
CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

UK Bar



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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Competition Law

Competition Law
Leading Sets
Band 1
Brick Court Chambers
Monckton Chambers
Band 2
Blackstone Chambers
Band 3
One Essex Court
Matrix Chambers
direct access (see p.24).
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Brick Court Chambers

Brick Court Chambers hosts an enviable bench of competition law barristers at all levels of seniority, receiving instructions in the most significant cases of the day. Individuals act on both sides of major infringement actions involving the CMA or the European Commission, and represent both claimants and defendants in follow-on damages claims. Notably, the barristers have been involved at the centre of novel attempts to bring large-scale collective actions in the UK courts, following decisions in respect of the trucks and forex cartels and other prominent matters. Members appeared before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court on behalf of both Mastercard and the representative claimant Walter Merricks, as part of a case seeking to establish whether such a claim could be brought on behalf of over 46 million consumers affected by the setting of rates for interchange fees. The barristers have also been involved in some of the key FRAND cases of recent years. They act for the CMA, claimants and corporate defendants in the manufacturing, pharmaceutical and financial services sectors.

Client service:

“Brick Court has an excellent clerking team. Tony Burgess in particular remains brilliant.”
 “Jo Francis at Brick Court is incredible and maintains a good balance between advocating for barristers and meeting the needs of clients.”
 “The clerking team at Brick Court is always pleasant and responsive.”
 “Brick Court clerks are always very helpful, and

Competition Law	
Leading Silks	
Star individuals	
Beard Daniel <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Ward Tim <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Demetriou Marie <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Williams Rob <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Hoskins Mark <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Band 2
Kennelly Brian <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Abram Sarah <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Turner Jon <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Boyd Jessica <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Band 1	Cook Matthew <i>One Essex Court</i>
Beal Kieron <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	de la Mare Thomas <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Brealey Mark <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Howard Anneli <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Davies Helen <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Lester Maya <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Flynn James <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Moser Philip <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Ford Sarah <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Mussa Hanif <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Harris Paul <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Patton Conall <i>One Essex Court</i>
Holmes Josh <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Peretz George <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Howard Mark <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Randolph Fergus <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Jowell Daniel <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Scannell David <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Kreisberger Ronit <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Segan James <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
O'Donoghue Robert <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Singla Tony <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Pickford Meredith <i>Monckton Chambers</i>	Smith Kassie <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Robertson Aidan <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	West Colin <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Thompson Rhodri <i>Matrix Chambers</i>	New Silks
Wakefield Victoria <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Lask Ben <i>Monckton Chambers</i>
	Piccinin Daniel <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>

they understand the need for flexibility as far as many clients are concerned.”

SILKS

Marie Demetriou KC Marie Demetriou KC is routinely involved in the biggest competition cases of the day and receives stellar feedback from an array of sources. She is standing counsel to the CMA and has experience in key appeals against the regulator’s decisions. She also advises on both sides of cartel damages claims and has appeared on behalf of proposed class representatives for claimant groups.

Strengths:

“Marie is simply straight out of the top drawer, and it is hard to think of a competition silk more at the top of their game right now. Despite her busy practice, with many marquee instructions, when she is focused on your case there is no one better to have in your corner, and on her feet she is simply excellent, commanding the respect of the judges she appears before as well as the listening ear of the client.”

“Marie is first class in every respect. She could not be nicer or easier to work with, but she combines that with the most effective advocacy and razor-sharp strategic skill.”

“She is operating at the very pinnacle of competition litigation.”

“She is one of the pre-eminent barristers of the competition Bar.”

“She is brilliant and one of the best I have worked with. She is super bright and on top of the detail and strategy.”

Mark Hoskins KC Mark Hoskins KC has an outstanding practice in the field of competition damages, and has acted in significant claims concerning financial services providers, sporting leagues and telecoms operators. He has experience acting for claimants and defendants on high-profile collective actions.

Strengths:

“Mark is one of the go-to people on a competition damages case; he has done a great job for us. He identifies key points, and has experience like no other.”

Competition Law	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	
Bailey David	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Banks Fiona	<i>Monckton Chambers</i> A
Brown Christopher	<i>Matrix Chambers</i>
John Laura Elizabeth	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Jones Tristan	<i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Love Sarah	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Band 2	
Armitage Michael	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Bates Alan	<i>Monckton Chambers</i> A
Berridge Alison	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Blackwood Anneliese	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Bourke James	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Gibson Nicholas	<i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Gregory Julian	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Grubeck Nikolaus	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Johnston Tim	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Kerr Morrison Julianne	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Leith Hugo	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Luckhurst Paul	<i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Mackersie Daisy	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Neill Emily	<i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Osepciu Ligia	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Pobjoy Jason	<i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Rab Suzanne	<i>Serle Court (ORL)</i> ◇
Rayment Ben	<i>Monckton Chambers</i> A
Schaefer Max	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Spitz Derek	<i>One Essex Court</i>
Woolfe Philip	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Band 3	
Draper Owain	<i>One Essex Court</i>
Gregory David	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Heaton David	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Kennedy Matthew	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Littlewood Alexandra	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
MacKenzie Emily	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
MacLeod Jennifer	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Mockford Emma	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Pascoe Tom	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Rothschild Gerard	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Sebastian Thomas	<i>Essex Court Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Thomas Charlotte	<i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Williams Jack	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
Up-and-coming individuals	
Buchanan Isabel	<i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
McAndrew Ciar	<i>Monckton Chambers</i>
A direct access (see p.24).	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

“Mark is still the best in the business when it matters the most. He is forensic, astute and accomplished.”

“His cross-examination and advocacy are perfect – he was succinct, persuasive and ultimately it was quite devastating.”

“His advocacy style is brilliant, he makes things simple and straightforward.”

Helen Davies KC Helen Davies KC acts on the defendant side of cartel follow-on damages claims, including both collective and stand-alone actions. She also has experience of competition law issues in the sports sector.

Strengths:

“Helen is one of my top choices for complex competition disputes and the cross-over between commercial and competition disputes.”

“Helen Davies I think is brilliant.”

“She always cuts to the chase and gets right to the issues.”

James Flynn KC James Flynn KC acts for claimants on follow-on damages actions, including high-profile collective action claims. He has further experience representing appellants before the CAT in challenges to CMA decisions.

Strengths:

“James is wonderful to work with. He brings different perceptions to bear on very complex issues, and is himself very flexible and readily becomes a member of the team.”

“I really enjoy working with James and recommend him a lot.”

Sarah Ford KC Sarah Ford KC represents both claimants and defendants in high-profile follow-on damages claims, including collective proceedings, arising from European Commission cartel investigations. She regularly acts on matters before the CAT and Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

“I have a lot of time for Sarah. She is quietly intelligent and good to work with. I really like her.”

“She is excellent, super clear, very good at counselling the court, and uses good language to make transcripts. She makes technical things seem clear, she is really good.”

“I highly recommend her, she is very pragmatic.”

Mark Howard KC Mark Howard KC has a strong competition litigation practice and is particularly active in the financial services and technology sectors. He represents clients in follow-on damages claims arising from European Commission cartel investigations. He has also acted on key cases on the issue of standard-essential patents.

Daniel Jowell KC Daniel Jowell KC is particularly active on the defendant side of follow-on damages cases and collective actions brought before all levels of the UK courts, and has had key roles in the defence of participants in the smart card chip cartel. He has further experience in challenges to CMA merger control decisions.

Strengths:

“Daniel is an excellent, calm advocate with a great ability to think on his feet and remain calm under pressure.”

“He is very good on his feet, a quick thinker and he engages with economic detail. He is an excellent conduit for someone without any economic law background.”

“He is very nice and easy to work with.”

“He is very impressive in his advocacy.”

“He has excellent judgement in difficult situations, and a calm authority in the way that he masters issues and persuades the court to be on his side.”

Robert O'Donoghue KC Robert O'Donoghue KC attracts considerable attention for advising claimants and defendants on stand-alone and collective action proceedings following cartel investigations. He also regularly advises clients on challenges to CMA decisions, often involving the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

“Head and shoulders above his contemporaries, Robert is a brilliant and outstanding advocate. He is clever and creative in his understanding of competition law, but he also has the human touch

with his clients.”

“He is an excellent advocate and a very clear thinker.”

“He is a fantastic advocate who is excellent with clients.”

“Robert is a market leader in competition disputes, with excellent judgement honed from his many years of experience.”

“Robert O'Donoghue is a standout leader in his field and one of the top silks at the competition Bar.”

Aidan Robertson KC Aidan Robertson KC acts on both the claimant and defendant side of cartel damages claims, including representing clients in collective actions. He also has notable experience in appeals against European Commission decisions and in judicial reviews in matters involving possible state aid.

Strengths:

“Aidan is authoritative and brings a wealth of experience.”

“Aidan is a genius – there's nothing he doesn't know.”

“He is good on his feet and has great in-depth knowledge of state aid law and subsidy control law.”

Victoria Wakefield KC Victoria Wakefield KC represents claimants in a number of high-profile class action claims, as well as defending clients in stand-alone actions. As a junior barrister she advised on appeals of EC decisions affecting pharmaceutical companies and challenges to new regulations in the sports sector.

Strengths:

“Victoria is first rate and stands out for her experience in collective proceedings. She is fiercely bright and very personable.”

“Victoria is a top go-to competition barrister.”

“She is very nice to work with, an incredibly clear thinker, a clear drafter, and good with clients.”

“She is a very compelling advocate.”

Sarah Abram KC Sarah Abram KC has a strong focus on representing clients in damages claims following on from cartel investigations. She moves up in the rankings on the back of her recent experience defending clients in high-profile collective action proceedings, and has additional experience on the claimant side. She also assists clients with CMA investigations and often acts on matters in the transport sector.

Strengths:

“Sarah is fantastic, incredibly bright, and ruthlessly focused on detail.”

“She gives very clear submissions and handles the court well.”

“Clients rate Sarah extremely highly; she is an excellent advocate and provides clear and commercial strategic advice. It is also a real pleasure to work with Sarah!”

“She is clever, insightful and a joy to work with.”

Maya Lester KC Maya Lester KC acts for key financial services clients seeking to overturn EC cartel decisions. She also defends follow-on damages claims, as well as acting for claimants on stand-alone and collective action claims. Lester also has a number of clients in the pharmaceutical, energy and technology industries.

Strengths:

“Maya is excellent in every respect – she is user-

friendly, provides superb analysis, is quietly forceful and highly effective in court.”

“Clients love Maya and find her calm and measured approach very reassuring.”

“Maya is brilliant, she is a really good lawyer in writing and orally.”

Fergus Randolph KC Fergus Randolph KC has acted for claimants in follow-on damages actions and also handles stand-alone competition claims for injured parties seeking to block anti-competitive conduct by commercial partners. He also assists appellants with the review of CMA decisions.

Strengths:

“Fergus Randolph is very strong in competition and regulatory matters.”

David Scannell KC David Scannell KC has a strong profile in competition work arising in the pharmaceutical industry, often with an overlap to intellectual property law. He is instructed to act on both regulatory appeals and follow-on claims, including the ‘pay for delay’ cases.

Strengths:

“David is a pleasure to work with, particularly on technical matters, where his wealth of knowledge is readily apparent.”

“David is a great advocate; on a very difficult case, he was very good and persuasive.”

Tony Singla KC Tony Singla KC has acted for defendants in relation to some of the UK’s most important cartel follow-on damages class action claims.

Strengths:

“Tony is a superb advocate and has a sharp mind combined with a very approachable and hands-on attitude.”

“Tony gives very commercial advice, and is able to advise on legal elements but also how this might play out in practice and what the strategic consequences might be. He brings lots of experience to bear, which instils confidence. He is also a very strong advocate.”

Colin West KC Colin West KC has been involved in a number of leading competition law cases, frequently acting for claimants from the technology and financial sectors. He advises on cartel damages cases and the overlap between competition law and IP law, and has experience in stand-alone claims relating to potential abuse of dominance through the failure to negotiate licences for standard-essential patents.

Strengths:

“Colin’s appetite and capacity to get into the weeds of issues, and work out the points which will really win the day in a hearing, are seriously impressive. He is very user-friendly and easy to work with, too.”

Daniel Piccinin KC Daniel Piccinin KC is highly sought after for his ability to handle varied matters, including defending against individual and collective damages claims following abuse of dominance and cartel decisions. He also acts on appeals against CMA penalty decisions. Piccinin attracts significant attention for his economics background, which enables him to contribute to the economic analysis of complex competition claims.

Strengths:

“Daniel is extremely clever and he has done a fan-

tastic job. I have really liked working with him. He goes above and beyond for his clients.”

“Daniel is an extremely talented advocate and an absolute pleasure to work with. He has a great ability to spot potential issues and identify and deliver creative solutions.”

“He is able to get on top of things quickly.”

“He has a really good understanding of economics, which is really important when handling competition cases.”

JUNIORS

David Bailey David Bailey acts as standing counsel to the CMA, and has noteworthy experience defending CMA decisions in appeals heard by the CAT. Bailey often acts on both the defendant and claimant side of UK private enforcement actions, including high-profile collective actions.

Strengths:

“David is an excellent advocate, with an extraordinary ability to conceptualise cases, unpick them and re-pack them. He is able to present extremely effectively and deal with all sorts of stressful situations with a calm approach and a lot of charm.”

“David is one of the leading competition and EU juniors. He advises on very complex technical issues with impressive speed and clarity. He also understands how the CAT thinks.”

“He has an encyclopedic knowledge of competition law.”

Sarah Love Sarah Love is well known for her work on the claimant side of abuse of dominance cases. In addition she defends clients in FRAND investigations and cartel follow-on damages claims. She acts on both collective actions and stand-alone cases.

Strengths:

“Sarah Love is a go-to barrister on competition law matters.”

“She is incredibly sharp in her knowledge on the law and drafting.”

“She is excellent – insightful, all over the detail, and a fountain of information. I have enjoyed working with her.”

Tim Johnston Tim Johnston handles regulatory appeals against CMA decisions on behalf of companies in the pharmaceutical sector. He has recently been involved in follow-on damages claims, acting for the largest claimant group in the trucks cartel litigation. He has further experience on the defendant side of stand-alone behavioural infringement cases.

Strengths:

“Tim is super in terms of getting prepared and working collaboratively with the team.”

“Tim is a fantastic junior. His drafting is persuasive and concise and he cuts through to the heart of the key legal issues. His advocacy is strong and he is increasingly leading on a wide range of cases.”

Hugo Leith Hugo Leith plays a supporting role in many of the UK’s most important cartel damages cases, often acting for defendants on high-profile collective damages actions. Leith has additionally acted for the CMA on key challenges to its decisions.

Strengths:

“Hugo is bright, hard-working, and very easy and fun to deal with.”

“His drafting is clear and succinct.”

Max Schaefer Max Schaefer acts for claimants on allegations of anti-competitive behaviour. He has further experience advising on follow-on damages litigation and appeals against CMA decisions.

Strengths:

“Max has lots of phenomenal qualities: he is extra bright, and is very adept at dealing with complex competition and economics issues.”

“Max is brilliant – he is very lively and has a quick mind.”

“He is extremely good at challenging and understanding the economics in a sophisticated way.”

“He is a superb advocate who is very easy to work with.”

David Heaton David Heaton’s impressive work in competition law sees him acting in a broad range of stand-alone and follow-on damages claims in the financial sector, including collective actions such as the forex rigging litigation.

Strengths:

“David is incredibly responsive and thorough. He is a real asset to any team.”

Matthew Kennedy Matthew Kennedy is involved in a large number of the leading cases concerning anti-competitive behaviour. He has notable experience acting for both the claimants and the defendants on class action litigation.

Strengths:

“I really like Matthew. He is very bright, has spot-on judgement, and delivers difficult advice that might be unwelcome diplomatically.”

“He is good at seeing issues for what they are and delivering advice that is really succinct. I trust his judgement.”

Emily MacKenzie Emily MacKenzie operates a busy practice in competition. She has strong expertise in a variety of areas including FRAND, cartels and merger control.

Strengths:

“Very experienced in competition follow-on damages – definitely someone I’m seeing more of in this field.”

Jennifer MacLeod Jennifer MacLeod attracts praise for her contributions to varied matters ranging from high-profile collective damages actions through to smaller commercial disputes that raise competition law arguments. She has further experience in standout cases on behalf of the CMA, defending appeals against decisions on excessive pricing in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

“Jennifer is really hard-working, and completely on top of a lot of documents.”

Emma Mockford Emma Mockford has notable experience in the developing area of collective actions on behalf of consumers affected by cartels or other anti-competitive behaviour. She has acted on behalf of the representative claimants in relation to the trucks cartel. She also has ample experience representing defendants in follow-on damages claims, as well as acting for regulatory bodies and appellants on reviews of CMA decisions.

Strengths:

“Emma really knows how to work with solicitor teams effectively. She is outstandingly good.”

“Emma is brilliant and creative. She is great to work with.”

Tom Pascoe Tom Pascoe acts predominantly for companies accused of anti-competitive behaviour on appeals of CMA investigations and on high-profile follow-on damages claims, such as the trucks cartel litigation.

Strengths:

"Tom is a very calm and collected individual, who seemingly effortlessly turns out immaculately researched, but also commercial and concise, advice in very short time frames. He is also a pleasure to work with on a personal level."

"Tom has good drafting skills and identifies points very succinctly. He puts these forward and he expresses himself very well."

Gerard Rothschild Gerard Rothschild has represented claimants and appellants in a number of significant competition matters, including merger investigations and follow-on damages claims. He has additional experience of complex state aid cases.

Strengths:

"Gerard has an impeccable and fastidious eye for detail and his knowledge of competition law is excellent."

"He is diligent, calm, reassuring and always provides superb advice."

Charlotte Thomas Charlotte Thomas has amassed notable experience covering some of the more visible cases in the competition field. Her practice takes in the representation of claimants, defendants and appellants in damages claims and investigations. Of particular note is her involvement in the forex cartel claim.

Strengths:

"Charlotte is an excellent drafter and has a clear and firm control of competition and procedural law."

"Charlotte is a pleasure to work with. She is forensic, hugely knowledgeable and good-humoured throughout."

Monckton Chambers

Monckton Chambers is renowned for its superb ability in complex competition law mandates across a breadth of key areas. Members regularly appear before the CAT, the UK appellate courts and the European Court of Justice, representing clients on both sides of infringement decision appeals and follow-on damages claims, as well as a number of high-profile collective action proceedings. The set also stands out for the frequency with which its members represent major parties in disputed merger proceedings. Members further advise key UK public bodies, including acting as standing counsel to regulators, and defending both UK and European competition authorities in disputed cartel investigations. The set has seen members active in many of the leading cases – a key example being acting for a number of claimants and defendants on various related claims for damages resulting from an international cartel in the price of trucks and that received large fines from the European Commission.

Client service:

"We see great work from the clerks at all stages." "The clerking team is always responsive and impressive and seems to play a key role in business development at the chambers, which it does very well."

"Monckton's clerking team has always been highly responsive and has provided excellent service levels."

"The clerks at Monckton are always available and approachable. They have a good understanding of the underlying issues, and are able to give informed recommendations. They are very nice to deal with."

David Hockney leads the team.

SILKS

Daniel Beard KC Daniel Beard KC is a highly sought-after silk who earns superb praise for his oral advocacy skills in complex competition cases. He handles diverse matters spanning competition damages claims and appeals against CMA or Ofcom decisions, challenging both fines and decisions in merger filings.

Strengths:

"Daniel is loved by clients. He understands their concerns and priorities and can translate that into effective strategy. He is fantastic on his feet – combining a fighter's instinct with incredible mental agility."

"I am very impressed with Daniel. He is a brilliant advocate, and is quick-thinking when dealing with the tribunal judge before him. He also has a strong economic mind, and is very much focused on the detail on a technical front."

"He is the best competition advocate in the London Bar, the best English competition advocate bar none. He is extremely forceful, effective, brilliant with clients and has good knowledge of the subject matter."

"He is an absolute superstar, who knows it all and is a persuasive and extraordinary advocate."

"Daniel is incredibly quick, highly strategic, and phenomenal on his feet. He is excellent with clients."

Jon Turner KC Jon Turner KC enjoys an outstanding reputation for his competition litigation practice. He represents claimants and defendants in market-leading follow-on or stand-alone damages claims, including key cases on behalf of major IT or retail sector clients. He has proven experience in cases heard before the CAT, the UK senior courts or the CJEU.

Strengths:

"Jon is absolutely excellent and probably the best at Monckton. He has all the qualities of an excellent advocate, and knows how to handle all kinds of difficult situations in court in the most calm and effective manner I have ever seen."

"He is very charming, approachable, and modest. He brings a nice atmosphere to a team of younger advocates, giving them substantial guidance and autonomy, and is perfect both for public authorities and private clients. He simply has it all!"

"He is the top KC in this area. He is incredibly clever, very calm and steady and very experienced and user-friendly."

"He's one of the best barristers I've ever had the privilege of working with."

"John is a very steady pair of hands, experienced, and commercially aware."

Mark Brealey KC Mark Brealey KC is a leading competition law silk who acts for both claimants and defendants on cartel follow-on claims. He has attracted recent attention for his success in

overturning CMA decisions on cases in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

"There is nothing that Mark doesn't know about competition law."

"Mark is hugely strategic, very user-friendly, and has an encyclopedic knowledge of the law."

"He has amazing judgement."

Paul Harris KC Paul Harris KC is widely regarded as an excellent choice for competition litigation cases, appearing for both claimants and defendants in stand-alone and follow-on claims concerning both abuse of dominance and cartel matters. He also has experience acting on class actions and challenges to regulatory bodies.

Strengths:

"Paul is an outstanding leading counsel; he is highly collaborative and collegiate, as well as tactically astute, energetic and great to work with. He is always utterly committed to the cause and is prepared to be tough when called for."

"Paul is one of the leading competition barristers. He has great strategic insight and oversight, and is proactive, thoughtful and easy to work with."

"He is hugely energetic, really available, gets really stuck in and is really committed to cases."

"I really enjoy working with him because of his very clear, easy to understand advocacy."

Josh Holmes KC Josh Holmes KC has notable experience advising on appeals against EC behavioural fines and merger prohibitions, as well as defending the CMA in challenges to its decisions. He also acts for defendants on high-profile applications for collective proceedings. He is particularly active in matters involving the technology sector.

Strengths:

"Josh is at the top of his game. He is exceptionally bright, precise, commercial and client-friendly. He also has a lovely manner with the court."

"Josh is a very talented man who grasps very quickly the strong and weak points of any case and is able to react and change tactics on the spot, very effectively."

"Josh is excellent, both in writing and on his feet."

"He is formidable in terms of his understanding of competition economics and case strategy. He's amazingly efficient at cross-examination."

"Josh is a fantastic advocate, who is cool, calm, collected, respectful and thoughtful."

Ronit Kreisberger KC Ronit Kreisberger KC is a sought-after competition silk who frequently represents class representatives in high-profile collective damages actions. She has a particular recent focus on abuse of dominance matters, including before the CAT and often involving the TMT sector.

Strengths:

"Her opening submissions at trial were superb and she played a vital role in securing a positive outcome for the client."

"Ronit Kreisberger KC's hearing preparation and advocacy is second to none; she can get to grips with the substantive, procedural and commercial aspects of cases very quickly, and can also confidently guide the court or tribunal through issues."

"She is a masterful silk to work with."

"She is excellent, so bright, sharp and strategic."

Meredith Pickford KC Meredith Pickford KC rep-

resents important technology sector clients in challenges to competition law decisions before the CJEU, as well as the UK Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He also defends clients in high-profile cartel follow-on damages cases in the telecommunications and transport sectors.

