



Nikki Singla QC

Call: 2000

QC: 2018

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- Winchester College and New College, Oxford (Law, BA Hons, First Class, BCL, First Class).

Memberships

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

“A class act and someone to look to whenever the opportunity arises.”

The Legal 500 UK, 2017

Practice Overview

- Business Litigation Barrister of the Year – Corporate LiveWire
- Business Litigation Barrister of the Year – Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards
- Private Client Barrister of the Year – Corporate LiveWire

Nikki is an experienced commercial and trusts litigator instructed in domestic cases and overseas. He is recognised in the directories as one of the leading names at the Bar in commercial and business litigation: the Legal 500 says that ***“a class act and someone to look to whenever the opportunity arises”***.

He has a breadth of expertise covering a wide range of commercial and business disputes particularly in the fields of complex contracts, joint ventures and director and shareholder disputes, IP licensing agreements, media and entertainment, and professional negligence.

He brings additional depth to his cases with his expertise in equity, equitable remedies including asset tracing, trusts and trusts litigation, and company and partnership law.

He is an experienced trial advocate and has appeared in a number of reported cases in the High Court (Chancery Division and Commercial Court) and in other jurisdictions and before arbitrators. He has appeared as advocate on his own account before the Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands and – as a junior – was one of the few juniors to appear before the Chief Justice in Bermuda in recent times. He has recently completed a DIAC arbitration in Dubai and a SCC arbitration in Stockholm. Many of his cases have a strong international element particularly in the Caribbean, the Channel Islands and the Middle East.

He is recommended in Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners as a leading name at the Bar in a number of practice areas:

Commercial Litigation

- *“a skilful, strategic advocate” with the ability to “cut through the complexities to the core issues”*
- *“knowledgeable and user friendly”, a “rising star” and “an able communicator and litigator for any size of case”*
- *“A real star; very capable indeed and lovely to work with”*



Practice Overview continued

Commercial Chancery Litigation

- *"He's absolutely delightful to be against as he's utterly fair and charming"*
- *"He gets under the skin of the case and is a very good team player"*
- *"Calm in the face of a storm"*

Company and Partnership Litigation

- *"Speedy, analytical and honest in his opinion, which is appreciated by the client"*

Offshore Litigation

- *"He is excellent with clients, very calm, and he has a great manner to him"*

Professional Negligence

- *"Committed, thoughtful, intense and thoroughly committed to winning"*

Media and Entertainment

- *"He has very good judgement and is definitely someone you want on your team in a difficult case"*

He is listed in the **Who's Who Legal: UK Bar 2016** for Private Client.

His recent cases include:

- *A v B* (Stockholm Chamber of Commerce Arbitration): Acting for the defendant in the trial of a several billion dollar gas transit arbitration between state parties in relation to one of the world's largest transit pipelines.
- *Re a Company* (Grand Court of the Cayman Islands): Acting for directors and shareholders to ascertain "fair value" under Cayman companies' legislation for minority shares in a management buy-out. Case concerns intricate matters of share valuation and discounted cash flow valuation techniques.
- *Re Dishoom Limited* (Ch Div): Acting for the company that operates the Dishoom restaurants in a shareholders' dispute concerning the application of a shareholders' agreement and proper corporate governance by shareholder-nominated directors.
- *E v D* (Football Association Arbitration, Rule K): Acting for Premiership footballer in the trial of claims of breach of contract by a former football agent.
- *T v D* (Ad hoc Arbitration): Acting for solicitor excluded from a firm of solicitors in the trial of claims for breach of contract, good faith and other partnership duties.
- *The Light Touch Clinic v Forrester* (Ch Div): Acting for cosmetic clinic company seeking to enforce restraint of trade clauses against former director and employee setting up competing business and using confidential information.
- *Jenington v Assaubayev and Others* (Ch Div): Acting for the defendant directors defending claims of £200million for alleged fraud on AIM investors in respect of mineral ventures in Kazakhstan. Contested applications for worldwide freezing orders, search orders, gagging and passport orders.
- *eGain v (1) RBS (2) Lloyds TSB and 14 others* (Commercial Court): Large internet banking fraud against US company – acted for company obtaining a series of asset tracing orders, freezing injunctions and disclosure orders against fraudulent Defendants and several banks and contested interpleader proceedings.
- *In the Matter of a Trust* (Bermuda): Acted for a member of one of the wealthiest Canadian families in the trial of a dispute between him and his father over the application of trust provisions in a complex Bermudian trust and corporate structure. Case was one of the first to consider the application of trust "jurisdiction" clauses.



