



## Jack Watson

Call: 2012

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### Clerks' Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- BA, Emmanuel College Cambridge
- LLM, Emmanuel College Cambridge, graded First
- MPhil, Emmanuel College Cambridge
- BPTC, BPP, graded Outstanding
- Denning Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
- Hardwicke Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
- Rodwell Prize (Emmanuel College)
- Bachelor Scholarship (Emmanuel College)
- European and World Masters Cup Debating Champion; winner of a record 28 university level debating competitions

## Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association

## Publications

- 'Doubt, mistake and risk-taking in restitutionary claims' [2011] *K.L.J.* 22(2), 220-227
- 'Legitimate expectations and the Lisbon Treaty (Case Comment)' [2010] *C.S.L.R.* (1), 330.
- 'Clarity and Ambiguity: A New Approach to the Test of Legitimacy in the Law of Expectations' [2010] *Legal Studies* Vol 30 No. 4

## Practice Overview

Jack has a busy commercial and chancery practice with significant experience acting in high value and complex disputes often in cases involving an international dimension. In particular Jack's practice includes civil fraud disputes, company and insolvency, trusts, breach of fiduciary duties, professional liability, pensions as well as property-related work. Equally comfortable working on his own or as part of a larger team, he has significant advocacy experience appearing as sole counsel in a wide range of matters in his own right in both the county court, the High Court and appellate Courts and often appears on his own against QCs or senior junior barristers.

Approachable and easy to deal with, Jack specialises in providing clear and structured advice on often complex issues and fighting hard in order to ensure the best outcome for his clients.

### Jack's recent experience includes:

- *AHAB v Saad*: acting as junior counsel (with [Tom Lowe QC](#)) in one of the largest fraud cases ever litigated, involving a claim for around US\$9bn, a trial lasting over a year and the disclosure of over 5 million documents. In addition to complex issues of fact, the case involved issues relating to tracing and asset recovery, trust and partnership law, attribution of knowledge, ex turpi causa, bona fide purchase, conflicts of law and the law of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Bahrain.
- *Richards v Bodden*: appearing as sole counsel in the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal in a complex claim for restitution arising out of a failed property purchase.
- *FNTC v BBL*: acting as junior counsel (with [Alan Gourgey QC](#)) in relation to a hard fought claim for dishonest assistance and breach of trust arising out of the purchase of a Spanish Apartment complex.

Jack is a former European Debating Champion and his published written work has been described as 'illuminating' in the Privy Council (*Paponette v A-G of Trinidad and Tobago* [2010] UKPC 32 per Lord Brown) and been cited approvingly by the Court of Appeal for Northern Ireland (*Re Loreto Grammar School* [2012] NICA 1) and again by the Privy Council (*United Policyholders Group v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago* [2016] UKPC 17).



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## Commercial

Much of Jack's work concerns business and commercial disputes, particularly those relating to:

- Civil fraud
- Asset tracing
- Insolvency
- Financial services
- Regulatory issues
- Company and partnership issues

Jack's work often has an international element involving fraud and breach of fiduciary duty, often with a heavy factual dispute. He has considerable experience of fund and LLP disputes as well as freezing injunctions (both seeking and responding to) and Norwich Pharmacal and other pre-action disclosure applications.

### Jack's recent experience of civil fraud/commercial work includes:

- *AHAB v Saad* (2018): acting as junior counsel (with [Tom Lowe QC](#)) in one of the largest fraud cases ever litigated, involving a claim for around US\$9bn, a trial lasting over a year and the disclosure of over 5 million documents. In addition to complex issues of fact, the case involved issues relating to tracing and asset recovery, trust and partnership law, attribution of knowledge, ex turpi causa, bona fide purchase, conflicts of law and the law of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Bahrain.
- *Richards v Bodden* (2018): Appearing as sole counsel in the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal in a complex claim for restitution arising out of a failed property purchase.
- *Re Abraaj* (2018): acting as junior counsel (with [Tom Lowe QC](#)) in obtaining a proprietary injunction preventing a distribution of sale proceeds allegedly held on constructive trust arising out of the collapse of the Abraaj Group.
- *Lemos v Blue Diamond* (2018): Acting for the Claimants in a claim relating to the legal and beneficial ownership of shares in two Liberian Corporations.
- *Re Lancelot* (2017): Acting for a group of funds in a claim for deceit and conspiracy arising from the liquidation of the main feeder funds involved in the SU\$10 billion Petters fraud.
- *PCA v NatWest* (unreported): Acting for a defendant bank in an application for pre-action disclosure in a purported claim involving restitution, liability to account as a constructive trustee and liability under the Payment Services Regulations 2009.
- *Re Westpark* (2017): Acting in an arbitration in relation to alleged non-payment of solicitors' fees which raises issues of breach of fiduciary duty, the self-dealing rule, solicitors' negligence/regulatory compliance and Wrotham Park damages.
- Acting for in an application to discharge a receivership over assets held in a number of jurisdictions as part of the litigation arising from the largest fraud in recent Latvian history (reported variously as Antonio Gramsci Shipping, Recoletos and Lembergs) being litigated out in the Commercial Court.

Jack also has considerable advocacy experience in a fraud/insolvency context. His recent experience include cross examining an expert accountant in relation to a claim to trace over US\$150m (as part of *AHAB v Saad*) and obtaining limited admission to appear in the Court of Appeal (unled) in *Richards v Bodden*.

Jack also has an interest in tracing/restitution issues and has been published on the issue of when a mistake will enable parties to obtain restitution of payments made pursuant to defective swap transactions (K.L.J. 2011, 22(2), 220-227).