



## Jack Watson

Call: 2012

[jwatson@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:jwatson@wilberforce.co.uk)

*“Very responsive, down to earth, and gives well considered and pragmatic advice.”*

The Legal 500, 2020

### Clerks' Details

+44 (0)20 7306 0102  
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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 BBLL*: 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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## Trusts, Tax, Probate and Estates

Jack has a particular interest in trust work and 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 BBL* (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.
- *Re Confidential Trust* (ongoing): 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.
- *Re 1947 Settlement* (2018): 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 Bahamian Trust* (2018): 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* (2018): Acting for the Claimants in a claim relating to the legal and beneficial ownership of shares in two Liberian Corporations.
- *Re A Cayman Trust* (2017): Advising the administrator of a Cayman Islands 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.

### 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 Dependents) 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.