



Jack Watson

Call: 2012

jwatson@wilberforce.co.uk

“A fantastic senior-junior who is brilliant in writing and robust in conference”

The Legal 500, 2020

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association

Practice Overview

Already described in The Legal 500 as *“a fantastic senior-junior”*, 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, often appearing on his own against QCs or senior junior barristers. In particular Jack's practice includes civil fraud disputes, company and insolvency, trusts, breach of fiduciary duties, professional liability 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 the High Court, appellate Courts and Courts of foreign jurisdictions.

Jack is ranked in The Legal 500's top ten under eight years call for commercial litigation, and as a leading junior, Jack has been described in the directories as:

- “Very thorough and commercially-focused.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- “Provides excellent written work.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- “Really good with clients.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- “Very responsive, down to earth, and gives well considered and pragmatic advice.”* (The Legal 500)
- “Brilliant in writing and robust in conference.”* (The Legal 500)

Jack's recent experience includes:

- AHAB v Saad* (ongoing): 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.
- FNTC v BBLL* (ongoing): 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.



Practice Overview continued

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).

Insolvency

Jack has a busy insolvency practice encompassing both advocacy and advisory work and has acted in a number of high profile, high value cases. He regularly acts for office holders, directors, individuals and insolvent companies often in cases involving an international or multi-jurisdictional dimension.

Jack's recent insolvency cases include:

- *Re Abraaj* (ongoing): 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.
- *Re Ferster* (in bankruptcy): Acting as sole counsel for a trustee in bankruptcy seeking the extension of a bankruptcy for failure to comply with requests for information.
- *AHAB v Saad* (ongoing): Acting for the joint official liquidators of a Cayman Islands company defending a multi-billion dollar cross-jurisdictional fraud claim.
- *Re Digital Wings Ltd* (ongoing): Opposing an application by the liquidator of a BVI company for recognition and assistance before the courts of St Vincent and the Grenadines.
- *Re Lancelot* (ongoing): Acting for creditors in the Cayman Islands in claims concerning redemption rights in the Feeder Fund at the centre of the massive US\$10 billion Petters ponzi scheme and the creditors ability to sue a company in liquidation in the context of an intended distribution.
- *Re Westpark Durham LLP* (2017): Acting for a member of an LLP bringing and defending competing unfair prejudice petitions followed by applications to wind up a competing LLP allegedly created fraudulently in breach of fiduciary duty.
- *Minto v Holmes* (2017): Unfair prejudice petition arising out of the conduct of a health and beauty business in the North East of England.
- *Re Takhar* (2017): Acting for the debtor in a bankruptcy petition alleging abuse of process in the context of an extant Supreme Court Appeal
- *SIFCO 5: Re s.236* (2016): Acting for the joint official liquidators of a Cayman Islands Company in an application to examine various parties under s.236 Insolvency Act.

In addition, Jack undertakes a wide range of insolvency and company related work including:

- Issues arising in company liquidation, administration and bankruptcy
- Actions against company directors
- Shareholder disputes and unfair prejudice petitions
- Restraining presentation and rescinding winding up orders
- Advising on share purchase agreements/disputes