



Jack Watson

Call: 2012

Clerks Details

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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 risktaking 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 broad commercial and chancery practice covering all areas of chambers work. In particular Jack's practice includes fraud disputes, company and insolvency, trusts, breach of fiduciary duties, professional liability, pensions as well as property-related work.

Jack also has experience of acting in high value and complex fund disputes and often acts in cases involving an international dimension.

Jack recently acted as junior counsel in *AHAB v Saad*, 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.

Equally comfortable working on his own or as part of a team, Jack also has significant advocacy experience and has appeared as sole counsel in a wide range of matters in both the county court and the High Court and has appeared on his own against QCs or senior junior barristers.

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).



Commercial

Much of Jack's work concerns business and commercial disputes, particularly those relating to:

- Civil fraud
- Asset tracing
- Insolvency
- Financial services
- Regulatory issues
- Company and partnership issues

Jack's work often has an international element involving fraud and breach of fiduciary duty, often with a heavy factual dispute.

Jack's recent experience of civil fraud/insolvency work includes:

- Acting with Tom Lowe QC as junior counsel in AHAB v Saad, 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.
- Acting for a group of funds in a claim for deceit and conspiracy arising from the liquidation of the main feeder funds involved in the SU\$10 billion Petters fraud.
- Acting with Jonathan Hilliard QC in *The Pensions Regulator v. Dalriada, Fellowes et al.* [2013] EWHC 4346 (Ch) resisting an application to discharge a freezing injunction obtained against pensions trustees who were alleged to have been engaged in multiple breaches of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
- Acting for in an application to discharge a receivership over assets held in a number of jurisdictions as part of the litigation arising from the largest fraud in recent Latvian history (reported variously as Antonio Gramsci Shipping, Recoletos and Lembergs) being litigated out in the Commercial Court.
- *PCA v NatWest* (unreported): Acting for a defendant bank in an application for preaction disclosure in a purported claim involving restitution, liability to account as a constructive trustee and liability under the Payment Services Regulations 2009.
- Acting in an arbitration in relation to alleged non-payment of solicitors' fees which raises issues of breach of fiduciary duty, the self-dealing rule, solicitors' negligence/regulatory compliance and Wrotham Park damages.

Jack also has considerable advocacy experience in a fraud/insolvency context. His recent experience include cross examining an expert accountant in relation to a claim to trace over US\$150m (as part of AHAB v Saad).

He has frequently been instructed to act in a range of commercial matters:

- Financial conduct and financial regulation.
- Hedge fund disputes
- LLP disputes
- Commercial fraud
- Restitution
- Freezing injunctions and proprietary remedies/tracing

Jack also has an interest in tracing/restitution issues and has been published on the issue of when a mistake will enable parties to obtain restitution of payments made pursuant to defective swap transactions (K.L.J. 2011, 22(2), 220–227).