



Stuart Isaacs QC

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- Deputy High Court Judge: 2004
- Bencher, Lincoln's Inn: 1999
- MA (Hons) Law Double First Class, Downing College, Cambridge
- Masters' degree in European Law, Grande Distinction, Free University of Brussels

“Well-known, hard-working, very efficient and hugely experienced.”

Chambers Global, 2021

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association
- New York Bar
- Admitted to the Bar in several Caribbean jurisdictions
- Former member of the Bar Council International Relations Committee
- Former member of the British Council Law Advisory Committee
- Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- A Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

Practice Overview

Recognised as a leader at the Bar in all of his areas of practice, Stuart Isaacs QC is conspicuous for his exceptional legal and technical knowledge and abilities. Noted in legal directories as having a practice of international standing, he is also commended for his *"tactical head"* and as being a *"strong litigator"* and *"superb tactician"* who *"gets results that others only dream of"*. Chambers Global 2021 describes him as *"well-known, hard-working, very efficient and hugely experienced"*, while The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021 notes *"his strengths are his impressive grasp of his briefs, his unflappable demeanour in court and his years of experience in large and complex cross-border commercial matters"*.

Stuart has an established reputation as a barrister specialising in international commercial arbitration and litigation, with a particular focus on London and Asia. He was the first London QC to be authorised to practise as a foreign lawyer in Singapore. Stuart advises and represents clients in court and arbitration proceedings worldwide. He sits regularly as an arbitrator and is a Deputy Judge of the High Court of England and Wales.

With an almost exclusively international focus, his practice covers the range of heavy commercial disputes. Stuart is highly experienced in international commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration, both as counsel acting for the parties and as a much in-demand arbitrator.

Stuart has also given expert evidence on English commercial law issues in courts and arbitration tribunals in a number of overseas jurisdictions. These have included courts and tribunals in New York, Singapore, Italy and Israel, in the form of both written opinions and oral evidence.

Commercial

Stuart has experience of all types of banking and financial disputes, civil fraud cases, commercial contracts, corporate disputes, competition matters, disputes in the energy and natural resources sectors, insurance and reinsurance, professional negligence and insolvency. A particular interest lies in jurisdictional and private international law issues and enforcement issues including freezing orders and anti-suit injunctions.

Disputes over lending, securities, letters of credit and bills of exchange; civil fraud claims, particularly those involving Eastern European and Indian parties; joint venture and shareholder disputes, competition matters; oil and gas disputes and disputes in the mining sector, particularly involving coal and shale and precious metals and gemstones; coverage



Commercial continued

and avoidance issues in the marine and non-marine insurance and reinsurance sectors; shipbuilding, charterparties and bills of lading, and accountants', solicitors' and brokers' negligence have all been part of his work.

He has also been involved in several commercial judicial review cases mainly involving regulatory issues.

His cases have arisen not only in London and Singapore, but in other jurisdictions, notably Bermuda, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Mauritius and in the Caribbean.

Stuart has appeared in over 20 cases in the Court of Justice of the European Union and General Court in Luxembourg, as well as many cases in the English domestic courts involving European law issues. His landmark cases include those relating to the issue of Sunday trading, the ban on the export of British beef following the BSE crisis some years ago and the imposition of sanctions on Serbia.

He has access to an experienced team of competition law economists and other experts.

Stuart has acted as counsel both in England and in other common law jurisdictions in hundreds of court cases, of which the following illustrate the depth and range of his experience:

- *Elandia Holdings Ltd v Cortefill Invest Ltd* concerning a Part 8 claim seeking the proper interpretation of a shareholders' agreement governed by English law in respect of a joint venture company which is the subject of winding-up petition in Cyprus.
- *State Trading Corporation v Betamax Ltd* [2019] SCJ 154, in which the Supreme Court of Mauritius set aside a SIAC arbitration award on grounds of breach of domestic public policy. The case is currently pending before the Privy Council.
- *Catalyst Management Services v Libya African Investment Portfolio* [2018] EWCA Civ 1676, [2017] EWHC 1236 (Comm) relating to the successful defence of a US\$1.5 billion claim for commission and the use of an after the event insurance policy as security for costs.
- *Stati and others v Republic of Kazakhstan* (2018) concerning whether allegations that a foreign arbitration award had been obtained by fraud, raised on an application to set aside an order permitting enforcement in England, amounted to an independent claim that survived the service of a notice discontinuing the enforcement proceedings.
- *Elena Baturina v Alexander Chistyakov* [2017] EWHC 1049 (Comm) relating to the successful defence of a Russian investor against claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and fraud relating to a joint property development with the claimant in Morocco.
- *Re New Generation Ideas Ltd*, which concerned a winding up petition issued in the Cayman Islands in the context of a family dispute between members of a Middle Eastern royal family.
- *Crociani v Crociani* [2017] JRC 146 concerning a series of breach of trust claims brought in the Jersey courts against the trustees and former trustees of two related family trusts.
- *JSC Mezhdunarodniy Promyshkenniy Bank and State Corporation Deposit Insurance Agency v Sergei Pugachev* [2016] EWHC 192 (Ch) concerning contempt of court proceedings for breach of freezing orders.
- *Wall v Royal Bank of Scotland* (2016), in which the claimant brought claims worth £700m against the bank arising from its former dealings with a property group in insolvent liquidation.
- *Monde Petroleum SA v Westernzagros Ltd* [2015] EWHC 67 (Comm) concerning whether an arbitration clause in a consultancy services agreement was superseded by a jurisdiction clause in a subsequent settlement agreement.
- *Boustead Singapore Ltd v Arab Banking Corporation* [2016] 3 SLR 557, [2015] 3 SLR 38, in which the Singapore courts granted a permanent injunction to restrain payment by the bank under its counter-guarantees in application of the fraud exception and the unconscionability doctrine applicable in Singapore. Stuart gave expert evidence on behalf of the successful party.