Strengths:

“Meredith was just incredibly impressive in the court. He is compelling and strategic.”

“Meredith is intellectually very strong, writes well, is a receptive and effective advocate, and can reduce complex issues to straightforward language, so that they are easy to understand, which clients like.”

“Meredith is operating at the very top of his field. He is vastly experienced, technically excellent and a superb cross-examiner.”

“His judgement is very good, so he knows when not to pick a fight.”

Tim Ward KC Tim Ward KC is sought after for a number of different competition law matters, assisting both claimants and defendants with follow-on damages claims and class action proceedings. He often represents clients in appeals against regulator decisions and judicial reviews.

Strengths:

“Tim is an excellent advocate and one of the few specialist leading counsel to combine expertise with a natural aptitude for cross-examination.”

“Tim prepares in a detailed way, and is very careful and thorough about how he positions arguments. He’s prepared and passionate about running arguments.”

“He is a highly effective, tenacious cross-examiner who focuses on the key issues.”

Rob Williams KC Rob Williams KC moves into the top tier of the rankings this year. He remains a favourite of the CMA for difficult appeals against decisions in merger control and abuse of dominance matters. He has also represented defendant companies in large-scale damages claims resulting from cartels and abuse of dominance.

Strengths:

“Rob is very fast through the material, and is efficient and incisive. He is very impressive; he has a great way with clients, and tells them what they need to hear in a way that they respond well to.”

“Rob is a pleasure to deal with, and he is a consummate problem solver who is able to combine first-rate legal analysis with a pragmatism that enables him to cut through issues with a rare efficacy.”

“Rob is incredibly diligent, has a really sharp legal mind, is very good on his feet and prepares very thoroughly.”

“Rob has demonstrated an enormous attention to detail in the work he does.”

Anneli Howard KC Anneli Howard KC is often chosen to work for either the claimants or interveners in important follow-on class actions or stand-alone damages claims. She has recent experience in a number of high-profile cases in the technology sector.

Strengths:

“Anneli is great to work with; she sets direction but is also a real team player in getting things done. She adds real value through her strategic thinking and approach.”

“Anneli has a fantastic knowledge of competition law, and is incredibly hard-working and client-friendly.”

Philip Moser KC Philip Moser KC acts for both claimants and defendants in cartel damages claims, including class actions, follow-on claims and stand-alone proceedings. His recent activity has included a number of cases in the transport sector.

Strengths:

“Philip Moser is very clever and engaged, and he is impressive when looking at things from a commercial perspective. He really sorts things through from his perspective for the client, and he is a masterful diplomat.”

“He is also very strong at being the mediator of group.”

George Peretz KC George Peretz KC has a broad EU and competition law practice that focuses on challenges to authority decisions, acting both for the appellants and the authorities on disputes around state aid, abuse of dominance, market sharing and information exchange.

Strengths:

“George is an excellent conceptualiser, who is able to translate abstract notions into more concrete concepts and explain them in an easily understandable way, which he delivers with a lot of eloquence. He is an excellent advocate and very well fitted to working with public sector clients.”

“George is excellent, both in writing and on his feet.”

Kassie Smith KC Kassie Smith KC is particularly active in abuse of dominance disputes arising from FRAND licences. She also represents claimants in disputes concerning possible cartels in the financial services sector.

Strengths:

“I have seen Kassie on her feet a lot, and she is very calm and reasoned. She is pleasant to deal with, and is willing to get her hands dirty and do the work.”

“Kassie is a delight to work with. She is bright, pragmatic, not too theoretical, and practical in application. She works well in a team and is a good advocate.”

“She was brilliant on her feet when I saw her, really impressive as an advocate.”

Ben Lask New silk Ben Lask defends competition regulators in CAT or CJEU appeals against their decisions and assists them as interveners with other competition cases. He has recent experience in cases relating to blocked mergers and abuse of dominance cases.

Strengths:

“Ben is an excellent team player who listens to and challenges views in a productive way. He is well prepared and gets into the detail, and will take on an argument in court with real determination.”

JUNIORS

Fiona Banks Fiona Banks represents both claimants and defendants in high-profile cartel and abuse of dominance follow-on damages actions and collective proceedings.

Strengths:

“Fiona is exceptionally bright and sees straight

to the heart of the matter. Her no-nonsense approach is valuable.”

“Fiona is one of the best juniors we have worked with. She is incredibly efficient and quickly grasps and identifies the key issues.”

“Fiona is an excellent senior junior.”

“Her attention to detail is superb, she is very impressive here. She recalls it well, and does a very clear and good job of writing up arguments.”

Laura Elizabeth John Laura Elizabeth John has a strong reputation among instructing solicitors and members of the Bar for her experience in major follow-on and stand-alone damages claims, as well as acting on appeals of CMA decisions. She acts for private and public sector claimants on high-value cases and has clients from a number of sectors, including the pharmaceutical, healthcare and retail sectors.

Strengths:

“Laura has a fierce intellect and a compelling advocacy style.”

“Laura is fantastic; she is very smart, analytical, and a very polished advocate.”

“Laura John is extremely astute, knows her stuff and is pragmatic, straight to the point and a pleasure to work with.”

Michael Armitage Michael Armitage attracts attention for his contributions to follow-on and stand-alone damages claims, as well as collective proceedings. He predominantly acts for defendants, but does also have experience advising class representatives. He also has experience defending the CMA in appeals against its decisions. He rises in the rankings this year on the back of impressive activity in matters in the transport and technology sectors.

Strengths:

“Michael is excellent to work with, collaborative, and collegiate.”

“We have been very impressed by his advocacy, written work, and advice and work on strategy.”

Alan Bates Alan Bates has a strong track record in representing claimants in allegations of abuse of dominance. He also acts for class representatives and defendants on cartel follow-on damages claims.

Alison Berridge Alison Berridge attracts instructions from defendants in class actions and from claimants in follow-on damages cases. She also represents appellants and interested third parties in high-profile challenges to CMA decisions. She additionally represents clients in CMA investigations and is well regarded by interviewees for her work on merger clearance matters.

Strengths:

“She is an excellent advocate and very good with clients.”

“She is a master of detail in terms of the law and economics, and she is easy to get along with.”

“She provided consistently insightful advice in a concise manner.”

Anneliese Blackwood Anneliese Blackwood moves up in the rankings on the back of her activity for both claimants and defendants in high-profile collective proceedings, including acting on *Merricks v Mastercard*. She has recently been advising on a number of matters in the transport sector.

Strengths:

“Anneliese is thoughtful, with a 360-degree view of the issues on a case. She is astute, drafts beautifully and is also a very good advocate. She works seamlessly with instructing solicitor teams in an impressive manner.”

“She is very methodical, steady, logical, and well ordered.”

James Bourke James Bourke is an in-demand barrister who often acts for defendants on cartel follow-on damages claims in the transport sector. He has further experience acting for class representatives on proposed collective actions and assisting clients with appeals against European Commission decisions.

Strengths:

“He is able to transform arguments from bad and mediocre to outstanding, and he’s very good at anticipating and preparing the response.”

“James is incredibly hard-working and a pleasure to work with. He is able to work seamlessly as part of a larger team with clients, solicitors and other stakeholders to produce fantastic results.”

“James is very smart and a pleasure to work with.”

Julian Gregory Julian Gregory offers a broad competition law practice, advising class representatives in collective damages proceedings, judicial reviews under subsidy control regulations and appeals against decisions in merger control cases.

Strengths:

“Julian has a great eye for detail, and really uncovers and works through problems and issues.”

“His legal knowledge, understanding and way of looking at potential areas of work are excellent too.”

“Julian is very easy to work with and extremely smart.”

Nikolaus Grubeck Nikolaus Grubeck is well regarded for advising class representatives on collective proceedings and for advising defendants on potential claims of abuse of dominance, often in the technology sector. He has notable experience defending the CMA and other regulatory bodies in competition law challenges to their decisions.

Strengths:

“Nikolaus is extremely strong on technical legal issues, and is very thoughtful.”

“He’s very strong on the legal aspects but also on the substantive aspects of the case, understanding the position of the competition authorities. He is also very good to deal with, very client-friendly, and engaging. He’s also been extremely productive, always churning out fantastic advice.”

“Nikolaus genuinely cares about making a difference and will always make the time to talk. He has some brilliant ideas.”

Julianne Morrison Julianne Morrison offers notable experience defending CMA decisions against appeals, as well as acting for other regulators on challenges to their decisions. She also acts on disputes concerning allegations of abuse of dominance in the technology sector.

Strengths:

“I think Julianne is a fabulous barrister, and she has lots of strengths – she is strategic, practical and analytically very strong. Her advocacy is very

clear and easy to follow, she is really good in court and pleasant to work with. She is a great asset to the team.”

“Julianne is willing to get stuck into understanding the detail and what we are doing, and she presents information in a way that is understandable for people who aren’t steeped in it. She is very skilled at explaining this in a way that the judge can understand.”

Daisy Mackersie Daisy Mackersie moves up in the rankings on the back of her experience defending the CMA against high-profile appeals of its decisions. She also acts for defendants on large-scale follow-on damages claims and represents complainants in possible abuse of dominance cases.

Strengths:

“Daisy is calm, confident, and has ferocious analytical skills. Her ability to understand and stress-test the most complex economic and econometric analysis is remarkable.”

“Daisy is a pleasure to instruct. She has a really good client manner and an insightful legal mind, and is really good at delivering difficult messages to clients.”

“She has great judgement and drafts really well.”

“Daisy is seriously smart and strategic, super responsive and absolutely excellent with clients.”

Ligia Osepiciu Ligia Osepiciu is a highly regarded competition law barrister who has copious experience acting for claimants on damages claims. She has also developed strong expertise in contentious state aid matters and the overlap between intellectual property matters and competition law.

Strengths:

“Ligia has a detailed knowledge of economic evidence in competition cases. She is able to understand the issues very quickly and is highly effective at economic arguments.”

“Ligia Osepiciu is easy to work with and a real team player.”

Ben Rayment Ben Rayment acts for defendants on high-profile follow-on damages claims and class actions. He also has experience advising clients on challenges to CMA decisions in abuse of dominance investigations.

Strengths:

“Ben Rayment is a charming and pleasant barrister to deal with. He adapted well to representing us and understood our internal workings well.”

“He is measured and unflappable, and his written work is strong.”

Philip Woolfe Philip Woolfe acts in follow-on damages claims on behalf of both claimants and defendants, including major claims in the pharmaceutical and automotive sectors.

Strengths:

“Philip is an outstanding senior junior capable of leading even the most difficult cases and winning against the odds.”

“He is a real team player, extremely intelligent and knows the law backwards, which is great with competition law.”

David Gregory David Gregory is an emerging competition-focused barrister who has attracted acclaim for his work in various high-profile claims and appeals. He tends to represent defendant companies in matters concerning claims for damages arising from cartel and abuse of dominance

investigations. He also has experience acting for clients on appeals against European Commission decisions.

Strengths:

“David is a supremely gifted junior who is both a master strategist and a fearsomely brilliant technical lawyer. He also happens to be an absolute pleasure to work with.”

“David is a superstar and a class act. He is extremely detail-orientated and very user-friendly.”

“He is a good team player with excellent drafting skills, which is exactly what you want in someone of his level.”

Alexandra Littlewood Alexandra Littlewood rises in the rankings on the back of her experience acting for both class representatives and defendants in high-profile collective actions. She also has experience in damages claims following cartel investigations.

Strengths:

“Alexandra is enthusiastic, helpful, always keen to get involved and a pleasure to work with.”

“Alexandra is precise, hard-working, and helpful.”

Jack Williams Jack Williams has been selected to represent an enviable line-up of clients from the global technology sector in competition cases. He has notable experience of appeals against CMA decisions, and damages claims, including follow-on proceedings and collective actions.

Strengths:

“Jack is an attentive, thoughtful, and user-friendly junior counsel. He is a pleasure to work with.”

“Jack is an impressive operator in the field of competition litigation, including collective proceedings. He is tenacious and has tremendous energy. He navigates what are often highly complex and technical issues with great ease.”

Ciar McAndrew Ciar McAndrew has a very strong profile in follow-on and stand alone competition claims, and her experience in the field includes work in a number of collective actions. She also advises clients on challenges to regulator decisions.

Strengths:

“Ciar is excellent and delivers a top-rate service. Her technical ability is consistently impressive, as is her written advocacy. Ciar is an integral member of the defence team and is amassing considerable technical knowledge of all aspects of competition litigation, including collective proceedings.”

“Ciar was an excellent junior on the case and provided brilliant support throughout. She is hands on, proactive, and responsive, and I couldn’t recommend her highly enough.”

Band 2

Blackstone Chambers

Blackstone barristers act across an impressive range of competition matters. Benefiting from a strong background in public law, the set is a superb choice for applications for judicial review of the CMA and other UK regulators’ decisions. Members act in leading cases in the technology and financial services sectors, including litigation relating to standard-essential patents, alleged market manipulation and abuse of dominance.

They have been instructed in the largest follow-on damages actions in both UK and EU courts, including those concerning forex and interchange fees. They also feature prominently in novel collective action cases.

Client service:

“The clerks are quick to respond, upfront and clear about issues, and very easy to deal with.”

“The clerks at Blackstone are always responsive and willing to help out with managing the barristers’ diaries. Billy Brian in particular is somebody who always goes the extra mile to maintain excellent relations in times of need.”

“The clerks are brilliant, and we have a great relationship with them.”

“The clerks are very responsive and are sensible with pricing which makes them very good to deal with. They also ensure counsel’s diaries are effectively managed.”

SILKS

Brian Kennelly KC Brian Kennelly KC has a superb reputation for his skill in handling competition damages actions. He has experience on both the defendant and claimant side of several of the most important cartel damages cases ongoing in the UK courts, and further earns praise for his advice on a wider range of regulatory or public law cases. Kennelly advises a diverse array of clients including those from the financial services and automotive sectors.

Strengths:

“Brian is absolutely one of the best at the competition Bar, and I use him wherever I can. He is incredibly smart, very commercial, and combines those attributes well with a natural charm which clients and judges consistently warm to.”

“Brian is a supremely accomplished advocate, has an easy manner with the court, and a full grasp of his brief. He is also very approachable, happy to answer questions, and has an excellent knowledge of all aspects of competition law.”

“He always stays calm and takes a sensible approach. He is highly intelligent and has the good ability to read the room.”

“Brian is an excellent strategic thinker and was a real pleasure to work with. He is accessible, good-humoured and committed to client service.”

“He is a real class act, who is extremely clever, very hard-working and focused on understanding what the client wants.”

Kieron Beal KC Kieron Beal KC is well known for his work on state aid and subsidy control matters, acting for challengers, recipients and interested parties. He also has notable experience in behavioural litigation, advising claimants and defendants on damages claims.

Strengths:

“He is user-friendly and commercial.”

“Kieron is extremely strong on competition law, very responsive, and easy to work with.”

“Kieron Beal is always a very effective advocate.”

Jessica Boyd KC Jessica Boyd KC has experience on both the regulator and appellant side of competition law-based reviews of Ofcom decisions. She also stands out for her work on CJEU appeals of cartel decisions made by the EC.

Strengths:

“She is an outstanding public lawyer and under-

stands the regulatory regimes well.”

Thomas de la Mare KC Thomas de la Mare KC is viewed as a strong choice for collective proceedings orders. He also represents clients in competition infringement investigations, including possible breaches of undertakings in merger control filings.

Strengths:

“Tom is great to work with, providing strong strategic guidance and excellent written and oral advice.”

“I have seen Tom on his feet, and he is very persuasive and good at cutting through to the essence and explaining things in an understandable way.”

Hanif Mussa KC Hanif Mussa KC is instructed in a range of commercial damages and regulatory cases. He acts for the EC and for Ofcom in the defence of regulatory appeals brought to the CJEU, the CAT or the Court of Appeal, and further acts for private sector appellants.

Strengths:

“Hanif is very considered and he’s a team player, who is open minded when it comes to input from solicitors and clients alike.”

James Segan KC James Segan KC assists clients from the telecommunications and sporting industries with competition law issues, often involving allegations of abuse of dominance. He is also active in the interface between competition law and IP law, handling cases concerning the FRAND licensing of standard-essential patents.

Strengths:

“I can’t sing James’s praises highly enough. He is very bright, user-friendly, commercial and gets straight to the point.”

“James is a clever and knowledgeable advocate who is building a strong practice in the field of FRAND cases.”

JUNIORS

Tristan Jones Tristan Jones has advised on the claimant side of key cases that test UK law on the certification of collective proceedings and has amassed additional experience representing plaintiffs in follow-on claims, as well as acting for the CMA on appeals against its decisions.

Strengths:

“Tristan is an excellent barrister, keeping an acute eye to the details, whilst being able to deliver concise but precise advice.”

“Tristan’s advice on complex issues of competition law is clear, innovative and balanced.”

“Tristan is an excellent all-rounder. He gets to the heart of the matter, gives clear advice, is excellent on his feet, has a good rapport with judges and can read the room very well. He is a first choice as I can trust him with all details of drafting and speaking to clients.”

Paul Luckhurst Paul Luckhurst has demonstrated impressive strength in competition litigation in the financial services sector. He has notable experience acting on both sides of collective action cases and follow-on damages claims.

Strengths:

“He is fiercely clever, very accessible and a real pleasure to work with.”

“Paul’s in-depth competition law expertise enables him to deliver sophisticated and balanced advice, as well as impacting advocacy.”

“Paul balances excellent attention to detail, with concise and clear-minded advice.”

“He is commercial, pragmatic and always a pleasure to work with.”

Emily Neill Emily Neill regularly defends regulatory authorities in challenges to decisions. She also has notable experience acting on both the claimant and defendant side of competition damages claims.

Strengths:

“Emily is the perfect combination of calm, effective advocacy before the senior bench whilst instilling confidence in a client with her ability and advice that commands.”

“She is calm under pressure and very quick to spot key issues.”

“Emily is very personable, and is quick to grasp the issues. She knows her stuff and we think well of her.”

Jason Pobjoy Jason Pobjoy has a broad competition law practice and is praised for his expert handling of private cartel damages claims, frequently advising the defendants. He also assists clients with CMA investigations. Pobjoy has played a key role in the defence of cartel damages claims on behalf of truck manufacturers and financial services sector companies.

Strengths:

“Jason is very impressive, providing insightful and timely advice on issues and readily drawing on his historic knowledge of the matter to great effect.”

“In addition to technical excellence, Jason has a lot of common sense and interpersonal skills, and is a strong, proper strategist.”

“He distils very complex things down to easily digestible concepts, providing clarity in a concise way.”

Isabel Buchanan Isabel Buchanan has amassed a notable body of experience in competition law, particularly through her involvement in the Interchange Fees litigation.

Strengths:

“Isabel is responsive and a pleasure to work with. She provides clear advice and is very user friendly.”

Band 3

One Essex Court

One Essex Court brings its members’ formidable expertise in commercial litigation to bear in some of the largest competition litigation in the English courts. The barristers represent defendants and claimants in follow-on damages cases, regulatory challenges and distribution disputes. The set is active before courts and tribunals at all levels, from the CAT to the Supreme Court. Members have taken key roles in major cases such as the interchange litigation, and competition law claims arising from the LIBOR rigging scandal.

Client service:

Darren Burrows is the senior clerk at One Essex Court.

“Adam Wheeler and the other clerks are incredibly responsive and helpful.”

“The clerks are exceptionally responsive and helpful, and a pleasure to engage with.”

“Rob Smith is a pleasure to deal with and is very

responsive.”

“Our interactions with the clerks have been positive and easy to deal with, and they are good at helping us out. They are generally very helpful and useful.”

SILKS

Matthew Cook KC Matthew Cook KC is well known for his work defending key financial services clients in high-value commercial damages actions. He has experience of opposing collective proceedings order applications to the CAT and defending follow-on damages cases.

Strengths:

“Matthew is extremely knowledgeable, responsive and decisive. He is increasingly a go-to silk for complex and technical issues, and for hearings in the competition law space.”

“His ability to digest huge amounts of complex information and produce synthesised and succinct arguments is impressive.”

“Matthew is a fountain of knowledge who is all over the facts. He works with client objectives to reach the desired outcome. His advice on all procedural aspects is strong. He works very well with all levels of seniority of our team, and is willing to muck in.”

Conall Patton KC Conall Patton KC is a talented competition barrister who has tended to defend corporates in standalone claims and collective actions. His work typically concerns abuse of dominance claims, including those with elements of IP infringement or fraud.

Strengths:

“The star of the show; out of this world. He is able to read vast volumes of complicated information, and calmly cuts to the heart of the issue.”

“Conall has good instincts on which points are important and which can be put to one side.”

“A lethal cross-examiner.”

JUNIORS

Derek Spitz Derek Spitz advises claimants and defendants on private actions for competition law damages, particularly those arising from cartels. Spitz also assists clients with abuse of dominance cases. Spitz has recently acted on the claimant side of several high-value collective action proceedings against financial services companies.

Strengths:

“Derek is measured and very clever, and is also extremely user-friendly. He is a treat for instructing solicitors.”

“Derek is excellent in competition law. He is very thorough, diligent, easy to work with and a good team player.”

Owain Draper Owain Draper has a wide-ranging competition law practice that spans acting for claimants and defendants on cartel damages claims, the appeal of regulatory decisions and representing clients in abuse of dominance cases.

Strengths:

“Owain produces clear and well-reasoned submissions. He also makes effective and focused cross-examinations.”

“Owain is excellent in both his written work and his oral submissions. He is very thorough and effective in cross-examining witnesses. He is easy to work with and provides immeasurable support to the silks throughout trials.”

Matrix Chambers

Benefiting from impressive broader public and EU law practices, Matrix Chambers offers expertise across a wide range of competition matters. Members offer significant experience in follow-on damages claims, including the proposed collective action for damages in the trucks cartel. The barristers are called upon to represent authorities including Ofgem and the CMA in infringement proceedings, appeals and judicial review, and have also been instructed by the European Commission on a number of occasions.

Client service:

“We interact with Elizabeth Bousher and Sarah Walker in particular, who deal with all the fees and diary management. They are very efficient.”

SILKS

Rhodri Thompson KC Rhodri Thompson KC has notable experience in collective proceedings orders in cartel damages claims. He also advises on CMA investigations into merger filings and possible cartels, as well as representing clients in appeals against CMA sanctioning decisions.

Strengths:

“Rhodri has good grasping points and is pretty unflappable.”

JUNIORS

Christopher Brown Christopher Brown is often instructed in major follow-on damages claims, often acting on the the claimant side of prominent cases. He has further experience defending regulatory authorities in judicial reviews.

Strengths:

“He is very handy, very bright, calm and a pleasure to work with. He is also thoughtful and has an incredible attention to detail.”

Nicholas Gibson Nicholas Gibson has notable experience in collective proceedings, either acting for class representatives or for intervenors. He also advises on market reviews and allegations of abuse of dominance.

Strengths:

“Nicholas’s advice is very commercial and focused on the client’s needs.”

“He provides strategic and practical comments and perspectives, and he has a phenomenal output.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Suzanne Rab (Serle Court) Suzanne Rab has a varied client list that includes UK regulators, industry associations and solicitors in private practice. She handles follow-on and stand-alone damages claims and advises on appeals against CMA investigations. Rab has notable experience advising sector regulators on the exercise of their competition law powers.

Strengths:

“Suzanne is extremely bright, very hard-working, and spans an enormous range of issues.”

“She has an impressive breadth of knowledge and engagement.”

Thomas Sebastian (Essex Court Chambers) Thomas Sebastian is well known for his handling of major competition cases for clients from the technology sector. He defends clients in investigations into possible abuse of dominance and cartels, and also has experience acting for claimants on collective proceedings.

