearing for a BVI company in whose name an arbitration claim was fraudulently issued by third-parties (and strangers to the company, whose true identity remained unknown) in order to attempt to enforce a forged arbitration award. The respondents to the claim applied to set aside the order giving leave to enforce the purported award, with the cooperation of the BVI company.
- Acting on behalf of claimants who purchased the shareholding in a private company, and alleged that the defendant vendor had fraudulently falsified the company's accounts so as to inflate its value by approximately £2.4 million.
- Acting on an application for a Bankers Trust order in relation to a substantial cryptocurrency fraud and the associated tracing and following claims.
- Obtaining Norwich Pharmacal relief on behalf of a state-operated airline of a North African country in relation to fraudulently induced transfers of money.
- Representing respondents to an application for freezing and proprietary injunctions to a value of over £14 million, in the context of allegations of a systematic and long-running tax fraud.
- Advising and acting for a US-based metal trading company in relation to a number of connected sets of proceedings in different jurisdictions arising out of a multi-million dollar fraud against a group of companies and associated persons subject to a USD 600 million+ freezing order.

## Insolvency

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Ryan's insolvency work covers a range of both corporate and personal insolvency matters, including acting at the stage of contested petitions (including injunctive relief, and subsequent rescission and annulment applications), claims by office-holders (ranging from misfeasance and antecedent transactions, to wrongful and fraudulent trading, to use of prohibited names), and advising office-holders in relation to technical matters through the course of an insolvency process. Ryan frequently acts in cases with an international dimension, including in relation to cross-border recognition and enforcement, and work in other jurisdictions (most notably, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands). Finally, Ryan has experience of advising both debtors and creditors in relation to alternatives to liquidation or insolvent administration, including CVAs, IVAs, and restructuring plans under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006.

Recent cases include:

- ***Khan v Goldfarb [2025] EWHC 874 (Ch); [2025] 1 WLR 3483***: Ryan appeared (both at first instance and on appeal) for the daughter of a bankrupt, who was the respondent to an application for a proprietary injunction. The appeal raised novel legal issues as to the distinction between proprietary injunctions and freezing injunctions, and the availability of 'quasi-proprietary' injunctions.
- Acting for liquidators in relation to their claims against directors for misfeasance, debt, and transactions at an undervalue, with an estimated quantum of approximately £78 million, as well as advising in relation to the claim against the company and one of the same directors by a third party, in which the third party argues that the same sums are held on trust for it.
- Advising and conducting drafting in relation to a disputed proof of debt with a quantum of approximately USD 14 million in the Cayman Islands.
- Appearing for a company in an urgent application to restrain advertisement of a winding-up petition presented (urgently) on Christmas Eve, the threatened publicity of which would have jeopardized a planned USD 300 million bonds issue in the first quarter of the following year as well as causing significant consequential losses.
- Acting for company directors in their defence of a claim brought by liquidators for approximately £13.5 million arising from their alleged breaches of duty in relation to the company's dealings with a third-party and the adjudication proceedings

prosecuted by that third party.

- Acting for the Trustee in Bankruptcy of a footballer who formerly played professionally for England and a Premier League team. This matter involved a number of hearings against the bankrupt himself, advising on a number of technical matters, and a dispute with a third-party who purported to be a creditor holding security over the whole of the most substantial asset in the bankruptcy estate.
- Acting for liquidators of an English LLP, formerly controlled by a Russian national, in relation to the sale at an undervalue of its shares in a Portuguese football club, advising throughout on jurisdictional issues and practicalities concerning litigation funding and enforcement.
- Acting for liquidators of a hedge fund in relation to a heavily-contested application challenging their decision to reject a proof of debt with a quantum of over £2 million.
- Acting for Trustees under a South African sequestration order seeking recognition and enforcement in England.

## CSR & pro bono

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Ryan is joint head of the committee of PILARS (Personal Insolvency Litigation Advice and Representation Scheme).

Ryan is also a panel member and case reviewer for Advocate, and undertakes a variety of pro bono cases through Advocate. He also volunteers on the CLiPs scheme offering assistance to litigants in person in the Chancery applications court.

Ryan regularly volunteers to assist Inner Temple in interviewing scholarship candidates and in providing feedback and training to prospective pupils. He is a mentor under the Inner Temple mentorship scheme as well as through the COMBAR mentoring scheme.

## Publications

- *A Practical Guide to Adding or Amending Parties or Causes of Action to a Claim in Civil Proceedings* – author
- *Atkins Court Forms, Vol. 9 (Corporate Insolvency)* – contributing editor

## Academic History

- LLM – Wolfson College, University of Cambridge
- BPTC – City Law School
- GDL – Oxford Brookes University
- BA (English Language & Literature) – Jesus College, University of Oxford

## Professional Memberships

- COMBAR (The Commercial Bar Association)
- ChBA (The Chancery Bar Association)
- INSOL
- R3
- LBA (The London Bar Association)

## Business Details

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