



## Jack Watson

Call: 2012

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

The Legal 500

## 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, regularly 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 both The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners as a leading junior and has been described in the directories as:

- *“Super bright and very focussed on the detail.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- *“Very thorough and commercially-focused.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- *“Provides excellent written work.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- *“Really good with clients.”* (Chambers & Partners)
- *“An impressive individual.”* (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:

- *Oberman v Collins*: Acting a sole counsel for the successful claimant in a five-day High Court trial relating to the ownership of a multi-million pound property portfolio and an unfair prejudice petition. The case has been featured in the Times, Telegraph and Daily Mail.
- *Vneshprombank v Bedzhamov*: Acting as junior counsel (with [Alan Gourgey QC](#)) in proceedings relating to an alleged fraud of over £1billion leading to the collapse of a large Russian bank. Jack appeared as sole counsel at an interlocutory stage dealing with a search order and related confidentiality requirements.



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## Practice Overview continued

- *Saatchi v Gajjar*: Acting as sole counsel for a former business partner of a well-known art dealer in wide ranging litigation concerning the ownership of a multi-million pound art storage warehouse, and claims for breach of directors' duties.
- *Re Brickvest Limited*: Acting as sole counsel for the Defendants in a multi-million pound claim for unfair prejudice and breach of warranty arising out of the collapse of an investment fund relating to the purchase of land in Germany.
- *AHAB v Saad*: Acting as junior counsel both at first instance and on appeal (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.
- *Re Integrated Control Solutions*: Appearing as sole counsel in a five-day high court trial of competing unfair prejudice petitions.

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).

## Trusts, Tax, Probate and Estates

Jack regularly accepts instructions on a wide range of matters where trusts are involved. Jack's trust practice encompasses a wide variety of domestic and international trust disputes as well as trust claims arising out of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty or other cases involving asset tracing. He is also often instructed to provide trusts advice in the context of other areas of law including in the divorce context.

### Jack's recent experience includes:

- *FNTC v BLL*: 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.
- *Re Confidential Trust*: Acting for the settlor of several property trusts in seeking a declaration that certain of those properties are held on trust for his children as part of ongoing ancillary relief proceedings.
- *DBS v Zhang*: Acting for the Respondents to an appeal to the Hong Kong Court of final appeal as to the application and scope of Anti-Bartlett clauses and the irreducible core of trusteeship.
- *Re 1947 Settlement*: Acting for the trustees of an English settlement in seeking declarations from the High Court in relation to the governing law of the settlement and the effect of that governing law on the appointment of trustees by a foreign court.
- *Re A Trust*: Acting for the discretionary object of a trust in proceedings for a multi-billion dollar worldwide freezing and proprietary injunction over the purportedly distributed assets of the trust.
- *Lemos v Blue Diamond*: Acting for the Claimants in a claim relating to the legal and beneficial ownership of shares in two Liberian Corporations.
- *Re A Trust*: Advising the administrator of a trust in relation to an allegedly fraudulent appointment.
- *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 and the removal of trustees issues as to (a) the scope of trustees' powers and duties to manage trust property (b) trustee remuneration (c) acquiescence and concurrence by beneficiaries (d) the relevant principles to be applied when considering whether to remove trustees and (e) the measure of damages for losses sustained by trusts.



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## Trusts, Tax, Probate and Estates continued

Jack also has extensive advisory experience including:

- Advising the trustees of several London properties as to the scope of their duties to carry out works to trust property and their ability to recover expenses from the fund.
- Advising the executors of a deceased's estate as to the merits of an intimated claim in Jersey under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1982.
- 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.
- Acting for the beneficiary under a trust in seeking to have monies paid into court.
- Providing advice as to the scope of trustees' powers and acting in respect of Inheritance Act Claims.