Construction

Construction
Leading Sets
Band 1
Atkin Chambers
Keating Chambers
Band 2
4 Pump Court
Band 3
4 New Square Chambers
Crown Office Chambers
39 Essex Chambers
Gatehouse Chambers
direct access (see p.24).
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Atkin Chambers

Described by one source as being “a class act,” Atkin Chambers is the “set of choice” for construction with an outstanding bench of barristers, from market-leading silks to rising star juniors. Individuals here are eminently capable of handling the full spectrum of construction disputes including the highest-value and most complex proceedings both domestically and internationally. The set regularly handles cases concerning infrastructure and high-profile developments across a number of industry sectors. Clients of the set include the largest developers, contractors and insurers in the UK and globally. Notably, the past year has seen members of chambers represent Morrisons in Wm Morrison Supermarkets v Lorien Engineering. Members of chambers also represent victims in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Client service:

“Director of clerking David Barnes is a legend at the Bar and is wonderfully commercial and sensible.”

“I am always confident that, when dealing with Atkin and its clerks, I will receive top service levels and responsiveness.”

“The clerks are very attentive and quick at responding, with aspects shared seamlessly among the clerks to ensure no loss of service.”

“Andrew Burrows, senior practice manager, David Barnes and Rob Bryant, senior practice manager, provide excellent service.”

SILKS

Stephanie Barwise KC Stephanie Barwise is a top-drawer silk who advises on high-value adjudications and TCC litigation. She has a diverse practice ranging across areas such as housing disputes and energy projects. She has notable expertise in fire safety and cladding issues.

Strengths:

“Stephanie Barwise KC will fight her cause all-in with a huge amount of determination and a lot of intelligence. She leaves no stone unturned, and the best case that can be put forward will be.”

“Stephanie Barwise has everything you want from a silk. She is completely and utterly brilliant, she knows and grasps complex topics extremely quickly, and she is unbelievably knowledgeable

Construction
Leading Silks
Star individuals
Barwise Stephanie Atkin Chambers
Brannigan Sean 4 Pump Court
Catchpole Stuart Atkin Chambers
Day Anneliese Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇
Hughes Simon Keating Chambers
McMullan Manus Atkin Chambers
Nissen Alexander Keating Chambers
Streatfeild-James David Atkin Chambers
Band 1
Ansell Rachel 4 Pump Court
Dennison Stephen Atkin Chambers
Doerries Chantal-Aimée Atkin Chambers
Ghaly Karim 39 Essex Chambers
Hargreaves Simon Keating Chambers
Moran Vincent Keating Chambers
Patten Ben 4 New Square Chambers
Rigney Andrew Crown Office Chambers
Stansfield Piers Keating Chambers
Stewart Roger 4 New Square Chambers
Thomas David Keating Chambers
Walker Steven Atkin Chambers
White Andrew Atkin Chambers
Williamson Adrian Keating Chambers
Band 2
Darling Paul 39 Essex Chambers
Dennys Nicholas Atkin Chambers
Garrett Lucy Keating Chambers
Hickey Alexander 4 Pump Court
Lofthouse Simon Atkin Chambers
McCafferty Lynne 4 Pump Court
Mirchandani Siân 4 New Square Chambers
Parkin Fiona Atkin Chambers
Pilling Benjamin 4 Pump Court
Rawley Dominique Atkin Chambers
Reed Paul Gatehouse Chambers A
Rowlands Marc Keating Chambers

and strategically excellent.”

“She has a tremendous grasp of construction law and its application and gets into the weeds exceptionally quickly, while still maintaining a holistic and strategic view of the bigger picture.”

Stuart Catchpole KC Stuart Catchpole KC is a masterful construction silk extolled for his courtroom presence and intellectual prowess. He has a renowned domestic practice and is widely respected for his international arbitration work. He handles professional negligence and contractual disputes on behalf of prominent clients in the construction industry. He remains highly sought after by clients involved in disputes arising from major transport infrastructure and natural resources projects.

Strengths:

“Stuart Catchpole is an excellent advocate and a great team player. His attention to detail is second to none.”

“A leader at the construction Bar. If you’ve got a big fight on your hands, he’s the one to go to.”

“He is my go-to silk for anything and everything. I get him involved in the big cases. He’s superb. He’s an excellent cross-examiner, gets stuck in and is well liked.”

Selby Jonathan Keating Chambers
Smith Marion 39 Essex Chambers
Band 3
Bowdery Martin Atkin Chambers
Cheng Serena Atkin Chambers
Cross James 4 Pump Court
Grange Kate 39 Essex Chambers
Hannaford Sarah Keating Chambers
Hitching Isabel Crown Office Chambers
Howells James Atkin Chambers
Hussain Riaz Atkin Chambers
Leabeater KC James 4 Pump Court
Lewis Christopher Atkin Chambers
Mort Justin Keating Chambers
Nicholson Jeremy 4 Pump Court
Packman Claire 4 Pump Court
Stephens Jessica 4 Pump Court
Wilken Sean Keating Chambers
Winer Crispin Crown Office Chambers
Band 4
Acton Davis Jonathan Atkin Chambers
Chennells Mark Atkin Chambers
Choat Rupert Atkin Chambers
Goddard Andrew Atkin Chambers
Hughes Adrian 39 Essex Chambers
Jones Nigel Gatehouse Chambers A
Lamont Calum Keating Chambers
Lee Krista Keating Chambers
Liddell Richard 4 New Square Chambers
McCredie Fionnuala Keating Chambers
Robb Adam 39 Essex Chambers
Townend Samuel Keating Chambers
New Silks
Buckingham Paul Keating Chambers
Lewis Jonathan 4 Pump Court
Piercy Catherine Gatehouse Chambers
Pliener David Gatehouse Chambers A

Manus McMullan KC Manus McMullan KC is a star silk who draws praise for his advocacy skills and tactical nous. He regularly acts in high-value construction disputes and arbitrations around the world and is particularly good at infrastructure disputes. He also boasts a terrific track record in construction-related professional indemnity and insurance matters. Energy and natural resources is another area of sterling sector expertise.

Strengths:

“A top construction silk.”

“Manus McMullan is brilliant in all facets; his advocacy is inspiring and he is incredibly cool under the highest of pressures. Manus is also a pleasure to work with, day in, day out.”

“He is excellent in court.”

David Streatfeild-James KC David Streatfeild-James KC is a highly lauded silk who is routinely instructed on the most technically complex construction litigation and arbitration. He receives praise for the high calibre of his written and oral advice. He is a leading figure in significant road and other transport infrastructure disputes, particularly those involving PFI or PPP contracts. He has a wealth of experience in both Court of Appeal and Supreme Court proceedings.

Construction	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	Sareen Ben <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Bowling James <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Scott Holland Gideon <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Briggs Lucie <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Sheard David <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Coplin Richard <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Sims Alice <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Crangle Thomas <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Thompson Charles <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Fenn Andrew <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Thompson James <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Laney Anna <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>	Williams Sarah <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Livesey Kate <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Band 4
Owen Tom <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Adams Lauren <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Pimlott Charles <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>	Chelmick Timothy <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>
Powell Katie <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Churcher Daniel <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Slow Camille <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Clay Robert <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Wheater Michael <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>	Crawshaw Simon <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Wygas Luke <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Drake Rebecca <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Band 2	Finn Matthew <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Bodnar Alexandra <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Fisher Paul <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>
Clarke Patrick <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Frampton James <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Cowan Paul J <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Healiss Emma <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Eljadi Omar <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Hennessey Patrick <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Hanna Rónán <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Hopkins David <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Jones Jennifer <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Jones Ed <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Neuberger Edmund <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Kasriel Max <i>Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
O'Hagan Rachael <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Kearney Andrew <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>
Patel Sanjay <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Kerry Simon <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>
Saunders Hugh <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Khayum Zulfikar <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Band 3	Khoo Daniel <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Abbas Kazmi Samar <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Lazur Thomas <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Alleyne Ebony <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>	Lixenberg Marc <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Balen Mischa <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Maxwell Patrick <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>
Bury Paul <i>Keating Chambers</i>	McCann Sarah <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i> A
Chambers Gaynor <i>Keating Chambers</i>	McCarthy Hannah <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Cheung Mathias <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Sage Richard <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>
Collings Nicholas <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Shipley Melissa <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Colter Lucy <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Thorne Matthew <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Connors Jess <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>	White Helena <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>
Conroy Brenna <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Wild Jennie <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Coulson Tom <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Woolgar Dermot <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>
De Gregorio Michele <i>Crown Office Chambers</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Dynes Felicity <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Di Francesco Harriet <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Gillies Jennie <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Egan Kort <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>
Hale Simon <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Hale Dalton <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Henderson Simon <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Morrison Callum Monro <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Jinadu Abdul <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Smith Harry <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Johnson David <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	New Silks
McDonald George <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Webb William <i>Keating Chambers</i>

[A](#) direct access (see p.24).

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Strengths:

“David Streatfeild-James is a real brainbox. We always favour him when working on high-value, high-risk matters; he always gives insightful yet practical and useful advice.”

“David is one of the best in this arena.”

“He is simply brilliant.”

Stephen Dennison KC Stephen Dennison KC is a prominent silk who is noted for his expertise in both domestic disputes and international arbitration. He is an experienced litigator who regularly acts for significant clients, particularly in the energy, transport and engineering sectors. He has a strong command of ADR methods.

Strengths:

“Stephen Dennison is calmness personified. He does exactly what you want from a silk: he comes in from above, has a look, identifies the key points,

calms everyone down and tells you the truth.”

“Stephen is great. He can command a room but is good with clients. He's sharp and knows what he's doing.”

Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC provides stellar representation to clients in high-stakes domestic and international construction disputes. Her broad experience includes disputes arising out of infrastructure projects as well as residential and industrial developments. She is adept at handling international arbitrations in addition to TCC cases and adjudications.

Strengths:

“Chantal-Aimée Doerries is a class act.”

“She is one of the best.”

“A real intellectual titan.”

Steven Walker KC Steven Walker KC is a talented strategist who regularly acts for contractors in a

wide range of disputes, both nationally and internationally. He has a stellar reputation for his work in domestic adjudications and regularly appears before the TCC. His diverse practice is well suited to disputes involving large-scale residential developments and public projects.

Strengths:

“Steven Walker is just breathtaking. He demonstrates absolute mastery of the papers and is able to turn work around of the highest quality in no time at all.”

“He provides advice which is easy to understand, detailed and clearly addresses the key issues for the client.”

“Stephen combines intellectual robustness, an attention to detail that is second to none and an utterly charming personality; clients love him.”

“A detailed advice was turned around quickly in a format that could be easily digested.”

Andrew White KC Andrew White KC is a highly distinguished silk offering sophisticated advice across areas such as oil and gas and renewables. He regularly advises major clients in high-profile construction disputes at both the national and international levels. He has experience representing both private companies and government bodies.

Strengths:

“Andrew provides great advocacy, leadership and strategic thinking.”

“Andrew is able to grapple with complex construction contract provisions and provides practical advice to clients.”

“Andrew is a very good strategist, is excellent on his feet and is very likeable too.”

Nicholas Dennys KC Nicholas Dennys KC is a highly regarded silk with a strong international practice. He is particularly noted for his vast experience working with government bodies and large multinational organisations. He regularly advises on major projects, covering areas such as transport infrastructure, utilities, and oil and gas.

Strengths:

“Nicholas Dennys is a very easygoing, amenable and clever guy who obviously knows the law and produces persuasive documents; he's an easy barrister to get on with.”

“He is a compelling advocate with bags of gravitas. Nicholas is laser sharp and takes a very commercial approach in his analysis of the merits.”

Simon Lofthouse KC Simon Lofthouse KC maintains an impressive construction practice with noted capabilities in international arbitration. He acts for a range of major clients from across the globe, including governments and contractors. He is typically instructed to handle disputes arising in the energy and infrastructure sectors. He is well suited to cases involving complex technical issues and delay claims.

Strengths:

“Simon Lofthouse is always reliable. You can always trust him to give a very commercial analysis of the merits of the case.”

“He is the most well-prepared advocate I have ever worked with. He reads every document and gets into every detail.”

“His preparation goes beyond meticulous – it's surgical. I've never seen anyone as prepared as him ever.”

Fiona Parkin KC Fiona Parkin KC is a noteworthy silk who acts in TCC litigation, appellate cases and international arbitration. She frequently represents public bodies and private contractors in disputes arising from large infrastructure projects and has good expertise relating to PFI and PPP contractual issues. She has excellent additional sector expertise in energy and natural resources-related projects.

Strengths:

"Fiona is academically on point, very personable and sharp on her feet."

"Fiona is an excellent all-rounder. She insists on being on top of the detail and prepares meticulously."

Dominique Rawley KC Dominique Rawley KC is a sought-after silk with a particular focus on domestic infrastructure matters and disputes arising from PPP and PFI arrangements. She is a regular participant in proceedings at the TCC and also has an active international arbitration practice. She is particularly adept at handling professional negligence disputes arising out of construction projects. Cases arising from the waste-to-energy sector are also an area of specific expertise.

Strengths:

"Dominique is very capable, with an effortless and accessible style. She is good with clients and has good advocacy skills. She has the ear of the court and never says more than necessary."

"Dominique is excellent. She is in tune with the client's strategy and approach."

Martin Bowdery KC Martin Bowdery KC is an experienced silk who advises on a range of construction disputes, including domestic PFI actions and international arbitration. His impressive practice has taken him to the Court of Appeal and the High Court. He is especially renowned for his stellar advocacy. He has particular sector expertise in energy and social infrastructure project-related disputes.

Strengths:

"Martin Bowdery is considered, wise and utterly on point."

"He's incredibly bright, and has an ability to pick up the details of a case extremely quickly and get up to speed very quickly. He has a standout intellect and ability to grasp detail."

Serena Cheng KC Serena Cheng KC is a silk with a robust practice acting for contractors in technically complex engineering and energy disputes. She is instructed in complex cases both domestically and abroad, including those in the Middle East and Far East. She is active in international arbitrations in addition to adjudication proceedings.

Strengths:

"Serena leaves no stone unturned. She is incisive and clear in her advice and quickly builds strong relationships with clients."

"Serena is very conscientious, very hard-working and very responsive. She has a very polished approach to working with clients."

"Superb advocacy, excellent advice and trusted by clients. She's a pleasure to work with."

James Howells KC James Howells KC advises on claims relating to design and construction defects in domestic disputes. His well-regarded practice

also includes a strong international arbitration element predominantly focused in the Gulf and East Asia. He receives praise for his compelling advocacy and exceptional analytical skills. He is especially active in litigation involving transport and social infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

"James Howells has a wealth of expertise and great client skills coupled with strong commerciality."

"James is outstanding – ferociously hard-working with an unbelievable eye for detail while also having an excellent sense of the view from 30,000 feet as well."

"He's a super brain. Someone you'd go to if you absolutely want to know the right answer."

"Clearly a bright guy and a very impressive barrister; he's very strong in writing."

Riaz Hussain KC Riaz Hussain KC has a strong reputation for handling heavyweight construction disputes. He is active in domestic TCC and Court of Appeal proceedings, while also maintaining an active international arbitration practice, with a notable presence in the Middle East. He undertakes a wide range of construction disputes, such as those involving energy, infrastructure and commercial property developments.

Strengths:

"The dispute becomes his world during the hearing. He's fantastic to work with and he project-manages every detail. He is our go-to person for big-ticket Middle East disputes."

"Riaz is greatly skilled in international construction matters. He is superb in understanding the commercial aspects and implications of the dispute and adjusts the legal strategy accordingly."

"Riaz goes to great lengths to understand your business and the way in which you operate. He becomes a truly invaluable member of your team."

"Clients like his more relaxed style yet he's still a complete expert in his area. He's an excellent advocate – it's known how strong he is in cross-examination and in oral argument."

Christopher Lewis KC Christopher Lewis KC maintains an impressive reputation among peers and clients for his ability to handle construction and engineering disputes. Many of his cases involve information technology, energy and infrastructure projects. He is regularly instructed on domestic and international disputes, and demonstrates strength across a variety of forms including TCC litigation, mediation and international arbitration.

Strengths:

"Christopher Lewis is just fantastic. He has an incredible ability to get on top of detail, incredible precision in how he presents and a prodigious work ethic."

"Christopher Lewis is not only the most intelligent counsel I have ever had the chance to work with, but he is also a brilliant advocate and a complete pleasure to work with at all times."

"Christopher really gets into it and tries to find the commercial way forward."

Jonathan Acton Davis KC Jonathan Acton Davis KC is a senior silk with experience of large-scale construction disputes. He offers experience in both major international arbitration and high-value domestic litigation. He also represents

clients in a range of other ADR forums including adjudication, mediation and expert determination.

Strengths:

"Jonathan's excellent. He can distil a huge amount of complex material down to something simple and is a great foil to overly aggressive opposition counsel."

Mark Chennells KC Mark Chennells KC is a highly regarded barrister with extensive experience in major construction, engineering and energy-related projects, especially transport infrastructure and property development cases. He is active both domestically and internationally and has considerable experience in court proceedings, as well as the various forms of ADR.

Strengths:

"Mark is very commercial and very available. He's a very modern KC."

"Exceptional client service and advocacy."

"Mark comes across as very commercial and is extremely hard-working and responsive. He is reliable and is keen to assist with short notice."

Rupert Choat KC Rupert Choat KC draws on his previous experience as a specialist construction solicitor at CMS to inform his well-rounded practice. He acts in adjudication enforcement matters and real estate redevelopment disputes, both domestically and internationally. He has an especially strong practice in cases arising from the residential sector.

Strengths:

"Rupert is an excellent leading counsel who fully involves himself in matters, poised to address any issues arising and works with the team to push the case forward productively and efficiently."

"Rupert is very detail-oriented. He presents in a convincing and forthright way and brings his experience in tribunals to the team, which is very helpful."

"He provides clear, practical advice."

Andrew Goddard KC Andrew Goddard KC is particularly experienced acting in large-scale construction matters including infrastructure, contract and professional negligence-related disputes, both within the UK and internationally. He has significant expertise in working for contractors, occupiers and public authorities in relation to residential and social infrastructure developments.

Strengths:

"In addition to being an excellent advocate, Andrew works extremely hard, making himself available at all times to suit the needs of the case. Superb support and leadership."

"Andrew provides excellent advice on matters of interpretation and strategy."

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Lucie Briggs Lucie Briggs has a market-leading construction practice and frequently appears in cases containing a professional negligence element. She acts in both domestic and international disputes and offers expertise across a range of sectors, including energy and commercial property. She has recent experience of social infrastructure and PFI-related cases.

Strengths:

"Lucie Briggs is user-friendly, down to earth and accessible. She understands the commercial

aspects of the dispute and is able to get to grips with complex engineering/architectural/surveying matters.”

“Lucie is an excellent junior counsel. She is well organised and fully grapples with all pertinent issues in the case.”

“Lucie is really user-friendly and very good in all respects. She has excellent drafting and is very good in conferences. She has an excellent manner about her, is very bright and knows the law.”

Andrew Fenn Andrew Fenn is a sought-after junior who often appears unled in domestic litigation and international arbitration. He advises on a range of matters including student accommodation projects and final account disputes. He is increasingly concentrating his practice on overseeing the ongoing consequences of the collapse of the Carillion Group.

Strengths:

“Andrew Fenn is the complete advocate and a pleasure to work with.”

“Andrew is able to get across complex technical and legal matters very quickly, is patient and empathetic with client concerns and is an excellent team member to work alongside.”

“He’s at the top of my list for construction barristers.”

Katie Powell Katie Powell is a notable junior who frequently appears in significant litigation, including complex multiparty actions, before the TCC and in arbitration. She is especially well versed in construction disputes involving elements of professional negligence and insurance.

Strengths:

“Katie Powell is excellent. She is very good at reading judges.”

“She’s a great advocate. She’s commercially aware and precise.”

“Her written work is brilliant and she has a wonderful rapport with clients.”

Camille Slow Camille Slow is a strong choice to handle high-stakes construction mandates, with a particular emphasis on professional negligence claims relating to construction projects. She has extensive experience of international arbitration in addition to her frequent appearances in the TCC.

Strengths:

“Camille Slow is outstanding in all areas and a go-to senior junior for any construction work.”

“An outstanding junior who is well on the way to silk. Her work is of the very highest standard.”

“Camille is a phenomenal barrister—strong, effective and extremely smart. She is also great to work with and instils a great atmosphere in every team.”

“Camille is really my go-to person. She is incredibly available and accessible; I know I can call her whenever and get a straight answer and get proper guidance on an issue.”

“She’s excellent with clients and consistently impressive—one of our go-to barristers.”

Patrick Clarke Patrick Clarke is a noted junior with a professional engineering background whose attention to detail is widely admired by fellow practitioners. He advises on a range of matters, domestic and abroad, with a particular emphasis on public sector facilities and infrastructure works.

Strengths:

“Patrick has the ability to maintain composure in the face of an impending deadlines, which makes him easy to work with and gives the client and his instructing solicitors confidence in his capacity as a trusted adviser.”

“Patrick is hard-working, always approachable and good-humoured.”

Omar Eljadi Omar Eljadi undertakes a broad array of construction mandates, from TCC proceedings to international arbitrations and public inquiries. His experience includes domestic and international disputes relating to construction projects in the residential and healthcare sectors.

Strengths:

“Omar Eljadi has excellent drafting skills.”

“Omar is exceptionally strong; he knows the law brilliantly. He’s an excellent researcher and is wonderful at navigating legal complexities.”

Rónán Hanna Rónán Hanna is a strong junior with experience in a number of sectors, including energy and transport infrastructure. He has advised purchaser and contractor clients on litigation and arbitration, both in the UK and internationally. He is experienced in disputes in the Middle East and North Africa.

Strengths:

“Rónán Hanna is able to produce compelling and detailed legal submissions on difficult facts and is also helpful in advising our client directly.”

“Rónán is excellent and a real pleasure to work with. He grasps complex issues very quickly and is able to explain them to clients in a straightforward manner.”

“He’s a very clever, brilliant all-rounder with great attention to detail who is very good on strategy.”

Jennifer Jones Jennifer Jones is a noted junior with considerable experience in construction disputes involving professional negligence. She routinely handles high-value litigation and arbitrations in the UK and abroad, and is increasingly active in multiparty TCC disputes. She has acted as sole counsel in numerous cases.

Strengths:

“Jennifer is very approachable and down to earth and it is a pleasure to work with her. Her advice, both written and verbal, is clear and well constructed.”

“Jennifer is very good. She’s adaptable, good on the law and incredibly hard to rattle.”

“Jennifer is superb with clients, very responsive, great on her feet and handles complex legal issues.”

Edmund Neuberger Edmund Neuberger is a highly rated junior who frequently appears in both domestic and international arbitrations. He is increasingly instructed as sole counsel on cases, and represents a wide range of clients from across the construction industry. He handles disputes occurring in a range of sectors, from energy and utilities to residential developments. He also offers notable experience in PFI-related litigation.

Strengths:

“Edmund is a very good construction barrister. He has strong clarity of thought and an ability to cut through information to what is important. His drafting skills are particularly valued.”

“Edmund provides excellent client service and gets under the skin of the issues. He has a great way of diplomatically challenging the direction of

a case and pulling a team together.”

Samar Abbas Kazmi Samar Abbas Kazmi is a popular choice for clients facing significant construction disputes both domestically and in international arbitration proceedings. He has experience acting as sole and junior counsel for employers, contractors and state-owned entities.

Strengths:

“Samar is incredibly diligent and hard-working. He’s really excellent.”

“Samar is like the Energizer Bunny: he never stops working.”

“He’s very responsive, sharp and anticipates requests and questions when they occur.”

