



## Anna Littler

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### Clerks' Details

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### Qualifications and Appointments

- MA(Hons), Jurisprudence, Oxford University
- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School, London
- Levitt and Hardwicke Scholar of Lincoln's Inn

*“She has all the attributes to be a top QC – fine judgment, great attention to detail, a creative mind and excellent legal knowledge. Solicitors just know that any document she delivers will be first rate.”*

The Legal 500, 2022

### Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- COMBAR
- Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

### Practice Overview

Anna has a commercial chancery practice with a particular focus on civil fraud and insolvency disputes.

She is recommended as a leading junior in her field in Chambers & Partners in which she is described as *"an absolute pleasure to work with, she's extremely thorough, leaves no stone unturned and is responsive and reassuring". "In paperwork, she has a gift for finding the key points out of the mountain of detail and presenting them clearly and concisely"* (Chambers & Partners 2020). Previous editions describe Anna as a *"talented junior with a direct and focused approach to commercial chancery work, who shines in civil fraud and insolvency work"* (Chambers & Partners 2019) with clients praising her *"no nonsense" approach and ability to "focus laserlike on difficult legal or factual issues"*.

As well as being instructed as a junior to leading counsel, Anna regularly appears as sole counsel on trials and interim applications (including freezing and ancillary orders). She also has substantial experience in dealing with cases involving conflict of laws and jurisdictional issues.

Anna undertakes work both in England & Wales and offshore and has recently acted in cases in Bermuda, the Isle of Man and the Caribbean. She is recommended as a leading junior in offshore work in the 2019 edition of Legal 500.

#### Examples of cases in which she has acted include:

- *Libyan Investment Authority v JP Morgan and ors*: a claim brought by the sovereign wealth fund of Libya, alleging that various transactions that it entered into during the Gaddafi-era were procured by corruption
- *JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov*: a series of multi-billion dollar fraud claims in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division
- *Weaving Macro Fixed Income Fund Limited (in liquidation) v Ernst v Young*: A claim against a Cayman fund's auditors arising out of the large scale fraud of the fund's founder, Magnus Peterson
- *X Trusts*: a high value trusts dispute in the Bermudan High Court



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## Commercial

Anna is recognised as a leading junior in the field of Commercial Chancery in Chambers & Partners 2019 edition. She acts in a variety of commercial disputes, in particular in cases involving allegations of fraud and asset preservation/disclosure (including relating to offshore trusts structures), as well as in contractual claims. She often acts on document-heavy cases involving significant disclosure exercises and related interim applications.

Anna has particular experience, both acting as junior to leading counsel and as sole counsel, in obtaining and resisting various forms of interim relief, including;

- Norwich Pharmacal/third party disclosure orders
- Freezing and ancillary disclosure orders
- Search orders (including against third parties)
- Summary judgment/strike out applications
- Committal proceedings brought on the basis of allegations of contempt of court
- Challenges to jurisdiction

### Examples of her recent commercial work include:

- acting as sole counsel for the purchaser of a company in relation to claims for breach of warranty against the seller in relation to the financial position of the company
- acting as sole counsel for a technology company in its claim against its former finance officer for the fraudulent misappropriation of funds, successfully obtaining freezing and disclosure orders
- acting as sole counsel for an individual defrauded through a bogus wine investment scheme and successfully obtaining freezing and disclosure orders.
- acting as sole counsel for a technology company, successfully defending a contractual claim brought against it by a former consultant
- acting as sole counsel for a luxury car company, defending a claim brought against it alleging breach of contract
- acting for a provider of care services in its claim for breach of contract against a commercial client
- acting in committal proceedings brought on the basis of allegations of contempt of court for failing to comply with an order for disclosure of information/assets
- acting to resist the appointment of a receiver in proceedings in which freezing relief had been granted
- acting as sole counsel in a claim by a shareholder alleging deceit in relation to their investment in a private company

## Civil Fraud

Anna has particular experience of cases involving allegations of fraud and asset preservation/disclosure (including relating to offshore trusts structures). She is recognised in The Legal 500 2020 edition as someone who **"considers all the angles, her depth of thought and analysis is very impressive"**.

She often acts on high value, document-heavy cases with international elements involving significant disclosure exercises and related interim applications.

Anna has particular experience, both acting as junior to leading counsel and as sole counsel, in obtaining and resisting various forms of interim relief, including;

- Norwich Pharmacal/third party disclosure orders
- Freezing and ancillary disclosure orders
- Search orders (including against third parties)
- Summary judgment/strike out applications



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## Civil Fraud continued

- Committal proceedings brought on the basis of allegations of contempt of court
- Challenges to jurisdiction

She has extensive experience in acting in large-scale and long running commercial fraud cases, including acting for the claimant bank in the high profile *Ablyazov* litigation: multi-billion dollar claims in the Chancery Division and Commercial Court by a Kazakh bank against its former chairman for misappropriation of funds, involving multiple freezing, search and ancillary orders.