Practice Overview continued

- *In the Matter of the H Trust (Jersey)*: Acted for a corporate fiduciary services provider defending beneficiary claims against several defendants for over £30million for alleged fraudulent and negligent investment advice. Allegations made against well-known accountant and adviser for fraud and breach of trust which led to criminal proceedings.
- *In the Matter of a Company (Guernsey)*: Acted for the defendant corporate fiduciary services provider and director defendants with local leading advocates in the defence of breach of trust proceedings and alleged negligence in respect of investment policy for approximately £10million. Case required consideration of the duties of non-executive directors and offshore corporate services providers.
- *A v B (DIAC arbitration in Dubai)*: Acted in the trial for the claimant company building the world's largest theme park in Dubai against contractors and designers alleged to have acted in breach of the design contract and defending counterclaim for lost profits arising on termination.
- *Arrow Group ApS v Gelmedic Holding ApS (Ch Div)*: Acted for claimant licensor against large pharmaceutical licensee in breach of contract claim for failing to develop a patent into a lozenge and bring it to market. Consideration of the application of the Limitation Act to a "best endeavours" clause in the contract.
- *Ackerman v Ackerman (Ch Div)*: Acted for the claimant in the trial of a large complex shareholders' dispute where a challenge was made to an expert QC's determination of the division of family corporate assets between two sides of a family.
- *Reeves v Sprecher (Ch Div)*: Acted for the majority shareholder in a large hedge fund established in London and Nevis in a dispute against the minority shareholder who sought partnership remedies of dissolution and account. Case involved foreign proceedings and considered the jurisdiction of the Court over foreign incorporated companies.
- *British Midland Tool v Midland International Tooling (Ch Div)*: Acting for the claimant company in the lengthy trial of a large conspiracy claim against former directors who set up competing business and breached duties of confidence and other fiduciary duties.
- *Reachlocal UK v Bennett (QBD)*: Acting for NASDAQ listed company in the trial of its claims against competitors using social media, Twitter and Facebook, to defame and attack the business.



Professional Liability

"His advocacy both oral and written is top-notch" Chambers UK Bar 2017

He acts for claimants against a variety of professionals, in particular, solicitors, directors, and trustees; and he acts for defendants (and insurers who insure them). He has acted in a number of cases concerning the construction and coverage of insurance policies including the minimum terms and EL policies in light of the Trigger litigation. He is one of the appointed counsel on the Prosecution Panel of the Bar Standards Board that prosecutes barristers in breach of the Handbook.

His recent cases include:

- *Pavillion Trustees v RadcliffesLeBrasseur* (Ch Div): Acting for trustees of three settlements who, it has been discovered, did not retire effectively as trustees and their intended replacements had not been properly appointed. Claims have been brought against the solicitors' firm who drafted the retirement/appointment deeds negligently for a range of losses arising.
- *Symrise v Baker McKenzie* (Commercial Court): Acted for the defendant solicitors' firm in its defence against professional negligence claims arising out of a corporate debt pushdown transaction that resulted in a tax investigation in Mexico.
- *In the Matter of the H Trust* (Jersey): Acted for a corporate fiduciary services provider defending beneficiary claims against several defendants for over £30million in fraudulent and negligent investment advice. Allegations made against well-known accountant and adviser for fraud and breach of trust which led to criminal proceedings.
- *In the Matter of a Company* (Guernsey): Acted for the defendant corporate fiduciary services provider and director defendants with local advocates in the defence of breach of trust proceedings and professional negligence in respect of investment policy for approximately £10million. Case required consideration of the duties of non-executive directors and offshore corporate services providers.
- *Re R Solicitors* (Ch Div): Acted for a former client of a solicitors' firm in its claim for breach of trust, professional negligence and fraud in the conduct of managing the probate and distribution of a very substantial estate and the handling of the client account. Claims for negligence and fraud commenced against the solicitors concerned and compensation sought from the SRA's compensation fund.
- *A v B* (DIAC arbitration in Dubai): Acted in the trial for the claimant company building the world's largest theme park in Dubai against contractors and designers alleged to have acted in breach of the design contract and defending counterclaim for lost profits arising on termination.
- *IEGL v Zurich Insurance plc* (Court of Appeal): Acted for defendant insurer seeking the development of new law that would permit equitable contribution from other EL insurers on risk under EL insurance policies for the expanded liability created by the decision of *Fairchild v Glenhaven*.
- *Re a Hong Kong Bank* (Hong Kong): Advising on the application of insurance policies to loss caused to a well-known and large commercial and retail Hong Kong bank arising out of fraudulent activities of a senior executive at the bank. Consideration of adequacy of investigation by the bank and whether compensation given to customers was an insured loss.
- *Re A Company* (Commercial Court): Advising a large firm of accountants in respect of claims brought against it for allegedly negligent audits and advice.