Mischa Balen Mischa Balen has a superb construction practice which sees him handle a range of contractual and professional negligence claims. He acts on behalf of employers and contractors and is proficient in international arbitration in addition to litigation.

Strengths:

“Mischa provided a very clear, concise and easy to understand analysis of the client’s prospects of success, which greatly assisted us in moving the matter forwards towards conclusion.”

“Mischa is a future titan in construction and engineering disputes. He is a commander of the detail, an intellectual giant and always looks to be the most valuable player on any team.”

“Mischa is a very supportive counsel, willing and able to pick up urgent matters at short notice and provide clear concise advice on complex issues.”

Mathias Cheung Mathias Cheung acts in construction matters as part of his varied commercial practice. He advises clients on construction defect and delay claims, and is particularly proficient in disputes arising out of energy and residential projects.

Strengths:

“Mathias is an excellent construction barrister. He is extremely diligent and thorough, and his work helped to ensure a favourable result for our client.”

“He takes working hard to a new level. He’s unbelievably industrious, very bright and very smart in the area.”

“Mathias is brilliant. He’s ridiculously bright—a KC in the making. He has exceptional written work and instantly understands complex issues.”

Nicholas Collings Nicholas Collings is a highly respected senior junior who often acts as sole counsel in high-value disputes in the UK and the Middle East. He represents clients across a range of claims, such as those involving mixed-use developments and transport infrastructure projects. He is also particularly active in construction disputes pertaining to the energy and natural resources sector. He acts both for and against large construction and engineering firms. He has additional expertise in construction-related professional negligence cases.

Strengths:

“Nicholas shows great commitment, client-facing skills and a very good understanding of technical issues, which allow him to perform brilliantly in cross-examination of witnesses and experts.”

Felicity Dynes Felicity Dynes is a strong choice to handle high-stakes construction and related professional negligence claims. She is also fre-

quently instructed to advise on construction contracts. She has experience representing clients in domestic and cross-border disputes.

Strengths:

"She's very clever, clients trust her, and she's very good at getting into the detail."

"Felicity Dynes is exceptionally easy to work with."

"She is a very strong junior with an excellent grasp of detail."

"She's very assured, very calm and confident, and when she gives her opinion it's very thorough and good."

David Johnson David Johnson has an impressive construction practice, which sees him frequently engaged in technically complex disputes. He represents contractors as well as employers and is regularly instructed in international construction matters, including in the Middle East.

Strengths:

"David Johnson is very bright and a real pleasure to work with."

"David is very good at grappling with complex technical points, and not just strong on the law but also on the general construction issues."

Lauren Adams Lauren Adams is an increasingly notable junior with a growing number of sole counsel instructions. Her experience encompasses a variety of subjects including defect and delay disputes arising in relation to domestic residential and energy sector properties, among many others. Her clients include both developers and subcontractors.

Strengths:

"Lauren, time and time again, can predict things and get them absolutely spot on. She's just the all-around package."

"Lauren is very astute and impressive on her feet."

"Her drafting is absolutely first class."

Robert Clay Robert Clay is an experienced senior junior who draws praise from solicitors for his written work. He is regularly called upon by a diverse client base across a number of sectors including major contractors. He receives instructions in international arbitrations in addition to complex TCC proceedings.

Strengths:

"Robert generates crystal-clear written work and tells the story effectively and well. He's very hard-working and is very experienced in construction cases."

Simon Crawshaw Simon Crawshaw has experience of working in the transport, energy and property development sectors, on behalf of both employers and contractors. He has been instructed in both domestic and cross-border disputes and is adept at handling claims concerning construction delays and defects.

Strengths:

"Simon's ability to grasp extremely difficult technical issues and always be two steps ahead, diligent and ready was remarkable."

"Simon is one of the most intelligent barristers at the Bar. His grasp of detail is phenomenal; I've never seen anything like it. He is also really good with clients."

Zulfikar Khayum Zulfikar Khayum practises across a broad range of construction, engineering and energy litigation both domestically and internationally. He is particularly knowledgeable in

international arbitrations, as well as litigation concerning UK infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

"Zulfikar is a very pragmatic and responsive barrister who takes a personal interest in the claim. He's extremely helpful when it comes to dealing with more junior members of my team and provides sound advice."

"He is very good at grasping technical details and cross-examining on the same."

"He's very strong and is a very good cross-examiner."

Marc Lixenberg Marc Lixenberg is a respected junior whose attention to detail and quality of written work frequently elicit praise from market observers. He is active in high-value construction disputes in a range of sectors, representing clients on both the domestic and international stages. His experience advising on disputes involving infrastructure projects is of particular note.

Strengths:

"As counsel responsible for guiding the wider team in complex, high-value litigation, Marc did a very good job in ensuring the client was positioned as well as possible."

"Marc has an excellent knowledge of the law and is flexible and down to earth – an absolute joy to work with."

"He's very approachable and he provides commercial and practical advice."

Dalton Hale Dalton Hale is a well-regarded junior whose advocacy and attention to detail are praised by market observers. He is regularly in the TCC and in international arbitrations, both domestically and abroad, and has experience working in public inquiries.

Strengths:

"Dalton is an exceptional lawyer. He is extremely intelligent and brings ever-important pragmatism to the table. He is willing to have difficult conversations and deals with thorny issues diplomatically."

"He is easy to work with and is always prepared to answer the phone to pick up any queries I may have."

"He is extremely capable, and excellent at quickly digesting and presenting information."

"Excellent all round. He is responsive and attentive in conference, has a clear vision as to strategy and displays strong advocacy skills and tactical acumen."

Keating Chambers

Keating Chambers, described by an interviewee as "possibly the finest construction set," is widely regarded as a leading construction law set and is well known for the quality of both its outstanding silks and its accomplished juniors. Members of Keating act in complex domestic cases in the TCC, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, as well as in high-profile cases and arbitrations abroad. The set acts for clients across the construction sector in projects ranging from major energy and infrastructure developments to commercial and residential schemes. "They are fully able to handle the high-value technical disputes," says one source, while another notes that they are "especially alive to the commercial impacts of the legal issues." Recently, members of the set acted

for both the claimant and the defendant in *Martlet Homes v Mulalley*, the first post-Grenfell case to go to trial.

Client service:

"The clerking team is one of the key points of difference between Keating Chambers and other construction sets. They really understand how we operate."

"James Luxmoore, joint director of clerking, is excellent, as is Rob Garvan, practice manager. Nothing is too much trouble for them."

"No matter whether you are interacting with a senior or junior clerk, you are met with the same high level of service."

"Keating's clerks are always available to pick up queries quickly and make barristers available at very short notice."

SILKS

Simon Hughes KC Simon Hughes KC has a standout reputation given his sterling work on prominent cases at both the national and international levels. He receives instructions in high-value litigation, adjudication and international arbitration cases running the full gamut of construction issues. He is highlighted for his deep knowledge of construction contracts, especially within the FIDIC framework.

Strengths:

"A razor-smart and charming advocate."

"One of the very best."

"A tour de force, the best of the best at the construction Bar."

"A very thorough advocate who's at the top of his game."

"Simon Hughes is a first-class operator with a scary intellect."

Alexander Nissen KC Alexander Nissen KC is a widely praised silk who acts for prominent employers and contractors in a range of disputes spanning the breadth of the construction industry. He has vast experience in high-value, multiparty matters at both the national and international levels. He is regularly instructed to represent clients in the TCC and the Court of Appeal, as well as in adjudication and arbitration. He handles litigation involving a broad array of construction projects, including those in the energy, infrastructure and housing sectors.

Strengths:

"I think he is one of the finest barristers at the Bar and one of the biggest brains at the Bar."

"A top-class advocate."

"He provides masterful advocacy that really helps cases reach an earlier resolution than they might otherwise have done."

"Alexander is peerless. He has a brilliant mind and is truly exceptional intellectually, strategically, tactically and commercially."

Simon Hargreaves KC Simon Hargreaves KC is an outstanding silk who is regularly instructed in high-profile cases across a range of sectors such as residential and energy. He frequently acts in TCC proceedings, adjudications and Court of Appeal matters. He has additional experience acting for clients involved in construction-related professional negligence disputes.

Strengths:

"Friendly, approachable, clear-thinking with a

balanced approach and excellent communication skills.”

“A go-to silk for heavyweight and difficult disputes, he’s absolutely superb for PFI/EfW disputes.”

“He’s one of my favourite people to deal with at the Bar. He’s committed, enthusiastic and good fun to work with.”

Vincent Moran KC Vincent Moran KC is an excellent practitioner with a reputation for producing high-quality trial and tribunal work. His practice includes a focus on construction-related professional negligence and he regularly acts in large-scale cases in the TCC. He is particularly active in construction disputes involving energy and PFI projects.

Strengths:

“Vincent Moran is a tenacious, hard-working advocate. He is very proactive in his preparation and you never have to worry that he will be under-prepared.”

“Really a go-to. He’s robust and innovative.”

“Vincent is very direct-speaking. He doesn’t sit on the fence and calls it as he sees it, which is his best quality.”

“Vincent Moran KC is always my go-to. He always delivers, and his easygoing charm makes him a pleasure to work with.”

Piers Stansfield KC Piers Stansfield KC is a noteworthy silk whose practice includes frequent instruction in large and complex TCC cases. He is particularly active in disputes pertaining to infrastructure construction. He receives instructions from major contractors as well as employers in the public and private sectors.

Strengths:

“Piers provides excellent input, comprehensive thinking and strong drafting skills.”

“Wonderful with clients, being considerate and thoughtful and masterful on his feet.”

“Piers has the calmness of a Jedi master. He is utterly unflappable, no matter the circumstances. Brilliant service, brilliant expertise and brilliant commerciality from a brilliant advocate.”

David Thomas KC David Thomas KC is a top-class silk with a sterling practice both in the UK and overseas. He is acknowledged as a leading expert on NEC contracts, and has significant experience appearing before the Court of Appeal, TCC, ICC and Dubai World Tribunal. He has been instructed in landmark construction cases in the UK, the Far East and the Middle East.

Strengths:

“David’s great. He has a nice, calm, authoritative manner, which is great for clients to turn to him for guidance on strategy.”

“He’s wonderful to work with and gets brilliant results. David has always got his eye on how to make progress in a matter and get our client out on top.”

“David has a lot of experience of working in the Middle East. He gets the commercial aspects and nature of clients here.”

Adrian Williamson KC Adrian Williamson KC is a highly regarded silk with considerable experience representing contractor clients in adjudications and before the TCC. He has particular expertise in cases containing a professional negligence element, and also frequently handles high-value

delay and defect claims. He also sits as a deputy High Court judge in the TCC.

Strengths:

“Adrian Williamson KC is clear-thinking, cuts straight to the point, absorbs facts and information, and reaches conclusions swiftly.”

Lucy Garrett KC Lucy Garrett KC is an acclaimed silk who is regularly instructed on high-value construction litigation and arbitration worldwide. Her sector expertise includes areas such as energy and shipbuilding, and she has also been active in disputes involving property development. She impresses clients and peers alike with her persuasive advocacy.

Strengths:

“Lucy finds things that others don’t and approaches cases in a way that changes things for the client.”

“Extremely user-friendly and excellent with clients.”

“Lucy was extremely user-friendly, very responsive, and she really grabbed the bull by the horns.”

“An absolute favourite – a dream to work with, the perfect client-facing counsel option, with frank, honest and insightful advice.”

Marc Rowlands KC Marc Rowlands KC has a robust construction practice and particular expertise in the transport and infrastructure sectors. He is noted for his experience advising on disputes involving rail infrastructure projects and receives praise for his strong experience in rail-related matters. He has significant experience both domestically and abroad, and has been called to the Bar of the Bahamas, the Dubai International Financial Centre and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“Marc is a class act.”

“One of the most able and bright KCs.”

Jonathan Selby KC Jonathan Selby KC is an impressive silk who draws praise for his top-notch work in high-value matters, particularly before the TCC but also regarding adjudications and international arbitration. He has appeared before both the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council. He is singled out by clients for his excellent technical ability and strategic insights.

Strengths:

“Jonathan Selby is absolutely brilliant. His advice is unparalleled and he is brilliant intellectually; you know he’s left no page unturned.”

“An absolute star. He’s a great advocate, extremely strong on the law and at the heart of the strategy.”

“He is extremely approachable. His advice and presentation of advice is very user-friendly and clear.”

Sarah Hannaford KC Sarah Hannaford KC is a gifted silk with a diverse practice that includes a noted specialism in construction procurement. She has considerable experience acting for public sector bodies in disputes and adjudications. She also has a strong track record in the energy sector. Her experience includes advising on high-value delay and professional negligence claims.

Strengths:

“Sarah is technically excellent and a very strong advocate. She’s a very clear thinker, concise with excellent presentational skills.”

“A lucid and ferocious opponent.”

“Sarah is very good, well respected, very easy to understand and quick to cut to the chase. She’s also very commercially minded.”

Justin Mort KC Justin Mort KC is regularly sought out by major contractors in final account disputes. He is noted for his extensive experience in adjudications. He is regularly called upon in international disputes regarding energy projects. He has a wealth of experience acting before the TCC and the Chancery Division.

Strengths:

“Justin Mort is an extremely strong all round advocate.”

“He has detailed knowledge of the case law; he’s a walking encyclopedia.”

“A persuasive advocate who tears through detail to get to the points that really matter. First port of call for injunctions.”

Sean Wilken KC Sean Wilken KC is a formidable silk with a diverse practice who regularly undertakes high-profile construction disputes including complex international arbitration and litigation. His clients include public entities, contractors and developers. He regularly handles cases in the infrastructure and energy sectors and is recommended for his intimate knowledge of PFI projects.

Strengths:

“Sean is extremely good at finding arguments; where you need a bit of genius in coming up with arguments, Sean excels.”

“Sean is technically and strategically excellent.”

Calum Lamont KC Calum Lamont KC is a highly acclaimed barrister who is frequently instructed in large construction disputes both nationally and in the Middle East. He has experience in both litigation and arbitration proceedings. His excellent practice sees him advise on disputes arising from numerous high-profile infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

“Calum is a force to be reckoned with. He is a calm influence and gets to the nub of the issues in complicated claims.”

“Calum is approachable and commercially aware, with the technical expertise to match.”

“A brilliant advocate; if you need someone to cross-examine to save your life, he’s your man.”

Krista Lee KC Krista Lee KC has deep knowledge across a range of construction matters. She has extensive experience of appearing before the TCC. She is noted for her deep understanding of NEC3 contracts. She is very active in energy, transport infrastructure and large commercial developments.

Strengths:

“Krista Lee brings a technical understanding to her cases which means it’s super easy to work with her. She’s brilliant.”

“I’ve been really impressed with her incredible intellect and her personality. She’s a brilliant strategist and her pleadings are excellent.”

Fionnuala McCredie KC Fionnuala McCredie KC is a well-regarded silk with a notable construction procurement practice who has acted in a number of valuable adjudications and TCC litigation. She often handles construction cases with professional negligence and insurance elements.

Strengths:

“Fionnuala is excellent. She is so willing to fight

the cause and fills clients with confidence to do whatever it takes.”

Samuel Townend KC Samuel Townend KC is a gifted barrister who is increasingly entrusted to act as sole counsel on high-value disputes in the TCC and arbitration proceedings. He frequently acts on behalf of engineering companies and contractors, and is especially renowned for his expertise in construction disputes involving insurance elements.

Strengths:

“Samuel Townend is very focused on achieving the best end results for his clients. He is very personable and adopts an in-depth approach to all matters on which he is engaged.”

“Sam is excellent and the judges like and trust him.”

Paul Buckingham KC Paul Buckingham KC is an excellent barrister whose science and engineering background informs his legal practice. He regularly acts in a range of highly technical and complex construction disputes. His sterling work in the energy and renewables sectors, both in the UK and abroad, is particularly noteworthy. He is experienced with handling international arbitration as well as proceedings in the TCC.

Strengths:

“Paul’s knowledge of not only the law but also the technical engineering aspects of matters is impressive and a valuable asset for the client.”

“Paul is brilliant on heavily technical disputes; he picks up stuff very, very quickly.”

JUNIORS

Richard Coplin Richard Coplin is an excellent junior with a growing practice in both domestic and cross-border matters. His prior employment as an engineer allows him expert insight into professional negligence cases. He is also well versed in adjudication claims, and particularly enforcement issues. He is sought out to handle a wide array of construction cases, including those arising in the energy sector.

Strengths:

“He turns work around very quickly and is very good at drafting and strategy.”

“He’s excellent – experienced, really strong on his feet and really pleasant to work with.”

Tom Owen Tom Owen is a widely acclaimed junior who regularly appears as sole counsel before the TCC. He receives excellent feedback for his strong advocacy in construction disputes. He has experience acting in significant enforcement disputes.

Strengths:

“He’s very responsive, very good and gives great advice. Top marks for Tom all round, he’s a great barrister and is my first choice if available.”

“Tom Owen is an absolute diamond in the construction Bar. He certainly deserves the accolades he’s getting.”

“Tom provides a very high level of service, he is incredibly responsive and his advocacy is exceptional.”

Alexandra Bodnar Alexandra Bodnar is an impressive junior who is increasingly being instructed as sole counsel in highly complex construction disputes. She offers expertise across litigation, arbitration and adjudication proceedings

and regularly appears in the TCC. She offers particular expertise in insurance issues pertaining to construction projects.

Strengths:

“Alex is one of our go-to juniors. She’s extremely user-friendly and commercial, and a first-class advocate.”

“I’ve been very impressed with her thoroughness, speed of service and ability to grasp very complex issues in a short space of time.”

Rachael O’Hagan Rachael O’Hagan is a gifted junior regularly instructed in high-value litigation and arbitration for a diverse client base including major contractors and government bodies. Her body of work includes significant matters in energy, infrastructure and residential development. She is increasingly active as sole counsel in large disputes. She offers specialist expertise in nuclear projects.

Strengths:

“Rachael is a joy to work with. She’s very smart and good on her feet, and she also works really well with her instructing solicitors.”

“Rachael sees the case as a whole, focusing on the most important points and achieving the outcome the client wants.”

Paul Bury Paul Bury receives instructions in a wide range of construction disputes as junior and as sole counsel. He has extensive experience in the TCC, including in cases relating to high-value infrastructure and development projects.

Strengths:

“Paul Bury is consistently brilliant and a safe pair of hands who you know will never let you down. He always seems to get the right answer and explains his views clearly and concisely.”

“An excellent junior who is on the fast track to silk. Extremely strong in all areas and provides first-class client service.”

“We have found him to be very thorough. He quickly picks up the issues and is very approachable for us and clients. He has a manner which puts clients at ease while getting to the heart of the issues.”

“Paul is an integral part of any team. He’s always willing to get into the detail and provide useful insight, not only on the legally correct route but also on the one that furthers a client’s commercial interests.”

Gaynor Chambers Gaynor Chambers offers expert representation to claimants and defendants in complex construction disputes, drawing on her additional experience acting as an adjudicator. She is especially well versed in litigation involving water-related construction projects and disputes arising under the New Roads and Street Works Act.

Strengths:

“Gaynor’s prior experience as a building surveyor is a great asset when handling construction disputes, and her practical expertise is great at instilling confidence in clients.”

Brenna Conroy Brenna Conroy is a well-regarded barrister who is highly sought after for construction disputes. She is increasingly taking on significant litigation, adjudications and international arbitration. She is especially active in disputes arising from energy and transport infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

“Brenna is like a general. She manages and organises a large team in complex cases extremely well. It’s her ability to see the big picture and manoeuvre everyone into position in a short period of time that makes her so good.”

“A fantastic team player and brilliant advocate. Always willing to get into the detail, but without losing sight of the bigger picture.”

Tom Coulson Tom Coulson has significant experience as junior or sole counsel in TCC proceedings. He is also active in domestic adjudications and arbitrations and is well versed in an array of standard form construction contracts.

Strengths:

“Tom is a first-rate barrister. Not only is his technical analysis always spot on, he is able to deliver advice, whether in writing or verbally, in exactly the right way. He is exceptional.”

“An extremely able junior.”

“Tom is super clever, hard-working and a delight to work with.”

“Dazzlingly brilliant. He’s such a smart guy and a pleasure to deal with.”

Abdul Jinadu Abdul Jinadu is an experienced practitioner with a strong adjudication element to his practice. He regularly appears in litigation and arbitration and has advised an array of clients including public sector bodies, developers and contractors. He has been particularly active in adjudication proceedings.

Strengths:

“Abdul is a very excellent advocate.”

“Abdul is very, very good. He has an excellent international presence.”

Ben Sareen Ben Sareen is lauded by instructing solicitors for his high-quality construction practice. He frequently represents major contractors in litigation and arbitrations, both in the UK and abroad, and is especially proficient in professional negligence cases.

Strengths:

“Ben has the gravitas and the mind of a silk with a number of years more call than him. Brilliant, effective and a pleasure to work with.”

Gideon Scott Holland Gideon Scott Holland is an experienced junior whose practice includes frequent instruction in contractual disputes. He has been active in arbitration and litigation, and his extensive contractual expertise extends across JCT, ICE, NEC and PFI formats. As well as being an experienced advocate in the TCC, in the Court of Appeal and in arbitrations, he is frequently engaged as an adjudicator and mediator.

Strengths:

“Gideon is very responsive, client-focused and quick to grasp facts. He thinks matters through and takes a clear and thoughtful approach.”

“A very strong all-rounder who always provides an excellent level of service and is quick to grasp complex matters. He is easy to approach and discuss difficult matters with.”

David Sheard David Sheard is a highly regarded junior with a broad practice covering construction law and related professional negligence disputes. He has exceptional knowledge of fire safety disputes, including those arising from cladding.

Strengths:

“David’s primary strength is intellect – he is unbe-

lievably clever.”

Alice Sims Alice Sims is a quality practitioner who acts in high-profile cases in the TCC and before international tribunals. Her practice spans a wide range of matters across the construction sector, with clients in the energy and commercial development spheres, among others.

Strengths:

“She’s good. A strong and thorough drafter.”

Charles Thompson Charlie Thompson is an impressive junior specialising in construction contract disputes in addition to his insurance practice. He has already gained expertise in cases relating to major infrastructure projects domestically as well as experience in Middle Eastern work.

Strengths:

“Charlie Thompson is a highly effective senior junior. He has an affable demeanour which makes him very engaging to work with, but this belies a sharp intellect that he uses to great effect. A barrister for the modern age.”

James Thompson James Thompson is a strong junior often instructed in high-value domestic construction cases and international arbitrations. He has been active in construction cases arising in the energy and property development sectors. He is increasingly instructed as sole counsel in TCC and other ADR proceedings.

Strengths:

“James Thompson can be relied on to focus on the issues and to be able to distil complex contracts quickly.”

“James is a highly skilled senior junior and is always on top of the detail.”

Sarah Williams Sarah Williams is a popular junior with a strong practice that often sees her instructed in high-value TCC litigation and international arbitration. She has a niche strength in engineering design-related disputes. Her construction practice has also seen her advise on infrastructure, utilities, housing and energy projects.

Strengths:

“Sarah is not afraid to roll up her sleeves and do the heavy lifting, and she regularly thinks outside the box to strengthen the client’s position.”

“Sarah has a canny ability to digest and simplify complex, intricate matters into straightforward, accurate drafting.”

“She is an invaluable asset in that she brings top-notch and highly skilled construction expertise to any litigating party that she acts for.”

Matthew Finn Matthew Finn is a specialist construction and engineering barrister who already has considerable experience in both the High Court and Court of Appeal. He has expertise in disputes arising in relation to contract terms, planning permissions and PFI arrangements.

Strengths:

“A great adviser and a really impressive advocate. He is an unbelievably persuasive orator.”

