



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)
- Called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands
- Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the Turks and Caicos Islands
- Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the Cayman Islands
- Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of Singapore

“His advocacy is impeccably well prepared and his cross-examinations are stellar.”

Chambers & Partners, 2020

Memberships

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

Practice Overview

John is ranked as a 'leading silk' in the Commercial and Chancery Commercial categories in Chambers Global 2020, in Chancery Commercial, Civil Fraud, Commercial Dispute Resolution and Professional Negligence in Chambers & Partners UK 2020, and in Commercial Litigation, Company, Civil Fraud, Offshore and Professional Negligence in The Legal 500 UK 2020.

The Chambers & Partners 2020 edition describes John as *"a very strong, forensic advocate who gets on well with clients and speaks a language they understand"*. *"John is very responsive, incredibly thorough and an extremely commanding advocate."* He is *"very, very hard working"*, *"his advocacy is impeccably well prepared and his cross-examinations are stellar"*.

The Legal 500 2020 edition describes him as *"sharp, relentless and fierce, John has a frightening ability to recall incredible levels of detail"*. He is *"unflappable, impressive and with the ability to really engage with senior judges on their level"*. *"He has a very lucid mind and is extremely good on his feet"*, he is *"an excellent advocate"*.

John has an extremely broad and varied commercial disputes practice. Most of his cases are heard in the High Court and International Arbitral Tribunals. John also 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.

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

John has conducted arbitrations under the ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL Rules in Geneva, London, Paris, Singapore, Vienna and Warsaw. Most of his cases are document heavy and involve analysis of complex contracts.

Recent and ongoing cases include:

- Acting on a claim for breach of a performance guarantee relating to multiple contracts for the supply of natural gas and mazut (a heavy low quality fuel oil) This involves consideration of multiple contracts between numerous parties dating back 20 years.
- Acting for an oil company seeking to recover substantial compensation for the fraudulent supply of cargoes of oil to Romania.
- 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. This required an in-depth analysis of the Macedonian privatisation laws and the contracts that were generated following their enactment.
- Acting in an international arbitration in Paris where the claimant sought multi-million pound compensation for breach of a joint venture relating to the provision of mining services for a bauxite mine in Saudi Arabia
- Acting in an international arbitration in Warsaw arising out of a joint venture for the construction of the A4 motorway in Poland.
- Acting for the former head of an investment bank who was seeking approximately £30m by way of reasonable remuneration for his services.

In addition, as part of his commercial litigation practice, John has been involved in heavy contractual disputes relating to oil interests in Kazakhstan, gold mines in Azerbaijan and an oil and gas conglomerate in Ukraine.