



John Wardell QC

Call: 1979

QC: 2002

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- LLB (Hons) Exon
- M. Phil (Cantab)
- 2009: Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2011: Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of Singapore
- 2013: Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the | Cayman Islands
- 2014: Called to the bar of the British Virgin Islands

**“Relentless,
thorough and
devastating
in court”**

Chambers & Partners, 2016

Practice Overview

John is ranked as a 'leading silk' in Chancery Commercial in Chambers Global 2015, in Chancery Commercial, Civil Fraud, Commercial Dispute Resolution and Professional Negligence in Chambers & Partners 2015, and in Commercial Litigation, Company, Civil Fraud and Professional Negligence in The Legal 500, 2014.

The recent edition of Chambers & Partners, 2016 describe him as *"extremely knowledgeable on the law, highly collaborative and excellent at team leadership."* *"He's a fantastic advocate, who's very commercial and very hands on."* He has a strong reputation for handling civil fraud claims, particularly in the context of corporate transactions. *"Terribly clever relentless, thorough and devastating in court."* *"Extremely good at team management, tactics and cross-examination."*

Chambers Global, 2016 note that he is the *"go-to silk for pretty much anything in the commercial, fraud or professional negligence space."*

Chambers & Partners, 2015 described him as a standout professional with years of experience of handling complex commercial fraud cases. *"His advice has real clarity and strategic vision, and he always displays a strong tactical grip."* He is an *"outstanding advocate who is highly skilled at cross-examination. He is able to digest large volumes of information quickly and impresses clients with his commercial knowledge."* *"He has a great eye for detail, is incredibly numerate and user-friendly."*

As well as applauding his strategic thinking and cross-examination skills, solicitors welcome his willingness to back his judgment. *"Very few counsel will stick their neck out, but he's one of them: he's prepared to commit and say what he thinks."* *"He gives bold advice and sticks to it. He is very calm, good on his feet, clever and has a nice touch with clients."*

John has an extremely broad and varied commercial litigation practice. Most of his cases are heard in the High Court although he also does international arbitration work and regularly appears in offshore jurisdictions (including BVI, Grand Cayman, Turks and Caicos, Singapore, Hong Kong and many European countries).

In the last five years, he has spent an increasing amount of time on complex fraud claims, many of which involve company law issues.

Many of John's commercial cases involve claims for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty.

John also undertakes professional negligence and indemnity work for both claimants and defendants. He has acted for and against a wide range of professionals, including solicitors, barristers, surveyors, financial advisers, accountants and actuaries.

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association



Practice Overview continued

John immerses himself in all aspects of his cases. He easily assumes the role of a leader prepared to back his own judgment, but is also a collaborative team player. John is an extremely good advocate, adept at modifying his tone and approach to the tribunal and at sensing how a Judge is seeing the case. He consistently impresses with thorough preparation and focussed and effective cross-examination. He is rock solid on the law, reliable on paperwork and is described by solicitors as a joy to work with. What most impresses is his unwavering commitment to his cases, and to his clients.

International Arbitration

An increasing part of John's commercial practise involves arbitration work. John has conducted arbitrations under the ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL Rules in Geneva, London, Paris, Singapore, Vienna and Warsaw.

Recent cases include:

- Acting in an international arbitration in Warsaw arising out of a joint venture for the construction of the A4 motorway in Poland. At the heart of the defence is the allegation that the applicant was engaged in a wholesale attempt to cheat his clients by overcharging and claiming for costs that had nothing to do with the project [2014].
- Acting in an international arbitration in Paris where the prospective claimant will be seeking multi-million pound compensation for breach of a joint venture relating to the provision of mining services for a bauxite mine in Saudi Arabia [2014].
- Acting for the applicant in an international arbitration in Vienna who successfully sought substantial compensation for breach of a share purchase agreement relating to the acquisition of a controlling interest in a steel plant in Macedonia [2012].
- Acting for the former head of an investment bank who was seeking approximately £30m by way of reasonable remuneration for his services [2012].
- Acting for an oil company seeking to recover substantial compensation for the fraudulent supply of cargoes of adulterated oil to Romania [2010].