“Matt is a pleasure to work with, provides excellent insight on strategy and has an impressive manner with clients.”

James Frampton James Frampton has a rapidly growing reputation and has notable expertise in contractual disputes and defect claims. He has additional experience in construction adjudications and adjudication enforcement hearings.

Strengths:

“James is a first-rate barrister who always provides an excellent level of service.”

“James is great on the detail, with excellent drafting and the ability to distil documents to the important points.”

“James has proven to be excellent in terms of how he presents and communicates with clients and experts.”

Emma Healiss Emma Healiss is a rising star in the construction law field. She is a highly sought-after junior both as sole and junior counsel. She has broad experience of construction, energy and procurement law proceedings both in the TCC and at various adjudication hearings.

Strengths:

“Emma is absolutely fantastic. She does exceptionally good written work for us and excellent advocacy.”

“She is extremely capable and instantly and seamlessly joined the team and made a difference quickly. She’s very astute.”

“Emma is very user-friendly, great on the strategy, and her drafting is brilliant.”

“She is an excellent young barrister with a great future. She is tenacious and never gives up.”

Thomas Lazur Thomas Lazur is a respected junior with a wealth of experience advising on construction disputes involving transport infrastructure and energy projects. He advises on domestic and international construction matters, and receives instructions from both contractors and employers.

Strengths:

“Thomas is an excellent advocate who grasped the niche issues extremely quickly and offered excellent suggestions and advice on a complicated dispute.”

“A brilliant guy to work with.”

Jennie Wild Jennie Wild is highly experienced in handling both UK-based and international construction disputes, especially in relation to energy, transport and infrastructure projects. She is well versed in acting as sole counsel, and her work has seen her tackle topical issues such as cladding and fire safety defects.

Strengths:

“Jennie is amazing. She gets through a lot of complicated detail quickly.”

Harriet Di Francesco Harriet Di Francesco is well versed in a wide variety of specialised legal disciplines which complement her construction practice, including adjudication and international arbitration, professional negligence and procurement. She brings to bear substantial experience at the TCC and in adjudication enforcement.

Strengths:

“Harriet is definitely a star of the future. Her drafting is extremely good and she gets to grips with difficult issues and provides great service.”

“Harriet is very thorough and insightful. She picks up on the little details and predicts problem areas to be resolved before they arise.”

“Harriet is very approachable and provides timely and constructive advice.”

Callum Monro Morrison is developing a strong construction practice. He regularly appears in the High Court and has experience at appellate level. He has particular expertise in complex PFI and cladding disputes.

Strengths:

“Callum has provided excellent service.”

“A developing junior with real potential to become a star.”

“An excellent team player, Callum delivers clear, concise advice and can always be relied upon to put forward robust arguments even in difficult situations.”

Harry Smith Harry Smith centres his practice on disputes in the construction and energy sectors, with work relating to infrastructure, healthcare and residential developments in particular. He is highly experienced in TCC and High Court proceedings along with adjudications.

Strengths:

“Harry is a tenacious and ferocious advocate.”

“Harry is an exceptionally capable barrister. He is excellent technically, both on paper and on his feet, and is very responsive.”

“Very knowledgeable and user-friendly.”

William Webb KC William Webb KC frequently acts in complex construction disputes. His practice includes high-value domestic litigation and international arbitration. His experience includes cases in the Court of Appeal as well as the TCC.

Strengths:

“Will has been absolutely fantastic.”

“He’s very bright.”

Band 2

4 Pump Court

4 Pump Court is described as a “one of the leading sets and the first point of call for complex or high-value disputes” by a happy client. This “cracking” set is known for a roster of barristers who “impress at all different levels of experience.” A number of the set’s silks and juniors have been instructed in highly significant cases, including in *Shepherd Construction v Kingspan*, a multiparty cladding claim worth nearly GBP70 million. The set’s excellent domestic profile is complemented by a strong international presence, especially in the Middle East. With expertise stretching across the construction sector, the set is equipped to handle litigation arising from energy and infrastructure developments and other landmark construction projects.

Client service:

“Stewart Gibbs, senior clerk, is really in a different league to a lot of barristers’ clerks. He’s incredibly proactive and really tries to build high-quality relationships.”

“I really like dealing with 4 Pump Court. Stewart Gibbs and Billy Griffiths, practice director, are the standouts, I find them very straightforward.”

“The clerking team is brilliant. They are the most user friendly of the construction sets. Sam Penny, practice manager, is excellent, he always goes the extra mile.”

“The clerks are extremely pragmatic and very good at dealing with any client issues and are very approachable.”

SILKS

Sean Brannigan KC Sean Brannigan KC is a top-drawer silk widely hailed for his courtroom presence. He regularly acts in high-value domestic

cases and in major international arbitration seated worldwide, with an emphasis on work in the Far and Middle East. He is supremely capable in handling disputes relating to the largest projects internationally, from city-wide transport infrastructure to large-scale hospital developments.

Strengths:

"He gets to the heart of things, and the court has a real trust in him."

"Sean always vigorously argues his client's case. He's a formidable opponent."

"He adapts seamlessly: he can be a sledgehammer or a fencer."

"He takes a robust and direct approach to things, which is needed for very tricky cases."

"Sean is simply excellent."

Rachel Ansell KC Rachel Ansell KC is a highly lauded advocate with a strong reputation for her high-quality casework, domestically and internationally. She has been particularly active in international arbitrations, and has advised on matters arising in Europe, the Middle East and Australia. She is regularly instructed by major clients, such as prominent contractors, on matters in the energy and transport infrastructure spheres.

Strengths:

"Rachel is exceptionally hard-working and finds a path through even the most complex series of facts and legal issues. She is equally excellent with tribunals and clients, and is a pleasure to work with."

"She gets stuck into the detail and acts like an extension of our team. A very modern barrister."

"What she's always been good at is getting into the detail of a case while still looking at the bigger picture."

"She's very detail-oriented, a real team player who rolls up her sleeves and just gets into it."

Alexander Hickey KC Alexander Hickey KC has established a thriving practice in construction-related disputes. His skills as an advocate earn him considerable praise, particularly when deployed in adjudication enforcement cases. He is increasingly involved in cases in the Middle East, especially those in the infrastructure and energy sectors. He has been particularly active in complex PFI disputes.

Strengths:

"Alex Hickey is at the top of our list for tough, contentious litigation. He's a down-to-earth barrister who puts in the time and effort to deliver very good results."

Lynne McCafferty KC Lynne McCafferty KC is lauded for her skill in complex, highly technical construction disputes. Her robust domestic practice complements her impressive international arbitration offering, which is focused on the Middle East. She is particularly active in disputes involving aspects of professional negligence. She receives extensive praise for her client-friendly approach.

Strengths:

"Lynne excels in complex and significant matters. She is a delight to work with and takes pragmatic comments and suggestions on board."

"The perfect all-rounder – a pleasure to work with, fantastic technically and a very persuasive advocate."

"Lynne gets up to speed very quickly with all the

evidence and the key issues in matters, and her advocacy is superb."

"Lynne is flexible and gives clear, concise advice. She is a great strategist and clients like her."

Benjamin Pilling KC Benjamin Pilling KC is a high-quality silk with a substantial practice in both the UK and the Middle East. He has worked in a number of large-scale construction disputes in the residential, infrastructure and transport remits.

Strengths:

"Ben's advocacy is exceptional."

"Ben offers excellent strategic thinking, elegant drafting and excellent advocacy – the whole package."

"Absolutely brilliant. He's a great combination of commerciality and technical brilliance."

James Cross KC James Cross KC is a highly regarded practitioner with a broad practice. He is particularly noted for his high-quality work in professional negligence-related construction matters. His clients include a wide range of prominent players in the construction industry, including government departments and major insurers from the UK and abroad. PFI and PPP-related disputes have become an especially active part of his practice.

Strengths:

"James Cross exudes calmness and intellect. He provides deep and precise advice that invariably integrates with the wider commercial considerations and strategy."

James Leabeater KC James Leabeater KC is frequently instructed in complex international arbitration cases as part of his impressive construction practice. He has acted in large claims nationally and internationally, including in the Middle East and Australia. He has been particularly active in disputes involving hospitality and student accommodation developments, and his broad practice includes disputes arising from the shipping industry and cladding and fire safety issues.

Strengths:

"James is diligent, user-friendly and has excellent written work."

"A superstar in the making."

"He is fantastic – great on the detail and the strategy."

Jeremy Nicholson KC Jeremy Nicholson KC is a respected silk with a wealth of experience handling construction litigation and arbitrations. He is also noted for his adroit handling of construction-related professional negligence claims. He is frequently instructed in complex multiparty proceedings in the TCC.

Strengths:

"He's a fantastic advocate with a keen eye for detail."

"He is meticulous, unfailingly polite and a very persuasive advocate."

Claire Packman KC Claire Packman KC is a robust silk who advises a diverse client base including major contractors, engineers and developers. Her wide-reaching practice includes significant engagements in high-value adjudications and TCC cases, as well as international arbitration proceedings. She is particularly adept at dealing with disputes concerning engineering or design

failures, as well as those with professional negligence elements. She receives considerable praise for her superb drafting skills.

Strengths:

"Claire Packman is brilliant. She can get into the technical detail and understand things quickly."

"She is a weaver of words, a master of strategy and a tactical advocate."

Jessica Stephens KC Jessica Stephens KC undertakes a wide range of construction mandates, including TCC and arbitration proceedings. She is experienced with handling disputes arising out of energy projects and real estate developments in both domestic and international settings.

Strengths:

"Jessica is bold and bright. She is excellent on her feet and provides clear advice on prospects of success and appropriate levels of settlement."

"Very client-friendly, with a direct and clear style."

Jonathan Lewis KC Jonathan Lewis KC is a strong practitioner who regularly represents prominent clients such as major public bodies and large contractors. He has acted in high-profile disputes, adjudications and arbitrations. He has experience handling disputes relating to oil and gas infrastructure, transportation and housing developments.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is a pragmatic, commercially minded barrister who is delightful to work with and who gets on well with clients."

"He's very focused, very strong and very personable."

"Jonathan is very strong, very direct and always has an answer and opinion on the case."

JUNIORS

James Bowling James Bowling is an excellent junior who regularly appears in both domestic and international arbitration and frequently advises on complex litigation and adjudications in the UK, as well as enforcement matters. He regularly acts unled for a client base that includes multinational corporations and national governments. His work includes construction mandates arising in the hospitality and real estate development sectors.

Strengths:

"James Bowling has a firm grasp of TCC procedure, very balanced judgement and a very good knowledge of the law."

"His knowledge is second to none. He is approachable and pragmatic."

"A very beautifully prepared advocate. He's super bright and quick on his feet."

Thomas Crangle Thomas Crangle is a leading junior with a robust litigation offering and a burgeoning international arbitration practice. He is increasingly acting as sole counsel in arbitration, adjudication and TCC proceedings. His experience also includes appearances before the Court of Appeal. He offers particular expertise in disputes arising from developments in the media sector.

Strengths:

"Tom Crangle is an extremely bright, commercially minded barrister who is an exceptional advocate."

"Tom is absolutely thorough in his work and is an effective and calm operator. He provides astute,

timely and focused advice in a manner which is easy to consume.”

Kate Livesey Kate Livesey is a prominent junior who frequently appears unled in the TCC and before international tribunals, with a particular emphasis on construction-related professional negligence cases. She has represented an array of clients including contractors, subcontractors and insurers in a number of high-value disputes.

Strengths:

“Kate is absolutely outstanding. She’s a real star and a go-to junior for difficult and high-value construction disputes.”

“She is very hard-working, very clear, very experienced and not afraid of detail.”

Luke Wygas Luke Wygas is a well-regarded junior who frequently advises on complex construction disputes, arbitrations and adjudications. He is able to draw upon his previous experience as a civil engineer to inform his burgeoning practice, particularly in areas such as concrete and nuclear projects. The geographical scope of his practice continues to expand as he handles disputes arising out of projects in Africa and Asia.

Strengths:

“Luke is a tenacious and superbly creative advocate.”

“Obviously excellent.”

“Brilliant and technical, but with a very relaxed demeanour; he’s a fantastic advocate.”

Sanjay Patel Sanjay Patel has a strong reputation for his handling of complex construction and engineering disputes. He has particular expertise in rail and energy-related construction litigation.

Strengths:

“Sanjay is brilliant – methodical but personable, he’s a go-to if you ever need quick but thorough advice.”

“An incredibly hard-working and super-prepared barrister who can also think on his feet.”

“A very talented barrister with great commercial understanding.”

Jennie Gillies Jennie Gillies is a senior junior with extensive experience of construction law disputes, as well as related professional negligence litigation. She is frequently instructed in high-value domestic claims concerning breaches of contract and defective works.

Strengths:

“Jennie gets to the point, is helpful in her advice and thinks outside of the box when required.”

“Jennie is responsive to questions on strategy and plays a full part in devising the appropriate strategy for the claim in question. She is quick on her feet in hearings yet calm and considered throughout.”

“Jennie is a pleasure to work with and is technically brilliant.”

Simon Hale Simon Hale has established an excellent reputation for his handling of a wide range of construction disputes both led and as sole counsel. He is well versed in a wide range of construction contracts. His practice increasingly sees him acting in international matters covering an array of jurisdictions.

Strengths:

“He’s really able to slip into our team as a member rather than being siloed. He’s kept to pressured deadlines and is also a very pleasant person to

work with.”

“Simon is very responsive, thorough, easy to deal with, and clients like him. His advocacy is also very good.”

“Simon is passionate about getting the strategy to get the right outcome.”

Simon Henderson Simon Henderson is a widely respected senior junior who has acted in an impressive range of construction disputes and related professional negligence claims. He acts for employers as well as contractors, and his previous work has seen him act on behalf of architects and engineers.

Strengths:

“Simon is very user-friendly. He rolls up his sleeves and really gets stuck in.”

Daniel Churcher Daniel Churcher has an established reputation for handling a wide array of construction disputes. He acts in litigation arising out of domestic and international projects, including major residential, transport and hospitality developments, and is noted for his growing expertise in cases involving large-scale developments in the Middle East.

Strengths:

“Dan is very diligent and hard-working. He gets across a large body of information quickly, and thinks outside the box to recommend alternative and elegant solutions and strategies.”

“He’s clear-thinking and very diligent with great tactical overview.”

“He has an encyclopedic recall of the facts of the case and is a brilliant creative thinker.”

Ed Jones Ed Jones is increasingly well versed in handling large-scale energy and infrastructure projects, both domestically and in the Middle East. His work has included numerous adjudications, TCC litigation and international arbitration.

Strengths:

“Intellectually very impressive with an extremely effective style of advocacy.”

Daniel Khoo Daniel Khoo has notable experience of both UK-based and international arbitrations, adjudications and litigation, particularly including matters which relate to contracts and agreements such as NEC, FIDIC and JCT forms. His cross-border practice sees him represent clients in venues across Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Strengths:

“Daniel is commercially savvy and quick to get to the heart of the problem and advise accordingly.”

Matthew Thorne Matthew Thorne has significant experience as both junior and sole counsel in major construction litigation and arbitration. He has notable expertise in cladding claims.

Strengths:

“Matthew Thorne is smart, approachable and diligent. He always gets straight to the nub of the issues and is invariably one step ahead on strategy.”

“Matthew is very good at technically difficult matters.”

Band 3

4 New Square Chambers

4 New Square Chambers, which maintains a strong construction law team, is “very smart, slick

and able to deal with very complex issues with ease.” Its strong team of barristers, described by one source as “very knowledgeable, experienced and excellent at advising on legal and technical issues,” are highly sought after by contractors and developers to handle the full spectrum of construction disputes, and the set’s strong reputation for professional negligence and insurance issues complements the construction law offering. Barristers at the set have acted in notable cladding cases, including *Tesco v Willmott Dixon* and *Willmott Dixon v Prater*. Chambers also has a reputable international construction disputes practice, in addition to its extensive TCC and domestic ADR expertise.

Client service:

“The clerks at 4 New Square are excellent. They’re responsive and helpful at all times.”

“The clerks offer a fantastic service. Lizzie Stewart, senior clerk, is superb and quick to resolve any issue.”

“They are the best clerks of all of the sets I instruct. The quality of the clerks does have an impact on which set I choose to instruct on cases, and 4 New Square’s Clerks are responsive, approachable, professional and efficient.”

SILKS

Ben Patten KC Ben Patten KC is a strong silk who advises on big-ticket construction matters including all manner of domestic disputes and international arbitration. His construction expertise is complemented by an acclaimed professional negligence offering. His loyal client base includes contractors, developers and insurers. He is also sought out as a mediator in construction disputes.

Strengths:

“Ben has an ability to make complicated elements very simple. Very popular with clients and with solicitors for his robust approach.”

“Ben is a pleasure to work with, commercially and legally top notch on complex contractual problems.”

“He’s extremely bright, very calm, unflappable and grasps the very complex very quickly.”

“A very inventive problem solver, very intelligent and very good with clients.”

“A brave advocate who spots the right points and takes them – he doesn’t worry about the detritus.”

Roger Stewart KC Roger Stewart KC is a highly regarded senior silk with a strong reputation for work in construction-related professional negligence. He is increasingly active in high-stakes international arbitrations. He receives plaudits for his commercial and client-centric approach. His work includes complex PFI disputes.

Strengths:

“Roger Stewart is a good advocate, strategically very sound and good with clients.”

“Roger has an outstanding ability to identify and focus on the key issues distilled from voluminous complex and sophisticated technical factual matters.”

Siân Mirchandani KC Siân Mirchandani KC is well regarded for her construction work at tribunal and beyond. She undertakes work on both the employer and contractor sides, handling numerous contractual issues in dispute including

defects and delay claims. She has acted in an array of cases, with subject matter including the supply of cladding, concrete and steelwork.

Strengths:

"A very astute silk who is excellent on the detail, very approachable and able to set out a strategy for complex cases."

"She's a really strong advocate who has the judges' trust. Very good in the courtroom."

"Siân is very good at getting into the detail and working in a team."

"She's very good and is a pleasure to work with. A very good advocate with a great manner in the courtroom."

Richard Liddell KC Richard Liddell KC is a talented silk with a notably broad practice, who demonstrates particular strength in cases concerning contractors and engineers. He is particularly experienced in defending defect claims. He regularly acts in adjudications and arbitration and has appeared in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Richard Liddell is consistently excellent and is a brilliant advocate both in writing and orally."

"He is very sharp and incredibly hard-working. It is impressive how quickly he can digest voluminous and complex documentation and summarise key points that require actioning."

JUNIORS

Paul Cowan Paul Cowan is a respected junior with a broad construction practice. He is especially active in disputes concerning nuclear power and oil and gas. He represents clients in domestic litigation at the TCC and in significant international arbitration hearings. He has experience handling difficult delay and defect claims. His experience includes handling claims involving allegedly defective cladding.

Strengths:

"Paul is able to get to the root of complex, legal issues quickly and provides clear, concise and also pragmatic advice."

"He's very innovative in his ideas and a good thinker."

"He's articulate and bright, and his experience in private practice is really strong because he can apply the law to the problem very commercially."

"The most prepared barrister I've ever come across. He's really very good."

Hugh Saunders Hugh Saunders has a strong reputation for his successful practice covering various kinds of construction disputes, including those concerning residential and commercial developments, and infrastructure projects. He routinely represents contractors and developers in High Court proceedings as well as arbitrations and adjudications, often appearing as sole counsel.

Strengths:

"Hugh is a very good counsel. He's careful and meticulous on the detail and exploits important details well."

"He is approachable and technically strong."

Lucy Colter Lucy Colter is a well-regarded junior who is developing an impressive construction practice. She acts on behalf of major contractors as well as engineers and real estate developers.

Her capabilities include professional negligence claims as well as contractual disputes. She has particular experience of handling construction disputes in the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

"Lucy is meticulous in her analysis of the facts and the law. She's a very capable advocate."

"She's impressive, confident and has ability beyond her call. She's extremely good with clients and a reassuring presence."

"She's very thorough, very well prepared and great at putting the best foot forward."

George McDonald George McDonald is a highly regarded junior with extensive experience in major construction litigation and arbitration. He has particularly notable expertise in disputes arising from large government projects.

Strengths:

"George has a real strength if you've got a case that requires a lot of data or technical analysis. He has a very good brain for picking apart data and technical documents, and working through the technical challenges of those cases."

"Always attentive and on the button."

"George instils immediate confidence in his ability. He has laser-like focus in cross-examination and is unflappable when under pressure."

Timothy Chelmick Timothy Chelmick is an impressive junior barrister managing a busy construction practice. He appears in both domestic and international litigation, adjudication and arbitration proceedings. His diverse workload incorporates professional liability disputes as well as large infrastructure and energy projects.

Paul Fisher has extensive experience of domestic construction litigation, regularly appearing under in the TCC, and of international arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Paul Fisher is very effective, extremely responsive and commercially minded in all of his work."

"Paul got up to speed with many complex issues in the case very quickly."

Crown Office Chambers

Crown Office Chambers is a highly regarded set with notable construction silks and a strong group of barristers at the junior end. The set is "experienced in dealing with complex and sophisticated matters and do so well," says an instructing solicitor. The barristers act for the full breadth of construction industry clients, including developers, contractors, and design and engineering professionals. The set offers excellent additional capabilities in construction insurance and professional negligence cases. The barristers are highly experienced in construction disputes arising in the social and transport infrastructure area and the energy sectors. This year, members have appeared in the TCC case *Sky, Mace and Prater v Insurers*, a GBP200 million defects claim dispute. Barristers at Crown Office Chambers also regularly feature in cases concerning major commercial developments.

Client service:

"Rob Cowup, senior clerk, is always helpful."

"The clerks are extremely efficient, helpful and responsive. Clients are extremely satisfied with the service provided overall."

"We had great experience with the clerks. They

were super responsive and super nice and got the costs sorted early."

SILKS

Andrew Rigney KC Andrew Rigney KC is an eminent silk who regularly acts in high-value litigation and arbitration in the UK and internationally. His diverse practice covers a range of disputes, relating to such matters as infrastructure projects, oil and gas plants, and large real estate developments. He is especially proficient in insurance disputes arising in the construction sector.

Strengths:

"Andrew is very formidable. He's a very strong barrister."

"He's actually one of the cleverest barristers I know and work with, combined with a genuine charm. He has an encyclopedic brain."

"He's excellent – very, very good in front of tribunals, and his advocacy is top drawer."

Isabel Hitching KC Isabel Hitching KC boasts a tally of appearances in important and high-value construction cases, including a Supreme Court case of significance to the status of adjudication decisions. She acts for both private and public sector clients in a wide range of matters, including PFI disputes and defective construction claims.

Strengths:

"She's very calm, very level-headed and very strong. She has a very, very strategic approach."

"Very sensible, constructive and straightforward to deal with."

"Isabel's mind is just razor sharp; she will spot things in huge mounds of paperwork and see a relevance in them and map it all through. Her brain is basically a supercomputer."

"Isabel is excellent. She's particularly good on cases that are a bit novel and different. She's very thorough, meticulous and a great strategist."

Crispin Winsor KC Crispin Winsor KC is a well-respected barrister whose construction practice extends from domestic residential development work and PFI disputes to large-scale international arbitration. He has acted in professional negligence claims as well as adjudication enforcement proceedings. He has tackled a raft of disputes originating in the Middle East. He is frequently sought out as sole counsel in complex construction cases.

Strengths:

"Crispin Winsor is an exceptionally hard-working and brilliant barrister."

JUNIORS

Anna Laney Anna Laney is an impressive junior who is regularly instructed in large and technically complex construction litigation and arbitration. She is frequently sought out to act for major contractors in highly technical disputes arising out of construction projects. Her practice extends into procurement and insurance-related cases.

