



Jack Watson

Call: 2012

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“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*: 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).

Professional Liability

Jack's professional liability experience includes:

- Defending a claim for payment of solicitors' fees on the grounds that the solicitors' negligence in explaining a conditional fee arrangement and/or breach of fiduciary duty gave rise to a counterclaim for damages which exceeded any fees payable.
- *Brudenell-Bruce v Moore and Cotton* [2014] EWHC 3679 (Ch): Acting with [Clare Stanley QC](#) in a three-week trial of a claim for breach of trust relating to the alleged negligent mismanagement of trust property raising issues as to (a) the scope of trustees' duties to manage trust property (b) acquiescence and concurrence (c) detailed surveying and accountancy evidence and (d) the measure of damages for losses sustained by trusts.
- Acting with [Andrew Mold](#) for defendant benefit consultants facing professional negligence claims in the administration of the Bloxwich pension scheme.
- Advising the settlor of a trust under the Schedule 1 Children Act as to a potential claim against his former solicitors for failing to settle on more advantageous terms.
- Successfully settling adjudication proceedings relating to negligent construction works.
- Bringing and defending complaints to the Financial Ombudsman Service in relation to the sale of Self-Invested Personal Pensions.
- Defending a claim for payment of solicitor fees on the grounds of negligence having given rise to a right of non-payment.
- Acting in a claim brought by the employers of an occupational pension scheme against the former accountants of that scheme for failing to properly calculate necessary increases to members' benefits.