She has recently acted for the liquidators of the *Weaving Macro Fixed Income Fund Limited* in their claim in the Grand Court in Cayman against the former auditors of a Cayman hedge fund which collapsed in 2009 following a major fraud by its founder.

She is currently acting for one of the defendants in the *Libyan Investment Authority v JP Morgan and ors* litigation - claims brought by the sovereign wealth fund alleging corruption in relation to transactions that it entered into during the era of the Gaddafi regime in Libya.

### Further examples of her recent civil fraud work include:

- acting as sole counsel for a technology company in its claim against its former finance officer for the fraudulent misappropriation of funds. Anna successfully obtained freezing and disclosure orders against the defendant and the case settled before trial.
- acting as sole counsel for an individual defrauded through a bogus wine investment scheme and successfully obtaining freezing and disclosure orders.
- acting in committal proceedings brought on the basis of allegations of contempt of court for failing to comply with an order for disclosure of information/assets
- acting to resist the appointment of a receiver in proceedings in which freezing relief had been granted
- acting as sole counsel in a claim by a shareholder alleging deceit in relation to their investment in a private company
- acting for a defendant to a fraud claim in challenging the jurisdiction of the English court

## Company

Anna undertakes a wide range of contentious company and insolvency work including:

- bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings (including jurisdictional and service issues)
- shareholder disputes (including s.994 petitions and just and equitable winding up petitions)
- actions against directors for breach of duty by companies/liquidators
- antecedent transactions
- wrongful/fraudulent trading

### Her recent work includes:

- acting for the liquidators of a Caymanian hedge fund in their claim against its former auditors
- acting for the liquidators of an English company in their claims relating to antecedent transactions and wrongful trading against the company's former directors
- acting for the former director of a company defending claims brought against him by the liquidators for alleged breach of his duties as director
- acting as sole counsel for a minority shareholder pursuing a claim under s.994 of the Companies Act 2006 for unfair prejudice in which it is alleged that the business and assets of the company have been unfairly diverted/transferred out of the company by the majority shareholders/directors
- acting as sole counsel for shareholders in a deadlocked company seeking s.994 relief/just and equitable winding up



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## Company continued

- acting as sole counsel for the liquidators of a company pursuing an action against its former directors in relation to an alleged fraud perpetrated against a third party through the company

She is also a contributor to the 2018 addition of *Kerr & Hunter, Receivers and Administrators* (Sweet & Maxwell).

## Offshore

Anna is recognised in The Legal 500 as a leading junior in offshore work in which she is described as **"very bright and provides very clear advice"**.

A significant amount of Anna's practice involves litigation in offshore jurisdictions, including in Bermuda, the Caribbean, Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Channel Islands.

She is currently acting in the high value *X Trusts* litigation in the Bermudian courts (led by Brian Green QC), involving issues of both company and trusts law.

She has recently acted in the Grand Court of Cayman in a claim brought by the liquidators of the *Weaving Macro Fixed Income Fund*, a Cayman hedge fund which collapsed due to the multi-million dollar fraud of its founder, Magnus Peterson, against the fund's auditors.

She also acted in the largest case ever to have been litigated in the Isle of Man, *Altimo Holdings v Kyrgyz Mobil Tel Ltd*, a case involving allegations of fraudulent misappropriation in relation to a Kyrgyz telecoms operator and the corruption of foreign judiciary.

## Insolvency

Anna is recommended in Chambers & Partners as a **"talented junior ... who shines in civil fraud and insolvency work"**.

She undertakes a wide range of contentious company and insolvency work including:

- bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings (including jurisdictional and service issues)
- shareholder disputes (including s.994 petitions and just and equitable winding up petitions)
- actions against directors for breach of duty by companies/liquidators
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### Her recent work includes:

- acting for the liquidators of a Caymanian hedge fund in their claim against its former auditors
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## Trusts, Tax, Probate & Estates

A substantial element of Anna's current practice is offshore trusts work. She is recommended as a leading junior for offshore work in Legal 500 and has experience in long running cases in a number of jurisdictions, from Bermuda and the Caribbean to the Isle of Man.

Her recent trusts work has included acting in:

- an application for removal of trustees of an offshore trust
- *Public Trustee v Cooper* applications for court blessing in highly contentious circumstances
- trust administration proceedings seeking a range of directions and other relief
- trust disclosure proceedings
- Beddoe applications

Her recent cases include acting with Brian Green QC in Bermuda in the *X Trusts* litigation, relating to a very high value discretionary trust and in a cross-jurisdictional dispute regarding a multi-billion dollar offshore trust.

Anna often acts in highly contested and complex multi-jurisdiction claims, frequently with elements of dishonesty and/or asset recovery and involving injunctive relief and other urgent Court applications. In this context, Anna has significant experience in dealing with complex offshore asset holding structures and finds that her fraud and insolvency work often ties in well with her offshore trust work.