Strengths:

"Anna Laney is the real deal: her ability to grasp the nuances of a technical issue and then to deliver in cross-examination is second to none. She is also a pleasure to work with."

"Anna really is exceptional – she has an ability to make even the most complex of matters clear and digestible, both for the client and the tribunal."

"She's great: approachable, diligent and very efficient."

"She's wonderful – very strong on her feet, tough to beat, she really gets into the cases, and clients and lawyers love working with her."

Charles Pimlott Charles Pimlott is a talented junior who acts in arbitration, adjudications and adjudication enforcements in the TCC. He is au fait with the full range of standard form contracts and also handles disputes arising from bespoke contract arrangements. His experience includes disputes arising out of infrastructure projects as well as high-value residential developments.

Strengths:

"Charles Pimlott is really dependable. He's really good at doing the technical construction work. He's excellent with expert witnesses and is an excellent drafter."

"He's excellent."

Michele De Gregorio Michele De Gregorio has experience in a wide range of construction litigation, arbitration and adjudication including on matters related to fire safety and design defects. He is regularly instructed as sole counsel in domestic and international disputes.

Strengths:

"Michele De Gregorio's ability to get to grips with a variety of issues is impressive. He's responsive and pleasure to work with."

"Very, very good. He's forensically very excellent and an excellent cross-examiner."

Patrick Maxwell Patrick Maxwell is regularly instructed on high-profile TCC claims as well as arbitrations and adjudications. He has experience acting in matters related to transport and residential developments, among many others, and he is often sought out to act as sole counsel.

Strengths:

"Patrick Maxwell is skilful, knowledgeable, approachable and user-friendly."

"Patrick gets to grips with what the claim actually is and his drafting is excellent. There's never a point made that's frivolous. He's very homed in and very keen on the nub of the matters at hand."

Richard Sage Richard Sage has a strong reputation among instructing solicitors with significant experience acting for clients in litigation in the TCC and Court of Appeal. He has additional expertise in domestic and international arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

"Richard Sage's advocacy was very good, very well prepared. His assistance in drafting submissions was very good and very practical."

"He's very accessible, very responsive, very thorough and provides well-thought-out arguments."

"Richard quickly understood the issues in dispute, offered practical and innovative advice, and worked well with the client team."

Dermot Woolgar Dermot Woolgar is a well-regarded junior with a vast expertise in property-related construction disputes. He regularly works on adjudication enforcement proceedings, disputes heard in the TCC and arbitrations. He has experience of acting both domestically and internationally.

Strengths:

"Dermot Woolgar's advocacy is exceptional; he is very smooth and judges just love him. He is excep-

tionally experienced and has seen it all before."

"Dermot is as impressive in conference as he is in a written advice. He has unusually broad knowledge and experience without any lack of depth."

"A very easygoing, calm advocate who gets on with his opponents, which helps him get what he wants."

"He is very calm, very direct and very straightforward."

"An excellent advocate – calm and unflappable."

39 Essex Chambers

39 Essex Chambers continues to provide an impressive construction law practice, and the set has notable strength at both silk and junior levels. Sources describe it as providing "an amazing stable of barristers" who are "able to offer a commercial view." The barristers are sought out by clients in the construction industry across the length and breadth of the UK, and also undertake a huge amount of international work. The set draws instructions from those on both the contractor and developer sides, including government bodies. Members of the set handle notable work in relation to high-profile residential and commercial developments, as well as cases concerning heavy engineering and infrastructure projects. This year, members have appeared in the high-profile Twickenham Stadium dispute, and members continue to advise the head of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The set's practice area expertise extends into PFI and PPP contract disputes, and the barristers have experience in complex cladding and fire safety issues.

Client service:

"The clerks are prompt, diligent and honest about availability."

"Chris Jones, practice manager, is very efficient."

"They are very responsive and easy to contact."

"The clerks respond promptly and efficiently, keeping you abreast of developments at their end."

SILKS

Karim Ghaly KC Karim Ghaly KC attracts praise from industry observers for his consummate advocacy. He is regularly instructed to represent clients in TCC and appellate proceedings and in complex international arbitrations. He frequently handles cases involving energy and professional negligence issues, and is noted for his deep understanding of the mechanisms of PFI and PPP disputes. His international client base includes contractors, subcontractors and employers.

Strengths:

"Karim provides an excellent level of service and technical knowledge."

"A fluent advocate who will fight his corner hard."

"Karim is flawlessly prepared, incredibly trustworthy and all-round star."

Paul Darling KC Paul Darling KC is a heavyweight silk with a strong global practice that often involves tribunal work in the Far and Middle East. His domestic work sees him regularly appearing before the TCC in an array of high-value cases.

Strengths:

"An excellent tactician."

"A thumpingly good advocate who is infinitely knowledgeable."

Marion Smith KC Marion Smith KC is a high-quality silk who is recognised for her prowess in adjudications, TCC proceedings and international arbitration. She is sought after to advise on a variety of matters, including PFI, energy and engineering disputes. She is noted for her ability to establish excellent working relationships with clients. She has significant experience representing clients in domestic ADR proceedings.

Strengths:

"Marion is outstanding in every respect. You want her in your corner."

"Marion really puts clients at ease and communicates very clearly with them. She can identify what clients want to get out of the issue, and the clients can feel like they're in very safe and capable hands."

"Marion Smith has a great commerciality about her."

Kate Grange KC Kate Grange KC has a diverse construction practice that often incorporates issues of public law. She is frequently instructed in sophisticated pieces of litigation and arbitration arising out of the insurance and professional negligence elements of construction. She is best known for her role as one of the leading counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Strengths:

"Kate Grange is fabulous. She is utterly over all the detail, very technically able and a very careful and thorough cross-examiner."

"She shows an impressive mastery of the technical issues across multiple disciplines and handles oral witnesses expertly."

"She's well prepared and good at getting on top of a range of detailed expert issues. A calm, measured and clear advocate."

Adrian Hughes KC Adrian Hughes KC is a skilled silk with a robust domestic practice and a particular interest in infrastructure and PFI work, including disputes relating to construction projects in the healthcare sector. His international arbitration offering is notable, and he undertakes significant work in the Middle and Far East. He is also recognised for his experience acting as an arbitrator in construction and engineering disputes.

Strengths:

"Adrian Hughes steers the work masterfully."

Adam Robb KC Adam Robb KC is a well-regarded practitioner who is regularly sought after by household-name law firms to assist with high-value disputes. He works in construction matters arising from a range of industry sectors including transport, energy and healthcare. He is especially proficient in litigation involving aspects of professional negligence.

JUNIORS

Jess Connors Jess Connors maintains a wide-ranging practice which covers domestic disputes alongside international arbitration. She has acted for prominent employers and contractors in disputes across the world. Her practice relates to a variety of areas including energy, infrastructure and residential developments. Her experience includes litigation involving allegedly defective cladding.

Strengths:

"Jess is incredibly bright, conscientious and a calm head."

"She's just a barrister who's completely on top of everything, who doesn't let anything pass her by, and who is possibly one of the most diligent and dedicated barristers I've ever worked with. She's just so clever."

Rebecca Drake Rebecca Drake has significant experience in construction litigation and international and domestic arbitration. She has acted in transport, PFI contract and housing disputes, among a vast array of other issues. She is frequently sought as a sole counsel on matters.

Strengths:

"Rebecca is fantastic to work with and great with clients."

Patrick Hennessey Patrick Hennessey is an impressive junior who is sought out in a wide range of construction matters. His work includes disputes involving transport infrastructure, energy projects and property development. He provides expert representation to public and private sector employers as well as contractors, and is adept at handling international arbitration in addition to litigation proceedings.

Strengths:

"An extremely good barrister."

David Hopkins David Hopkins is a strong barrister praised for his technical expertise in complex construction matters. He regularly appears before the TCC and has experience of public inquiries, having worked on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Strengths:

"David is a pleasure to work with and combines technical excellence with nous and hard work."

"David provides excellent service, particularly when participating in conferences with lay clients. He will bear in mind the overall commercial issues and the big picture, as well as the fine detail of the points in dispute."

Hannah McCarthy Hannah McCarthy has a strong domestic construction practice. She has particular expertise and experience in disputes concerning PFI and local government contracts, as well as cases arising from housing developments.

Strengths:

"Hannah is an absolute delight to work with."

"She can pick up a case at the last minute and produce submissions of a very high standard."

Melissa Shipley Melissa Shipley undertakes a wide range of construction-related disputes, including litigation, adjudication and various other forms of ADR. She already has notable experience in disputes arising from energy and infrastructure projects both in the UK and abroad.

Strengths:

"Melissa's communication is excellent. She adopts a commercial approach as well as taking account of the legal complexities."

"She is very user-friendly and all over the detail."

"Melissa genuinely is excellent all round. She is also really good in her interaction with clients. In short, clients love her. She is straightforward and they know they can trust what she says."

Gatehouse Chambers

Gatehouse Chambers has a notable reputation for handling construction law disputes and

has a particularly strong offering of senior juniors. The barristers at the set are able to bring broader expertise in areas such as professional negligence, insurance and property damage to their construction cases. An interviewee comments that the set is "very good on technical legal issues," while another notes the lawyers "handle matters quickly and efficiently." Members are highly capable across a broad range of construction disputes, including those concerning emerging fire safety and cladding issues. Members of the set have acted in the high-stakes dispute *Wm Morrison Supermarkets v Lorient et al*. Gatehouse's barristers make regular appearances in the TCC and handle various ADR proceedings for clients involved in project disputes arising from a range of industry sectors.

Client service:

"The clerks are wonderful."

"Natasha Devlin-Clingham, practice manager, is really, really helpful. They have good responsiveness and problem solving."

"The clerking is really good and efficient."

SILKS

Paul Reed KC Paul Reed KC is a popular silk with a high-quality practice both domestically and in the Middle East. His construction offering is enhanced by his acknowledged expertise in the insurance sector. His client base includes contractors, insurers and developers.

Strengths:

"Paul Reed is a really, really hard-working and knowledgeable barrister. He'll leave no stone unturned."

"Paul is very good at insurance and construction matters. He's extremely technically able and has a deep knowledge of the market."

Nigel Jones KC Nigel Jones KC skilfully handles complex construction claims on behalf of developers, contractors and public authorities, among others. His practice is international in scope, with a focus on Malaysia and the Middle East, and is complemented by his significant experience in insurance-related disputes.

Strengths:

"Nigel Jones is user-friendly, clear, direct and technically excellent."

Catherine Piercy KC Catherine Piercy KC's diverse practice includes regular appearances in adjudications, ADR and high-value litigation. She is regularly instructed by a client base of contractors, insurers and other insurance professionals. Her work includes disputes concerning allegedly defective cladding.

Strengths:

"Her advocacy is outstanding and she's always a pleasure to work with."

"A real star. Her written work is excellent and she doesn't miss a beat. She's clear, concise and robust in her analysis. She's an incredibly strong advocate and she works incredibly hard."

David Pliener KC David Pliener KC regularly acts in litigation, arbitration and adjudications nationwide and abroad. He has advised on disputes in sectors as diverse as renewables, structural engineering and leisure. Clients that typically instruct him include contractors, construction professionals and property owners. He is strong in con-

struction-related insurance and property damage litigation.

Strengths:

"David is very bright, very switched on and very tuned into the client's need. He's also very commercial and really adds value to the team."

"He's on top of everything all the time. He has absolute control and master of the detail, strategy and the general matter while maintaining a casual nature that makes working with him a joy."

"He has an incredible attention to detail and his pleadings are first rate. He's very good on his feet as well."

JUNIORS

Michael Wheeler Michael Wheeler is a strong junior with a UK-focused practice who represents clients from across the construction industry, including developers and contractors. He is particularly proficient in construction disputes involving professional negligence claims, and also has experience advising on insurance mandates.

Strengths:

"Michael is excellent. He's very personable, responsive, clients like him and he is good on his feet, with a good commercial sense."

"Michael always has the answer. He has a very, very strong understanding of the law and of construction, but is very easy to work with and takes on a very commercial approach. His written advice is always spot on."

"He's great at getting up to speed and provides commercial and supportive advice."

Ebony Alleyne Ebony Alleyne has a strong construction practice covering TCC proceedings, as well as adjudications and arbitrations. She acts for the full range of construction industry clients, including employers, contractors and other related professionals.

Strengths:

"Ebony is a brilliant barrister."

Andrew Kearney Andrew Kearney is an established construction and engineering barristers handling a broad range of disputes. He has particular experience in the representation of contractor clients including in international projects. A qualified arbitrator and mediator, he is well suited to settling disputes through those ADR forums in addition to TCC proceedings.

Simon Kerry Simon Kerry is a well-regarded junior with experience acting in construction litigation and arbitration matters. His practice is particularly focused on construction insurance-related disputes related to a variety of sectors such as energy and residential developments.

Strengths:

"He's very good to work with – very responsive, user-friendly – and is always on time and gives great commercial and concise advice."

"He's a very good writer."

"A super-easy barrister to work with."

Sarah McCann Sarah McCann acts on a variety of domestic disputes including TCC claims and adjudications, with a particular focus on professional negligence and insurance-related construction work. She has a strong track record of handling complex cases, both led and unled, and is particularly well versed with handling defect claims.

Strengths:

“Sarah McCann is responsive, pragmatic and extremely easy to deal with. Her straightforward and clear drafting style has brought clarity to complex matters.”

“Sarah is amazing – she’s approachable and available and she gives clear, concise and quick responses.”

Helena White Helena White has a practice covering a broad array of construction and engineering disputes, including cases involving related insurance and professional negligence issues. She has particular expertise in cases arising out of water and waste disposal-related projects.

Strengths:

“Helena provides good, clear commercial advice.”

“She’s very approachable, very bright and very commercial.”

“She’s great with clients, her written work is of an incredibly high standard, and her submissions are just incredibly well presented and robust.”

Kort Egan is developing a strong construction practice. He regularly appears in the TCC, including unled. He has experience dealing with matters related to defects and delay work.

Strengths:

“Kort Egan is very good in terms of submissions and written pleadings. He has a real clarity of

argument and is good at identifying the weaknesses of the other side’s case and picking up on points that would otherwise be missed.”

“Kort is exceptionally good and is growing in stature and expertise in construction. He’s very good on FIDIC contracts.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Anneliese Day KC (Fountain Court Chambers) Anneliese Day KC of Fountain Court Chambers is a standout silk with an enviable domestic practice that regularly sees her instructed in high-profile arbitration, litigation and adjudications. Her international offering includes work in the Far East, the Middle East and the Caribbean. She is knowledgeable about PFI and PPP projects and is active in construction disputes involving transport infrastructure.

Strengths:

“Anneliese is the complete package. She’s exceptionally good on the law and is excellent in witness handling. She’s a formidable opponent.”

“Anneliese is really user-friendly. Clients really like her and get along with her.”

“Very much deserves her status as one of the best construction silks.”

“A real star at the Bar.”

“She is exceptionally easy to work with. She’s incredibly bright with a strategic mind that is second to none. If you need a case unlocking, Anneliese is the absolutely go to.”

Max Kasriel (Fountain Court Chambers) Max Kasriel of Fountain Court Chambers is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with in the field of commercial and construction disputes. He draws upon substantial previous experience as a management consultant to help him meet his clients’ needs, and he is highly adept in international construction matters relating to renewable energy and public infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

“Max Kasriel is very thorough and diligent. He’s a very strong writer, and his pleadings and drafting have been excellent.”

“He’s a really big brain and can digest large amounts of information very quickly and get to the correct answers. He does excellent work.”

“Highly intelligent, you know he’s thought of everything.”

Dispute Resolution Commercial

Dispute Resolution: Commercial
Leading Sets
Band 1
Brick Court Chambers
One Essex Court
Essex Court Chambers
Fountain Court Chambers
3 Verulam Buildings
Band 2
Blackstone Chambers
Twenty Essex
7 King’s Bench Walk
Serle Court
Band 3
4 New Square Chambers
Maitland Chambers
Quadrant Chambers
4 Stone Buildings
Wilberforce Chambers
Band 4
XXIV Old Buildings
4 Pump Court
South Square
Band 5
Erskine Chambers
Gatehouse Chambers
Littleton Chambers
2 Temple Gardens

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Brick Court Chambers

Brick Court lays claim to some of the leading practitioners in the market. Its barristers are regularly involved in the highest-value and most high-profile matters. Recent highlights for members have included: Nokia v Oppo, a case concerned with the terms on which Oppo should be required to take a licence over Nokia’s portfolio of standard-essential telecoms patents; Grenfell related litigation advising Whirlpool in relation to potential claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire; and Qatar Airways v Airbus, a EUR1 billion dispute alleging defective design and manufacturing problems. One source comments: “Brick Court has a strong team at all levels.”

Client service:

“The best clerking team in the business.”

“The clerks are fantastic. Senior clerks Paul Denison and Tony Burgess are accommodating, but at the same time tough and robust. They run a very good shop – the clerks at the set are among the very best.”

“The clerks are very responsive and willing to work with us to reach the best outcome.”

“Deputy senior clerk Luke Carvalho is responsive commercial and pragmatic in his approach. He’ll find you the right counsel for the case.”

“Senior practice manager Jo Francis is efficient and a pleasure to deal with every time.”

“Jo Francis is bright, super responsive and someone who make herself available to deal with you.”

“Practice managers Phil Wilkes and James Knapp are both excellent.”

“The clerks are very good. They give you a good selection of barristers, they are very responsive and they are uncompromising in terms of quality.”

SILKS

Helen Davies KC

Strengths: “Helen is incredibly sharp and a real pleasure to work with. Her approach is calm, commercial and legally tight.”

“She is outstanding. Whenever you are in court with Helen you know you are in perfect hands.”

“Helen Davies is the absolute master of the detail. She will not stand up in court until she knows everything.”

Mark Howard KC

Strengths: “Mark Howard is simply the best advocate of recent times when it comes to complex disputes. He is extremely smart, has amazing cross-examination skills, and is someone who knows how to win a case.”

“Mark is a very good advocate, who commands the courtroom.”

Dispute Resolution: Commercial		
Leading Silks		
Star individuals		
Crow Jonathan 4 Stone Buildings	Nash Jonathan 3 Verulam Buildings	Birt Simon Brick Court Chambers
Davies Helen Brick Court Chambers	Orr Craig One Essex Court	Bloch Michael Blackstone Chambers
Howard Mark Brick Court Chambers	Pillow Nathan Essex Court Chambers	Boase Anna One Essex Court
Rabinowitz Laurence One Essex Court	Quest David 3 Verulam Buildings	Boulton Richard One Essex Court
Salzedo Simon Brick Court Chambers	Robertson Patricia Fountain Court Chambers	Brocklebank James 7 King's Bench Walk
Smouha Joe Essex Court Chambers	Sabben-Clare Rebecca 7 King's Bench Walk	Casey Aidan South Square
Thanki Bankim Fountain Court Chambers	Samek Charles Littleton Chambers	Chapman Graham 4 New Square Chambers
Tolaney Sonia One Essex Court	Saoul Daniel 4 New Square Chambers	Davies Huw Essex Court Chambers
Band 1	Shivji Sharif A. 4 Stone Buildings	Davies Rhodri One Essex Court
Adam Tom Brick Court Chambers	Stanley Paul Essex Court Chambers	Dhillon Jasbir Brick Court Chambers
Beltrami Adrian 3 Verulam Buildings	Toube Felicity South Square	Fealy Michael One Essex Court
Choo Choy Alain One Essex Court	Tozzi Nigel 4 Pump Court	Gledhill Orlando One Essex Court
Day Anneliese Fountain Court Chambers	Weisselberg Tom Blackstone Chambers	Goldsmith Jamie One Essex Court
Flynn Vernon Brick Court Chambers	Willan James Essex Court Chambers	Hardwick Matthew 3 Verulam Buildings
Gaisman Jonathan 7 King's Bench Walk	Band 3	Higgo Justin Serle Court
Gourgey Alan Wilberforce Chambers	Addy Catherine Maitland Chambers	Houseman Stephen Essex Court Chambers
Green Andrew Blackstone Chambers	Allison David South Square	John Laura Fountain Court Chambers
Handyside Richard Fountain Court Chambers	Ashworth Lance Serle Court	Kendrick Dominic 7 King's Bench Walk
Hill Richard 4 Stone Buildings	Berry Steven Essex Court Chambers	Lewis David Twenty Essex
Hunter Andrew Blackstone Chambers	Bompas George 4 Stone Buildings	Lewis David Gatehouse Chambers A
Jones Elizabeth Serle Court	Bools Michael Brick Court Chambers	Lightman Daniel Serle Court
Kitchener Neil One Essex Court	Chapman Jeffrey Fountain Court Chambers	Lord David W Three Stone (ORL) D
Lord Tim Brick Court Chambers	Cohen Jonathan Littleton Chambers	Lynch Ben Fountain Court Chambers
MacLean Kenneth One Essex Court	Coleman Richard Fountain Court Chambers	Maclea Alan Blackstone Chambers
Malek Ali 3 Verulam Buildings	Collins James Essex Court Chambers	Montagu-Smith Tom 3 Verulam Buildings
Marshall Philip Serle Court	Colton Simon One Essex Court	Moriarty Stephen Fountain Court Chambers
McQuater Ewan 3 Verulam Buildings	Davies-Jones Jonathan 3 Verulam Buildings	Moverley Smith Stephen XXIV Old Buildings
Onslow Andrew 3 Verulam Buildings	de la Mare Thomas Blackstone Chambers	Norbury Hugh Serle Court
Railton David Fountain Court Chambers	de Mestre Andrew 4 Stone Buildings	Oppenheimer Tamara Fountain Court Chambers
Rainey Simon Quadrant Chambers	de Verneuil Smith Peter 3 Verulam Buildings	Peto Anthony Blackstone Chambers
Ritchie Stuart Fountain Court Chambers	Edwards David 7 King's Bench Walk	Pillai Rajesh 3 Verulam Buildings
Toledano Daniel One Essex Court	George Andrew Blackstone Chambers	Plewman SC Thomas Brick Court Chambers
Wardell John Wilberforce Chambers	Graham Charles One Essex Court	Riches Philip Twenty Essex
Wolfson David One Essex Court	Green Patrick Henderson Chambers (ORL) D A	Rubin Stephen Fountain Court Chambers
Band 2	Gunning Alexander One Essex Court	Shekerdemian Marcia Wilberforce Chambers
Adkin Jonathan Serle Court	Howe Robert Blackstone Chambers	Shepherd Philip Chambers of Philip (ORL) D
Allen David 7 King's Bench Walk	Howe Timothy Fountain Court Chambers	Singla Tony Brick Court Chambers
Anderson Robert Blackstone Chambers	Jones Nigel Gatehouse Chambers A	Smith Tom South Square
Auld Stephen One Essex Court	Kealey Gavin 7 King's Bench Walk	Spalton George 4 New Square Chambers
Béar Charles Fountain Court Chambers	Kimmins Charles Twenty Essex	Steinfeld Alan XXIV Old Buildings
Bingham Camilla One Essex Court	Kramer Adam 3 Verulam Buildings	Taylor John Fountain Court Chambers
Brisby John 4 Stone Buildings	Kulkarni Yash Quadrant Chambers	Thompson Steven XXIV Old Buildings
Cavender David One Essex Court	Lowenstein Paul Twenty Essex	Warwick Henry Henderson Chambers (ORL) D
Cogley Stephen 4 Pump Court	Machell John Serle Court	Webb Geraint Henderson Chambers (ORL) D
Cumming Edward XXIV Old Buildings	Masefield Roger Brick Court Chambers	White Antony Matrix Chambers (ORL) D
Dale Derrick Fountain Court Chambers	Matovu Harry Brick Court Chambers	Band 5
de Garr Robinson Anthony One Essex Court	Midwinter Stephen Brick Court Chambers	Akkouh Tim Essex Court Chambers
Dougherty Charles 2 Temple Gardens	Mill Ian Blackstone Chambers	Ayres Andrew Twenty Essex
Downes Paul Quadrant Chambers	Millett Richard Essex Court Chambers	Bailey James Wilberforce Chambers
Dunning Graham Essex Court Chambers	Mitchell Andrew Fountain Court Chambers	Blayney David Serle Court
Edey KC Philip Twenty Essex	Onions Jeffery One Essex Court	Chambers Dominic Maitland Chambers
Fatima Shaheed Blackstone Chambers	Patton Conall One Essex Court	Chivers David Erskine Chambers
Fenwick Justin 4 New Square Chambers	Penny Tim Wilberforce Chambers	Collings Matthew Maitland Chambers
Goodall Patrick Fountain Court Chambers	Phelps Rosalind Fountain Court Chambers	Craig Nicholas 3 Verulam Buildings
Grabiner Anthony One Essex Court	Pilbrow Fionn Brick Court Chambers	Croxford Ian Wilberforce Chambers
Head David 3 Verulam Buildings	Pilling Benjamin 4 Pump Court	Cutress James Fountain Court Chambers
Hollander Charles Brick Court Chambers	Potts James Erskine Chambers	Davies David Essex Court Chambers
Hossain Sa'ad One Essex Court	Salter Richard 3 Verulam Buildings	Dilnot Anna Essex Court Chambers
Jones Philip Serle Court	Solomon Adam Littleton Chambers	Elkington Ben 4 New Square Chambers
Jowell Daniel Brick Court Chambers	Strong Benjamin One Essex Court	Elliott Steven One Essex Court
Lissack Richard Fountain Court Chambers	Talbot Rice Elspeth XXIV Old Buildings	Fisher Richard South Square
Malek Hodge M 3 Verulam Buildings	Thompson Andrew Erskine Chambers	Fletcher Andrew 3 Verulam Buildings
Matthews Duncan Twenty Essex	Twigger Andrew M Maitland Chambers	Fulton Andrew Twenty Essex
McCaughran John One Essex Court	Valentin Ben Fountain Court Chambers	Gee Steven Monckton Chambers (ORL) D
McGrath Paul Essex Court Chambers	Waller Richard 7 King's Bench Walk	Ghaly Karim 39 Essex Chambers (ORL) D
Mumford David Maitland Chambers	Band 4	Gillis Richard One Essex Court
	Bayfield Daniel South Square	Goldring Jeremy South Square

