

## Lawyer of the week Alan Gourgey QC

Alan Gourgey QC at Wilberforce Chambers acted for Tatiana Akhmedova in the High Court. The judge ordered her son Temur Akhmedov to pay her £75 million, and Liechtenstein trustees to pay more than \$500 million (£360 million), in relation to the divorce award of £453 million against her oligarch former husband, Farkhad Akhmedov.

### What were the biggest hurdles you had to overcome in this case?

Finding and piecing together the evidence of various fraudulent schemes designed to hide the husband's assets. Innovative applications for evidence were made to courts in various countries in a race against time to get the material for the trial, including obtaining evidence

against Google in relation to Temur's email accounts. Thanks to the determined team effort, we got there.

### What is the best decision you have taken as a lawyer?

Choosing not to become a doctor — I did a great service for society. I would have been a disaster.

### Who do you most admire in the law?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The reasons are obvious.

**What is the best advice you have received?** Make sure you have a good life/work balance.

### What is the funniest thing that has happened in your job?

A family member accompanied me to court for work experience.

I was in the course of making submissions at the end of a lengthy trial when loud snoring could be heard from the back of the court. We all turned round to look, and it was the family member who clearly — and no doubt rightly — had not found what I had to say of interest. I took some consolation from the fact that the snoring resumed during my opponent's submissions.



### What are the best and worst elements of being a lawyer?

Best: the sense of accomplishment when a challenging and intricate cross-examination goes well. Worst: the hard graft needed to prepare the cross-examination.

### What law would you enact?

Closing down city centres once a month to non-emergency traffic. It would allow us to discover and enjoy our cities, whether by walking, running or cycling.

**What has kept you going through lockdown?** It sounds corny, but my family.

**Linda Tsang**

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