



## Jonathan Hilliard

Call: 2003

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### Clerks' Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- MA in Law, University of Cambridge (1st in year)
- LLM in Law, University of Cambridge (1st in year; starred first; highest ever mark in Advanced Trust Law, first place in tax and restitution)
- Number of other university and college prizes, including Chancellor's Medal and Tapp Scholarship
- Taught contract law at Gonville & Caius and Selwyn Colleges, University of Cambridge
- Awarded Denning, Harwicke & Kennedy scholarships by Lincoln's Inn

*“A rising star and already a viable alternative to a silk”*

The Legal 500, 2014

### Memberships

- Sits on Trust Law Committee
- Sits on APL Litigation Subcommittee
- Chancery Bar Association
- APL
- STEP Contentious Trusts and Estates Interest Group
- Commercial Bar Association

### Practice Overview

Jonathan has a broad trusts and commercial practice. Much of his time is spent on private, pension and other commercial trust disputes and fraud disputes, both on and offshore. His litigation often takes him into other areas of law, and he has significant experience of cases with family, regulatory, insolvency and public law elements. He also has a significant advisory practice across this spectrum of work.

Jonathan regularly appears on his own account (often leading a junior junior) in matters against QCs. Equally, he is often brought in as a junior, frequently to leaders in other sets and other areas of law, and enjoys working in a team.

He very much enjoys the challenge of breaking down complex issues into simple, clear points and the advocacy involved in litigation, both oral and written.

He is ranked in *The Legal 500*, 2014 for trusts, commercial litigation, civil fraud and pensions, and in *Chambers & Partners*, 2014 for offshore, pensions and traditional chancery.

*The Legal 500*, 2014 states that he is **"the star pensions junior"**. *Chambers & Partners*, 2014 describe him as **"[S]uper-bright and displays a real energy and commitment to the case"** and **"self-effacing, down to earth, extremely bright, and really good to put before clients."** The latest edition of *Chambers Global* commented that he **"will undoubtedly be a big name for offshore work"** in years to come and has a **"flourishing reputation"**.

He has been listed as one of the 10 stars of the junior commercial and chancery bar in *Legal Week*, who described him as **"absolutely brilliant: lots of brain power- impresses solicitors and silks alike"** and stated that **"he completely outflanks some senior members of the Bar"**, while he has been listed as one of the 10 future stars of the Bar in *The Times*, which commented that **"he has it all- no wonder he's in demand"**.

He is shortlisted for ACTAPS Contentious Barrister of the Year 2014-2015.

He is the youngest member of the Trust Law Committee.

### Publications

- How to side-step valid trust and corporate structures [2014] *Trusts & Trustees* 20 (9): 891-929
- Co-author of Protector's and Disclosure chapters in *The International Trust and International Trust Law.s*
- Co-author (with Dr Janet O'Sullivan, Reader of Law at the University of Cambridge) of *The Law of Contract* (1st-6th editions) (Oxford University Press).
- Co-author of the Pension Scheme Actuaries chapter in *Professional Negligence and Liability looseleaf*.



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## Trusts, Tax, Probate and Estates

A substantial part of Jonathan's work concerns private trust litigation and associated advice. This encompasses the spectrum of domestic litigation, offshore work, trusts and divorce disputes and work with a fraud or other asset tracing element.

Jonathan aims above all to be direct and succinct in his advocacy and advice, and to be approachable and easy to deal with. He enjoys the challenge of delivering simple, clear advice on complex technical issues, often to foreign clients and frequently as part of a team where he is there to provide the specific trusts expertise.

Over recent years, a significant amount of his trusts work with an international element has concerned attacking and defending complex offshore structures, whether in the divorce context or in offshore proceedings involving fraud and other linked routes of attack.

On the domestic side, he routinely acts in rectification, TLATA, VTA and other similar court cases concerning trusts and estates and contested probate matters, and frequently finds himself in the Chancery Division, Family Division and County Courts on such cases.

He has been listed on the basis of his trusts work as one of the 10 stars of the junior commercial and chancery bar in *Legal Week*, which described him as "**absolutely brilliant**".

### **While many of his cases are confidential, his recent litigious cases have included:**

- *In the Matter of an Application for Information Concerning a Trust* [2011] (Bermuda first instance and CA; PC hearing in 2015).
- *Trust counsel for husband in Tchenguiz-Imerman v Imerman* [2011–2013] (multi-£100m international divorce with heavy offshore trust elements).
- *Acting unled (with junior junior) in Delphi Trust* [2014] (Isle of Man; included an important judgment on privacy in offshore proceedings).
- *DR v GR* [2013] (Family Division; attacking offshore structure ultimately holding English real estate).
- Other Ongoing– acting in a number of divorce proceedings (both high net worth and small) concerning offshore trust structures and disputes over ownership of property, rectification proceedings and trusts-related professional negligence proceedings.
- *Ackerman v Hassans* [2012] (Gibraltar; acting for defendants in offshore trust and fraud dispute).
- *Re HHH Trust/Bertrand des Pallieres* [2013] (Jersey; rights to information against settlor; trustee's costs).
- *Re the A Trust* [2012] (Jersey; trustee seeking blessing against backdrop of removal allegations; removal of protector).
- *ITS v Susan Morris* [2011–2013] (first instance, CA; tracing into a divorce settlement).
- *Palumbo* [2011–2012] (acting for new trustees in a highly publicised dispute over previous administration of the trust).