Dispute Resolution: Commercial	
Leading Silks <i>Continued</i>	
Harris Christopher 3 Verulam Buildings	Higgs Josephine 7 King's Bench Walk
Haydon Alec Brick Court Chambers	Khan Farhaz 3 Verulam Buildings
Hochhauser Andrew Essex Court Chambers	Khurshid Jawdat 7 King's Bench Walk
Holmes Michael 7 King's Bench Walk	Kirby PJ Gatehouse Chambers A
Isaac Sebastian One Essex Court	MacDonald James One Essex Court
Jarvis John 3 Verulam Buildings	McClelland James Brick Court Chambers
Jory Hugh 4 New Square Chambers	McLaren Michael Fountain Court Chambers
Leahy Blair Twenty Essex	Milner Alexander Fountain Court Chambers
Levey Edward Fountain Court Chambers	Munby Thomas Maitland Chambers
Levy Robert Three Stone (ORL) \diamond	Parker Matthew 3 Verulam Buildings
McCormick William Selborne Chambers (ORL) \diamond	Polley Alexander One Essex Court
Mohyuddin David Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) \diamond	Richmond Jeremy Quadrant Chambers
Morgan Richard Maitland Chambers	Scott Andrew Blackstone Chambers
Mowschenson Terence Wilberforce Chambers	Slade Richard Brick Court Chambers
O'Sullivan Zoe Serle Court	Spink Andrew Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) \diamond
Oudkerk Daniel Essex Court Chambers	Weekes Robert Blackstone Chambers
Poole Tom 3 Hare Court (ORL) \diamond	West Colin Brick Court Chambers
Raphael Thomas Twenty Essex	Windle Victoria Blackstone Chambers
Reed Rupert Serle Court	Wood Emily Essex Court Chambers
Riley Jamie 3 Verulam Buildings	Wright Alexander 4 Pump Court
Sutcliffe Andrew 3 Verulam Buildings	Zellick Adam Fountain Court Chambers
Temmink Robert-Jan Quadrant Chambers	New Silks
Vineall Nick 4 Pump Court	Atrill Simon Fountain Court Chambers
Band 6	Cloherly Adam XXIV Old Buildings
Abram Sarah Brick Court Chambers	Cook Alexander 4 Stone Buildings
Beswetherick Tony Twenty Essex	den Besten Ruth Essex Court Chambers
Blackwood Andrew Guy Quadrant Chambers	Eschwege Richard Brick Court Chambers
Bradley Matthew 4 New Square Chambers A	Morrison Craig Brick Court Chambers
Brier Jeremy Essex Court Chambers	Pearce Luke Twenty Essex
Brown Edward Essex Court Chambers	Richards Tom Blackstone Chambers
Emmett Laurence One Essex Court	
A direct access	
\diamond (ORL) – Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

"Mark produces really high quality analysis."
"Still at the top of his game and a formidable cross-examiner."

Simon Salzedo KC

Strengths: "Simon Salzedo is extremely clever and knowledgeable."

"A really strong advocate, who pushes points forcefully."

Tom Adam KC

Strengths: "A really fantastic advocate especially for matters going to the higher courts."

"Tom Adam is a very effective advocate."

"Tom knows the case inside out. He thinks through every angle and is a great judge of the bench."

Vernon Flynn KC

Strengths: "Vernon Flynn is an amazing advocate."

"Vernon is a fighter who will argue the client's corner tenaciously and with huge energy."

"Vernon is someone at the Bar you go to for the biggest and most difficult cases. He is an excellent choice because he really commands a courtroom."

Tim Lord KC

Strengths: "Tim Lord provides invaluable insight and depth of experience."

"Tim is hands-on and very client friendly."

"One of the brightest minds at the Bar. He is an incredible cross-examiner and a great strategist."

"Tim Lord really immerses himself in the detail. A really great guy and a can-do advocate, he has a

lot of energy and is just a pleasure to work with."

Charles Hollander KC

Strengths: "Charles Hollander is not afraid to give the right, robust advice."

Daniel Jowell KC

Strengths: "Daniel is very good on his feet."

"Daniel Jowell is very clever and provides considered advice."

Michael Bools KC

Strengths: "Michael Bools is absolutely superb: he is very good on his feet, his paperwork is immaculate and he is someone whom solicitors love working with."

"Michael Bools is a great team player who is both academic and practical."

Roger Masefield KC

Strengths: "Roger Masefield is a very good advocate. He is particularly good at presenting complex cases."

"One of the hardest working silks. He is really clever and has the ability to get on top of points so quickly."

Harry Matovu KC

Strengths: "Harry Matovu is at the top of his game. He is hugely personable, very diligent and a pleasure to work with."

"Harry has a real way with words and is a good tactician."

Stephen Midwinter KC

Strengths: "Stephen Midwinter is very bright and explains complicated things in a straightforward

way."

Fionn Pilbrow KC

Strengths: "Fionn Pilbrow has the combination of a deep understanding of the law and an ability to present a case in a commercially attractive way."

"Fionn Pilbrow strikes like a lightning bolt. He identifies one single crack in a case that will destroy the other side."

"An extremely polished advocate."

"Fionn is an absolute pleasure to work with. He is measured, calm and reliable."

Simon Birt KC

Strengths: "Simon Birt is good at sitting back and looking at the bigger picture as regards what the clients are trying to achieve. He then directs the course of action beautifully."

"Simon is so detail-orientated, so nothing is left to chance. He is also really good on paper and has a very smooth, eloquent advocacy style."

"Simon is able to get up to speed on complex facts and the law very quickly."

Jasbir Dhillon KC

Strengths: "Jasbir is a commanding presence in any hearing. He can also understand the client's case from the big picture to the minute details."

"Jasbir knows how to communicate well with clients and the solicitor, team and provides excellent strategic advice without hesitation. He is particularly good on novel points of law."

"Jasbir can handle very difficult pieces of litigation. He's highly knowledgeable and very persuasive in court."

"Jasbir is a strong cross-examiner."

Thomas Plewman SC KC

Strengths: "Thomas is an excellent barrister and advocate who quickly focuses on the right issues."

"Thomas is really considered and measured. He has a good head for the details."

Tony Singla KC

Strengths: "Tony Singla is really hands-on, very easy to deal with and someone with a really nice client manner."

"Tony Singla is very good at understanding what other people are thinking. He has a good perspective on how best to deal with an issue."

"Tony is outstanding. He is very user-friendly, super detail-orientated and fantastic on his feet."

Alec Haydon KC

Strengths: "A classic user friendly team player barrister, who is very good at joining a team and rolling his sleeves up."

"Alex Haydon is not afraid to pin his colours to the mast. He is very user-friendly and thinks deeply about things."

"Alex is exceptionally hard working and on top of the detail. He combines excellent tactical awareness with calm and authoritative advocacy."

Sarah Abram KC

Strengths: "Sarah Abram is incredibly organised and very highly regarded."

James McClelland KC

Strengths: "James McClelland is very good at getting on top of areas he is not familiar with, becoming an expert at them quickly."

"James is analytically rigorous and totally on top of the legal issues."

Richard Slade KC

Strengths: "Richard Slade is a team player, who has the ability to change people's minds without

Dispute Resolution: Commercial		
Leading Juniors		
Band 1	Carmichael Sri <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>	Glover Hannah <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Barden Alex <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Chirnside Stewart <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Goldfarb Timothy <i>One Essex Court</i>
Jones Emma <i>One Essex Court</i>	Davies Josephine <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Goodman Sam <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Keller Ciaran <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Delehanty Marc <i>Littleton Chambers</i>	Higgins Ian <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
McWilliams James <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Draper Owain <i>One Essex Court</i>	Jay Christopher <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Rogers Amy <i>11KBW (ORL) ◇</i>	Dudnikov Anton <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Jeavons Anne <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Shah Nehali <i>One Essex Court</i>	Fear Davies Harriet <i>Devereux (ORL) ◇</i>	Kenefick Timothy <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Band 2	Halban Alexander <i>Littleton Chambers</i>	Knight Alexia <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Allen Rupert <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Harrison Christopher <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Kuehne Geoffrey <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Blakeley Richard <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Harrison Edward <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Langley Christopher <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>
Campbell Fraser <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Hobson Fred <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Lemer Saul <i>One Essex Court</i>
Caplan David <i>One Essex Court</i>	Holiner Drew <i>Monckton Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Lidington Gary <i>Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Duffy James <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Hoskins Henry <i>One Essex Court</i>	Matthewson Tim <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Ford Tom <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Kagan Tamara <i>One Essex Court</i>	McIntyre Andrew <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Ho Edward <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Killen Timothy <i>2 Temple Gardens</i>	McPherson George <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Leslie Nico <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Lahti Liisa <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Miletic Ognjen <i>Henderson Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Mott Richard <i>One Essex Court</i>	Lawson Kyle <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Morrison Matthew <i>Serle Court</i>
Newton Laura <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Lodder Andrew <i>One Essex Court</i>	Mountford Tom <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
O'Leary Sam <i>One Essex Court</i>	Lowe David <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Oakes Simon <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Phipps Sandy <i>One Essex Court</i>	McRae Belinda <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Paine Douglas <i>One Essex Court</i>
Pringle Watson <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	Miall Hugh <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>	Pascoe Tom <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Ratcliffe Peter <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Mills Simon <i>Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇</i> ↗	Pourghadiri Saaman <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>
Sheehan James <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Nadin James <i>One Essex Court</i>	Pritchard Simon <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Venkatesan Niranjan <i>One Essex Court</i>	Parker Benjamin <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Rothschild Gerard <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Band 3	Peters David <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Rushworth Adam <i>One Essex Court</i>
Bird Nathaniel <i>One Essex Court</i>	Pipe Gregory <i>Monckton Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Saunderson Emily <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Denton-Cox Gregory <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Potts Kendrah <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Schaefer Max <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Foskett Rosanna <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	Power Richard <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Schlote Maximilian <i>One Essex Court</i>
Gentleman Tom <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Raffin Charles <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>	Schonfeld Oscar <i>One Essex Court</i>
Hattan Simon <i>Serle Court</i>	Reffin Clare <i>One Essex Court</i> ↗	Sher Adam <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>
Hinks Philip <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Robinson Jason <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Shirazi Gideon <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Hooper William <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Shaw Sophie <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Stone Turlough <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Howie Keir <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Sibbel Shane <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Tan Charlotte <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
John Benjamin <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	Stewart Justina <i>Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Tushingham Mark <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Jones Susannah <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Sullivan Joseph <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Walmsley James <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Lascelles David <i>Littleton Chambers</i>	Watson Jack <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>	Wardle Felix <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Murray David <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Weber Sophie <i>One Essex Court</i>	Watkins Michael <i>One Essex Court</i>
Page Laurence <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Yeo Nik <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Whelan Alexandra <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>
Roxburgh Alan <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Band 5	Wilmot-Smith Fred <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Ryan Michael <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Adair Stuart <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Sloboda Nicholas <i>One Essex Court</i>	Adams Paul <i>Serle Court</i>	Ayoo Arnold <i>Henderson Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Tomson Alastair <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Benzie Stuart <i>Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Chan Wei Jian <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Vinall Mark <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Betts Emily <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>	Crow Joshua <i>One Essex Court</i>
Woolgar Ben <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Bolding Michael <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Day William <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Yeginsu Can <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Bor Harris <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Evans Max <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>
Band 4	Burns Patricia <i>One Essex Court</i>	Fletcher Daniel <i>One Essex Court</i>
Adamson Harry <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Butler Oliver <i>One Essex Court</i>	Gillow Harry <i>Monckton Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Adamyk Simon <i>New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Casey Paul <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Kennelly Dominic <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Ahlquist Philip <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Cashman Daniel <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Lukacova Kristina <i>Monckton Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Al-Attar Adam <i>South Square</i>	Chalfoun Georges <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	McLeod Andrew <i>One Essex Court</i>
Arnold Joyce <i>One Essex Court</i>	Cleaver Tom <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>	Ruddell James <i>One Essex Court</i>
Benn Clara <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Colter Lucy <i>4 New Square Chambers</i>	Sarathy Gayatri <i>Blackstone Chambers</i>
Bennett Natasha <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Cribb Stuart <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Srirangam Veena <i>One Essex Court</i>
Bergson Ian <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	d'Arcy Michael <i>One Essex Court</i>	Wandowicz Kajetan <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Bompas Abra <i>One Essex Court</i>	Edmonds Daniel <i>Fountain Court Chambers</i>	Wood Tom <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Bond Christopher <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Ferro Ryan <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Woolrich James <i>Three Stone (ORL) ◇</i>
Box Joanne <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Friedman Bobby <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>	Zaman Rebecca <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Buck William <i>Monckton Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Gilson Simon <i>One Essex Court</i>	Zvesper Louis <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i>

[↗](#) direct access (see p.24).

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

being confrontational.”
 “One of the most amiable barristers I have worked with. It is very easy to raise any queries with him.”
 “A very experienced and effective operator.”
Colin West KC

Strengths: “A deep thinker and a fearless strategist.”
Richard Eschwege KC
Strengths: “Richard is phenomenally bright.”
 “Richard is very thorough, able and bright.”

Craig Morrison KC
Strengths: “Craig Morrison is a real intellectual powerhouse. He is able to identify issues and master huge amounts of information very quickly.”
 “Craig was the engine room of the case.”

“You want Craig Morrison on every team. He is the most incredible advocate, writer and general team player.”

JUNIORS

Richard Blakeley

Strengths: “Richard Blakeley is just so sharp; he doesn’t miss a trick.”

“Richard is a fantastic junior. He is extremely smart, highly commercially aware and an excellent, thorough advocate.”

“Richard is a brilliant drafter and his submissions are measured and thoughtful.”

Edward Ho

Strengths: “Edward Ho breaks down difficult cases and works out the answer.”

Laura Newton

Strengths: “Laura seems to really get the judge’s attention and her submissions land very well.”

“Laura Newton is very good at managing solicitors and clients. Her drafting is of the highest order and is very sensible and wise.”

William Hooper

Strengths: “William Hooper is good at finding a way through things and thinking laterally and imaginatively.”

“William Hooper is enthusiastic, client focused and very hard working.”

Alan Roxburgh

Strengths: “Alan Roxburgh is extremely thorough and has an amazing command of the detail. He is also a careful and conscientious person, who is a pleasure to spend time with.”

“Alan Roxburgh has enormous intellectual capability. He handles the most complex and nuanced points, and is utterly unflappable.”

“Absolutely brilliant, incredibly bright and very hard working.”

Ben Woolgar

Strengths: “Provides incisive analysis at lightning speed and delivers his advice with crystal clarity.”

“Ben Woolgar is a fantastic advocate, who is fast developing as a brilliant case strategist.”

“Ben Woolgar is very user-friendly and hard working. He has the ability to get on top of very complicated facts very quickly.”

Joanne Box

Strengths: “Jo is a brilliant junior. She gets stuck in, understands the client’s commercial aims, and provides relevant and thoughtful contributions.”

Edward Harrison

Strengths: “Edward is a really persuasive and compelling advocate. He approaches the court in a really measured but forceful way.”

“Edward Harrison is very commercially minded – he doesn’t just look at the law, he also looks at the overall picture.”

“He is responsive and drafts well.”

“Edward is an obvious choice for really difficult cases that require the combination of top-level intellect with a hands on approach.”

Fred Hobson

Strengths: “Fred is very responsive and hard working. He is also commercially minded in his approach in terms of what needs to be prioritised.”

“Clients love him. His advocacy is really good and his drafting is amazing.”

“Fred Hobson is very reliable and bright. He thinks laterally and is always looking for new points.”

Kyle Lawson

Strengths: “Kyle is a great all rounder and a pleasure to work with.”

“Very calm, sensible and switched on. He’s good for cases that could spiral out of control as he simplifies them nicely.”

Sophie Shaw

Strengths: “She is everything you want from a junior. Technically brilliant, calm under pressure and someone who has an adept way of dealing with complex points. She always manages to find a way through.”

Michael Bolding

Strengths: “Michael Bolding is an incredibly talented advocate. He is very bright, he knows his cases inside and out, and he is sharp on his feet in cross-examination.”

“Michael’s preparation for trial was second to none. He was on top of every detail and knew the case back to front.”

“Michael Bolding is incredibly clever. He provides very clear advice and his drafting is excellent.”

“Michael Bolding has a real head for numbers.”

“Michael Bolding is an excellent draftsman.”

Geoffrey Kuehne

Strengths: “Geoffrey Kuehne gives sensible, practical advice and is a solid member of the team.”

Andrew McIntyre

Strengths: “Andrew McIntyre is great to work with. He’s extremely intelligent, highly commercial and very personable and easy to deal with.”

“He provides very strong legal advice, is on top of pleadings and is a very good advocate.”

Tom Pascoe

Strengths: “Tom Pascoe provides really high quality analysis.”

Gerard Rothschild

Strengths: “Gerard Rothschild deals with our queries very quickly and is very good tactically.”

“Gerard is very bright and very understated.”

Max Schaefer

Strengths: “Max Schaefer is extremely hard-working, very user friendly and someone who knows his way around figures and quantum issues.”

“Max Schaefer is a fine junior, who produces beautiful written work. He is dedicated, pragmatic and a consummate team player.”

Charlotte Tan

Strengths: “Charlotte Tan is exceptionally clever and brilliant at drafting. She also has a fantastic memory for detail.”

Fred Wilmot-Smith

Strengths: “Fred is extremely bright – he has ideas no one else will think of.”

“Fred is incredibly good, academically brilliant and super nice.”

“He is probably the best junior for complicated law you can get.”

“Fred provides impeccable analysis, always adapts himself to the circumstances of the case and plays his role within the team beautifully.”

Tom Wood

Strengths: “An outstanding young barrister, who is able to deal with the most complex matters for the most difficult clients.”

“Tom Wood is calm, bright, analytical and diligent.”

“Tom Wood is a brilliant advocate. He is thoughtful,

clever and determined.”

“Tom is a tremendously hard working junior, who is excellent for banking and commercial disputes.”

“His written work is first rate and he interacts with clients very well.”

One Essex Court

A set with profound commercial expertise that counts within its ranks a number of the most well-known litigation barristers in the market. Solicitors select One Essex Court for the choicest disputes. Members have been involved in some of the most highly publicised cases of recent times, including The Fundão Dam litigation, The Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse International and Ors, Minister of Finance v International Petroleum Investment Company and Claimant Group v Glencore & Ors. One commentator reports: “Undoubtedly, it’s a go-to set for the biggest and most complex disputes.” Another adds that “for commercial litigation the set has someone to cover every aspect of the case.”

Client service:

“The set has excellent clerks, who are super responsive and very commercial.”

“All the clerks are incredibly friendly, approachable and knowledgeable.”

“Darren Burrows, senior clerk, is really good. He is always helpful and candid about his barristers availability and suitability.”

“First Deputy Senior Clerk Jackie Ginty is just excellent and has been doing her job brilliantly for many years now.”

“Darren Burrows, senior clerk, is really good. He is always helpful and candid about his barristers availability and suitability.”

“Rob Smith, deputy senior clerk, is phenomenal – he’s extremely responsive and always finds solutions to problems.”

SILKS

Laurence Rabinowitz KC

Strengths: “Laurence is generous in bringing the whole team along with him. He shares his thoughts and is happy to interact with anyone.”

“Laurence is absolutely brilliant at taking a series of conflicting perspectives and pulling them all together. He wears his talent lightly.”

“He is an incredibly skilled advocate.”

“Incredibly intelligent, very calm and really authoritative, he’s a barrister with a relaxed manner.”

Sonia Tolaney KC

Strengths: “Sonia really packs a punch and is very good at weaving the law into the facts.”

“Super charming and super bright., she’s a heavy-weight figure in the litigation market.”

“A fantastic advocate and a straight talker.”

“One of the superstars of the Bar. Sonia is an incredibly impressive courtroom advocate.”

“Trusted by clients – they want her on their cases.”

Alain Choo Choy KC

Strengths: “Alain has loads of energy and ideas. He is very good in his written product.”

“Alain is absolutely brilliant always.”

“Alain Choo Choy is a superb advocate.”

Neil Kitchener KC

Strengths: “Neil Kitchener is tactically brilliant. A very effective leader, he brings everyone on

board, but is enough of a team player that he is not afraid to ask questions and take on input.”

“Neil is a technically very strong, highly capable advocate, who is excellent to work with. His willingness to be bold and take firm decisions makes him stand out.”

“Neil is extremely powerful and carries great gravitas. He makes very strong, forceful arguments that grab the attention of the court.”

Kenneth MacLean KC

Strengths: “Kenneth is a thumping good cross-examiner. He is also extremely bright and a good tactician.”

“Kenneth is always properly and fully prepared; he knows his brief superbly well.”

“Kenneth MacLean really impresses with how he rolls his sleeves up. He is a pleasure to work with and a great team player.”

Daniel Toledano KC

Strengths: “Daniel is always engaged. Brilliant in his written and oral advocacy, and in the delivery of his advice to solicitors and clients, he is a man who brings great strategic oversight to any given matter.”

“Daniel is exceptional across the board. Not only is he a brilliant advocate, but he also has a very good bedside manner with clients. He explains complex matters clearly and always factors in the client’s commercial strategy, promoting a sensible and pragmatic approach throughout.”

David Wolfson KC

Strengths: “David is a great advocate and very creative. He really is one of the best.”

“David has the ability to pick up vast detail and give sound, commercial advice.”

“David Wolfson is an exceptionally gifted advocate, his submissions are always totally fluent and persuasive no matter how difficult the case.”

“David Wolfson is fantastic with clients and is able to translate very difficult concepts into simple language.”

Stephen Auld KC

Strengths: “Stephen Auld is very user-friendly and personable – clients really like him. He has also got a great presence in court.”

“Stephen is extremely intelligent, approachable and hard working. He also shows a great deal of common sense.”

Camilla Bingham KC

Strengths: “Camilla Bingham is a very good, user friendly advocate. She has the ear of the court and the ability to charm the judges.”

David Cavender KC

Strengths: “Very savvy and great to work with.”

“David Cavender is very user-friendly, great with clients and tough on his feet.”

“He offers firm views.”

Anthony de Garr Robinson KC

Strengths: “A formidable advocate. He leaves no stone unturned and always delivers.”

“A great lateral thinker, who is very personable.”

“His advocacy was calm and measured. He read the court very well.”

Anthony Grabiner KC

Strengths: “One of the most experienced advocates at the Bar. He reads the room really well.”

Sa’ad Hossain KC

Strengths: “Sa’ad Hossain is so professional and charming – he really engages the judges.”

“His intellect is second to none and he has a wonderful style with judges that is so impressive.”

John McCaughran KC

Strengths: “John is an understated but really effective advocate.”

“An excellent, thoughtful performer.”

Craig Orr KC

Strengths: “Craig Orr is exceptionally well rounded and able to add commercial nous at all stages of litigation and mediation.”

Simon Colton KC

Strengths: “Simon is a brilliant barrister and advocate. It is a real treat to watch him in the courtroom – he offers a masterclass in advocacy.”

“Simon brings extraordinary knowledge of the law to his cases and combines it with being very down to earth in his advocacy style.”

Charles Graham KC

Strengths: “Charles has a photographic memory and is a strong cross-examiner. He also has a wonderful way about him.”

“A great advocate.”

Alexander Gunning KC

Strengths: “Alexander Gunning really gets stuck into every minute detail and is an absolute master of the case.”

“I’ve never met a silk more across the detail and numerate than Alex. He understood the numbers and spreadsheets better than any expert.”

“A truly admirable advocate. Tremendously hard working and very friendly, he has a remarkable capacity for absorbing a vast amount of information quickly.”

“His cross-examination of witnesses was devastating.”

“Alex is detail-orientated, very quick at digesting complex material, and client-friendly.”

Jeffery Onions KC

Strengths: “Jeffery brings considerable experience and authority to bear in any case. He very clearly saw at the outset what the dispute was actually about and was always thinking six steps ahead.”

“Very easy to deal with, he’s hard working and extremely thorough.”

Conall Patton KC

Strengths: “Conall is incredibly clever, super responsive and fantastic to work with.”

“Conall is ferociously intelligent and spots angles others don’t.”

“Conall fully comprehends the highly technical nature of matters. His written and oral representation is brilliant.”

Benjamin Strong KC

Strengths: “Ben adopts a very strategic and sophisticated approach when advising on and presenting a case. The way he manages matters and is able to master foreign law issues when they arise is impressive.”

“A smart guy who is also very forensic on the detail.”

“Ben has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the case.”

Anna Boase KC

Strengths: “Anna is always very accessible and personable. She is extremely helpful when it comes to fulfilling the needs of the client, and has a certain empathy that some KCs perhaps lack.”

“Anna is a very clear thinker, who is organised with

her time and very versatile.”

“A wonderful team player and an exceptional written and oral advocate.”

“A superstar – razor sharp and fights hard when it really matters, but extremely personable and easy to work with.”

“Her advocacy style is calm and considered and is really able to get the best out of the witnesses.”

Richard Boulton KC

Strengths: “Richard Boulton is thoughtful and considered in his approach. He also has a great manner in court and adopts a great style with judges.”

Rhodri Davies KC

Strengths: “Rhodri Davies is very clever. He has excellent judgement and is a pleasure to work with.”

“Rhodri is exceptionally knowledgeable and has great strategic insight.”

Michael Fealy KC

Strengths: “Michael Fealy is very clear, good at presenting complicated information in a straightforward fashion and someone who can focus on the key issues in a case.”

“Michael’s key strength is that he is very clear in his advice. He reaches a conclusion and sticks with it, which is a quality that is very helpful for both clients and solicitors.”

“He has very good judgement and is thoughtful.”

Orlando Gledhill KC

Strengths: “Orlando Gledhill is very smart and incredibly hard working. His advice is clear and robust, and delivered in a way that is accessible for clients.”

“A very strong cross-examiner, who is incisive in his analysis of the legal issues in a case.”

Jamie Goldsmith KC

Strengths: “Jamie Goldsmith is a bright, hard worker.”

“Jamie is extremely intelligent.”

“He is detail orientated, very ready to get stuck in and someone who explores all aspects of the case.”

Steven Elliott KC

Strengths: “Steven gets deep in to the detail and offers practical advice. He is really approachable and quickly gains the trust of the client and the rest of the lawyer team.”

“Steven is very responsive.”

“Steven is extremely clever and experienced, and has remarkable personal qualities.”

Richard Gillis KC

Strengths: “Richard Gillis has a sharp intellect that allows him to present a case simply and persuasively, but always with a shrewd eye on strategy and tactics.”

“Richard is meticulous in his preparation.”

Sebastian Isaac KC

Strengths: “Astonishingly bright, he’s an excellent strategist and a positive team member.”

“He is frighteningly clever and so clear in his advice.”

“Funny and erudite, Sebastian is brilliant to have on a team. His written advocacy is excellent.”

Laurence Emmett KC

Strengths: “Laurence is great to work with and very thorough.”

“Laurence is extremely good at getting into great levels of detail and he can get his head around

complex technical issues.”

“He is very pragmatic, thorough and commercially minded.”

James MacDonald KC

Strengths: “Wonderful to work with; a future star who produces exceptional work.”

“Extremely hard working and diligent.”

“James MacDonald is an exceptionally user-friendly barrister. He is also an exceptional advocate.”

“James is a superb drafter.”

Alexander Polley KC

Strengths: “Alexander Polley has a superhuman ability to ingest information and his judgement is exceptionally good.”

“Alexander is calm and has the ability to read a judge – he assesses the situation rather than just ploughing on regardless.”

“He is the most efficient person, and is also incredibly responsive and super bright.”

JUNIORS

Emma Jones

Strengths: “Emma Jones is truly exceptional. Someone who clearly has an excellent legal brain, she is willing to be bold and has her own views on cases.”

Nehali Shah

Strengths: “Nehali Shah is very switched on, responsive and great on the detail.”

“Nehali is a very brilliant barrister. She thinks about things that other people don’t see and can be a game changer.”

“Nehali is very strategic. She has a good grasp of the detail and is a good team player.”

David Caplan

Strengths: “David Caplan is exceptional and trusted to deliver. He is super intelligent and able to deal with real complexity very well.”

“David is academically bright, unflappable and very confident.”

“David Caplan is an exceptional advocate. His written work is outstanding and his oral advocacy is highly persuasive.”

Richard Mott

Strengths: “Richard Mott shows great attention to detail, and is both tactical in his thinking and strategic in his advice.”

“Richard Mott writes very effectively.”

Sam O’Leary

Strengths: “Sam O’Leary is an excellent advocate. He is precise, measured, commercial and great with clients. Sam always looks at the big picture and is surely one of the best minds of his generation.”

“Sam is a great details person.”

Sandy Phipps

Strengths: “Sandy Phipps is fiercely intelligent and gets to the point very quickly without wasting words or time.”

“Incredibly hard working, decisive and someone with excellent judgement.”

“Sandy is a class act, who is a beautiful drafter. He’s a very good team player, who is highly responsive.”

“Sandy Phipps is excellent. He gives concise, insightful advice on fiendishly complex issues.”

Niranjan Venkatesan

Strengths: “Niranjan is probably one of the most

intelligent barristers. He has the ability to get to the heart of a case.”

“A genius.”

“Niranjan has an exceptional mind. His analysis of a case is first class.”

Nathaniel Bird

Strengths: “Nathaniel Bird is very reliable and hard working. He knows the case inside and out.”

“A tremendously bright senior junior, who is great on his feet.”

“Nathaniel Bird has a very good cross-examination style.”

Nicholas Sloboda

Strengths: “Nicholas has a really good grip on the commercial drivers of a case and knows how to present his submissions to the court in a compelling way.”

“Approachable, practical and a real calming influence.”

Joyce Arnold

Strengths: “Joyce provides great analysis of complex problems and demonstrates skill beyond her years of call.”

“Her attention to detail and grasp of the facts in a case are amazing.”

Abra Bompas

Strengths: “Abra is a dedicated member of the team, who is extremely responsive and adept at dealing with the most difficult cases.”

“A barrister who shows exceptional attention to detail, she always makes herself available to help and is a wonderful source of knowledge.”

“Abra is very responsive and fantastic at providing a commercial solution to a problem.”

Owain Draper

Strengths: “Owain Draper is brilliant to work with. He is highly commercial and has excellent technical knowledge.”

“Owain is super clever and incredibly pragmatic at the same time. He understands what it is to be part of a team and delivers his advice as part of a wider project.”

Henry Hoskins

Strengths: “Henry Hoskins is the ideal junior. His analysis is impeccably thorough, he’s a man with excellent judgement and his submissions read beautifully.”

Tamara Kagan

Strengths: “Tamara is outstanding and a robust, no-nonsense advocate.”

“Tamara is very bright and diligent.”

Andrew Lodder

Strengths: “The complete package; Andy is intellectually brilliant and tactically savvy, all the while being a real team player. He is also a devastatingly effective cross examiner with an excellent feel for what the court wants.”

“Andrew is a commanding presence in court.”

James Nadin

Strengths: “James Nadin’s drafting style, effective tactical approach and attention to detail are superb.”

Clare Reffin

Strengths: “Clare Reffin’s attention to detail is extraordinary.”

“Has a tremendous ability to absorb documents quickly and is good at spotting the gaps in evidence.”

Sophie Weber

Strengths: “Sophie’s commercial awareness is excellent – she cuts straight to the point and delivers on-point advice.”

“Sophie produces clear, well structured advocacy in court.”

Patricia Burns

Strengths: “Patricia Burns has great depth of knowledge of her areas of specialism and can handle any complex issues thrown at her.”

“Patricia Burns operates significantly above her call. She is quick at getting on top of the issues, she writes well and she has a reassuring style.”

“Patricia is fantastically gifted and really well rounded. She is technically good and able to process complicated data, boiling it down to a clear message.”

Oliver Butler

Strengths: “Brilliant to work with, he’s highly commercial and has excellent technical knowledge.”

“Oliver Butler is extremely bright and gets on top of complex material quickly. He is also very incisive and to the point.”

Michael d’Arcy

Strengths: “A technically excellent barrister, who is very pragmatic and has an excellent bedside manner.”

Simon Gilson

Strengths: “Simon Gilson is academically bright, user friendly and someone who displays first class attention to detail.”

“He works incredibly hard and is very clear and unswerving in his efforts to get the job done.”

“Simon’s attention to detail is excellent. He works hard and is a team player.”

Timothy Goldfarb

Strengths: “Timothy Goldfarb is very good on the detail and has a lot of technical ability.”

“He is bright, exceptionally hard working and a good strategic thinker.”

“Timothy is astute, practical and user-friendly.”

Saul Lemer

Strengths: “Saul Lemer is very good on complex international disputes.”

“Very diligent and enthusiastic.”

“Saul is really down to earth, close to the detail and someone who takes a commercial view on matters.”

Douglas Paine

Strengths: “Douglas Paine is very commercial and able to navigate an area of law that is only just developing. He picks through issues in a really collaborative way.”

“Douglas is a fantastic senior junior and a supportive team player. His attention to detail is second to none.”

“Douglas is brilliant, erudite and approachable.”

Adam Rushworth

Strengths: “He is a smart, careful person.”

“A really helpful, highly practical junior who is very nice to work with.”

Maximilian Schlote

Strengths: “Maximilian is incredibly bright and has a good sense of what the key issues in a case are. He takes a pragmatic and user-friendly approach.”

Oscar Schonfeld

Strengths: “Oscar can turn a judge around very simply and elegantly.”

“Oscar is brilliant – he’s so user friendly and smart

and can think on his feet.”

Michael Watkins

Strengths: “A proactive, really smart guy, who is a pleasure to work with as he’s a proper team player.”

“He quickly gets to grips with complex concepts and displays a real mastery of the case.”

Joshua Crow

Strengths: “Josh is a very responsive, user-friendly barrister, who gives practical and considered advice. He is excellent on his feet.”

“Joshua Crow is very good at capturing the key points in a case and discussing the major legal issues.”

“Joshua is very persistent and always has one more idea up his sleeve which he can pull out to solve a tricky problem.”

Daniel Fletcher

Strengths: “Daniel is a go-to junior with strong commercial acumen, who provides first class legal analysis.”

“Dan is an excellent barrister – he’s down to earth, great with clients and highly intelligent.”

“Daniel Fletcher is strategically very strong.”

Andrew McLeod

Strengths: “Andrew is fantastic. He has a keen eye for detail, he’s hard working and he’s user friendly. His advice is thorough and commercial and he is a great advocate.”

“Andrew is a force to be reckoned with.”

James Ruddell

Strengths: “James’ drafting is exceptional and he distils complex and technical matters into crisp points. He also has an appreciation of the client’s commercial objectives, something which is borne out in his advice.”

“James Ruddell is highly intelligent.”

Veena Srirangam

Strengths: “Veena is a rising star of the future. She is incredibly clever, very user-friendly and an absolute joy to work with.”

“Veena has an enviable work ethic and is working at a level far beyond her years of experience.”

Essex Court Chambers

Essex Court Chambers is regularly involved in some of the highest-value domestic and international commercial disputes. Recent highlights include: Suppipat & Ors v Nop Narongdej & Ors; the Dieselgate Emissions Litigation and The Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaaan & Others, amongst numerous other high profile cases. The set has a deep pool of experts capable of handling commercial cases arising from many different legal areas, such as banking, civil fraud, energy and shipping, to name but a few. An interviewee praises the set for having barristers who have “an extremely strong grasp of new and complex issues.”

Client service:

“The clerks are very good.”

“The clerks are responsive, efficient and professional.”

“The clerks are well aware that it they are the face of chambers and are unfailingly helpful and proactive in ensuring matters run as efficiently as possible.”

“The clerks are very responsive and anticipate the needs of their members to such a degree that

interactions with the barristers themselves are only ever about the work. That’s because all of the administrative aspects of the collaboration have already been handled and actioned by the clerks.”

“Joe Ferrigno, senior clerk, is one of the best clerks at the Bar. He has a magic touch when it comes to managing relationships and making things work. He is very straightforward, transparent and collaborative.”

SILKS

Joe Smouha KC

Strengths: “Joe Smouha is a very impressive leading silk. He has an excellent client manner and shows strategic nuance right from the outset.”

“A fantastic advocate and a great cross-examiner.”

“Joe Smouha lives up to his reputation – he is exceptional on all levels.”

“Joe Smouha is a class apart. He is an incredible advocate.”

“Joe is strategically brilliant.”

Graham Dunning KC

Strengths: “Graham Dunning is reasonable and pragmatic.”

“Graham is a very good and very effective cross-examiner. He is also very straightforward and good with clients.”

Paul McGrath KC

Strengths: “Paul McGrath is extremely user-friendly and charming. He has a very fine, strategic mind.”

“Nathan Pillow is very smooth and unflappable.”

“Nathan has all the knowledge related to fraud that you’d need, but is also really approachable and easy to work with.”

Nathan Pillow KC

Strengths: “Nathan has an extraordinary ability to get on top of the facts.”

“Paul Stanley can drive through a vast quantity of material quickly and get to the heart of the case.”

“Paul is very impressive on his feet. He is straight to the point, analytical and almost always right.”

“A real leader on commercial litigation.”

“He is engaging and has the perfect manner when dealing with judges.”

James Willan KC

Strengths: “James Willan is an outstanding intellect. He is a very impressive and thoughtful individual, which is important when you’re dealing with complex cases.”

“James Willan has an incredible legal mind. He’s also a fantastic writer and is unbelievably effective in court.”

Steven Berry KC

Strengths: “Steven Berry is adept at focusing on the key strategic issues.”

“He is unflappable and always understands which arguments will work best.”

James Collins KC

Strengths: “James Collins is a very good advocate, who is very clever and good on any matters involving numbers.”

“James Collins is very calm and very cool. He masters the papers and his advocacy is understated in

a very effective way.”

“James is tactically brilliant and explains matters very simply but with a lot of force.”

Richard Millett KC

Strengths: “Richard Millett doesn’t take himself too seriously, and is a very engaging and persuasive advocate.”

“He has great technical ability and is a supreme advocate on his feet.”

“Richard is very smart and diligent. In our case he came up with new arguments no one had thought of.”

Huw Davies KC

Strengths: “Huw Davies is always effective in court and a great advocate.”

“Huw is very direct and clear, and has the ability to stand up to judges.”

“Huw’s cross-examination was extraordinarily effective.”

Stephen Houseman KC

Strengths: “Stephen Houseman is very calm and very good at dealing with unexpected curveballs.”

“A truly excellent advocate. Stephen is truly one of the best for injunction work; he cuts through the issues and is excellent at preparing concise skeletons which judges love.”

“An excellent courtroom advocate who is really impressive on his feet.”

“Wonderfully accessible, easy to talk to and collegiate in his approach.”

Tim Akkouh KC

Strengths: “A good, forceful advocate.”

“Tim Akkouh is very impressive, polished, measured and calm.”

“A decisive advocate, who is good on paper too.”

David Davies KC

Strengths: “David Davies is crisp and to the point. He’s always direct and unflustered.”

Anna Dilnot KC

Strengths: “Anna Dilnot is fantastic – her brain works at a million miles an hour. She is incredibly quick to pick up and explain points.”

“A really top quality advocate.”

Andrew Hochhauser KC

Strengths: “Andrew’s cross-examination skills are phenomenal.”

Daniel Oudkerk KC

Strengths: “Dan Oudkerk is one of the most effective cross-examiners I have seen. He knows how to draw information from a witness, without being bullying or intimidating.”

Jeremy Brier KC

Strengths: “Jeremy Brier always provides conclusive advice and is very responsive.”

“A pleasure to work with, he’s pragmatic and on top of the detail.”

“Jeremy is incredibly sharp-witted, very charming and very easy to work with. He is always a great team player.”

Edward Brown KC

Strengths: “Edward Brown has the ear of the court.”

“He is pragmatic and sensible and provides good solutions.”

“An extremely cerebral and thoughtful barrister.”

Emily Wood KC

Strengths: “Emily Wood is fantastic. She really knows it all, is very easy to get along with and is a

good advocate.”

“She is consistently phenomenal. Her advocacy is as good as it gets.”

Ruth den Besten KC

Strengths: “A great advocate and a real asset to any team. She is incisive, user friendly and good on her feet.”

“Ruth is a tremendous all rounder. She is good on both the law and the facts and is great with clients and solicitors.”

“Ruth den Besten is very good at being quietly persuasive.”

“Extremely reliable and hard working.”

JUNIORS

Ciaran Keller

Strengths: “Ciaran Keller is assertive in a charming and diplomatic way. He is also enormously intelligent.”

“Ciaran shows great judgement and self-possession.”

“Ciaran Keller is absolutely phenomenal and has excellent judgement.”

Tom Ford

Strengths: “An absolutely formidable barrister and strategist.”

James Sheehan

Strengths: “James Sheehan is extremely intelligent as well as being very diplomatic and great with people.”

“James is a very impressive barrister who is completely on top of the law and facts.”

“Great, especially for jurisdiction challenges. He is very friendly and displays excellent attention to detail.”

Anton Dudnikov

Strengths: “A bright guy, who gives sensible, practical advice.”

“A conscientious, diligent practitioner, who is going places.”

David Peters

Strengths: “David’s written advocacy is superb – his submissions are extremely punchy and well written. He is also robust and prepared to make difficult arguments.”

Stuart Cribb

Strengths: “Stuart Cribb is incredibly hard working, very thorough and someone who plays a material role in the team.”

“Stuart Cribb is a detail-driven and responsive barrister, who always thinks ahead.”

“Incredibly bright, he thinks things through and has a great tactical brain.”

Felix Wardle

Strengths: “Felix Wardle is a highly capable junior with excellent written and oral advocacy skills. He delivers technically excellent and pragmatic work that is commercially astute.”

“A superb junior – he’s technically excellent, a good team player and excellent with clients.”

“Felix Wardle is really impressive. He can take a huge workload on his shoulders and deliver well.”

Wei Jian Chan

Strengths: “Wei Jian is an invaluable member of the team.”

“He is super communicative, highly responsive and very, very efficient. Wei Jian Chan is clear on what he is doing and what he needs from the client.”

“Exceptionally bright and someone whose written work is excellent.”

Fountain Court Chambers

Fountain Court houses talented commercial litigators at all levels of seniority. Its barristers are regulars in the highest-value and most eye-catching cases of the day, routinely appearing in the Commercial Court, Financial List and Chancery Division. Although best known for their skill in banking and finance cases, they undertake a truly broad sweep of work and have involvement in major matters across the commercial spectrum. Recent examples of significant cases handled include: Dubai Aerospace Enterprise v Various Insurers; Various Merchants v Visa and Mastercard, and Sotera Insurance v IBM United Kingdom. Commentators state: “Fountain Court Chambers is a good set with a deep bench that can be relied upon for the most complex of matters.”

Client service:

“Alex Taylor, senior clerk, is nice, responsive, accommodating and helpful. Luke Diebelius, team leader, and Sian Hockett, deputy senior clerk, are also great to work with.”

“Friendly and responsive even on smaller matters. They always make time for you.”

“Alfie Harper, team leader, and the other clerks were very responsive.”

“The clerks really make a difference and are a delight to deal with.”

“The clerks are very responsive and user friendly. There are clearly good lines of communication between the clerks and counsel and I have never had any issues coordinating with them.”

Head of Marketing & Business Development Helen Griffiths “does an excellent job of highlighting the members’ expertise and underling their many strengths.”

SILKS

Bankim Thanki KC

Strengths: “Bankim Thanki is frighteningly good. He is very effective at being forceful whilst not coming across as being aggressive.”

“Bankim Thanki is so calm. He’s serene, like a swan on top of the lake. Nothing fazes him and he maintains authority.”

“Bankim is a real heavyweight who deals with the absolute big ticket cases. His advocacy style is very engaging and every word he says seems to be very deliberate.”

“He is a delight to work with and so quick to get on top of all the facts.”

Anneliese Day KC

Strengths: “Anneliese Day is a brilliant advocate, who is inspiring to the team, down to earth and well-respected by colleagues and clients.”

“Anneliese is good at thinking on her feet and is a charming advocate.”

Richard Handyside KC

Strengths: “Richard Handyside is a first class barrister and a very good advocate. He has the ear of the court and is very methodical in terms of how he approaches his preparation and advocacy.”

“Richard is an understated yet extremely effective advocate, who does not grandstand in court.”

“Richard Handyside is excellent. He’s very easy to

work with and hugely client friendly.”

“A safe pair of hands for difficult, high pressure cases.”

David Railton KC

Strengths: “David Railton is vastly experienced and has a thoughtful way of dealing with judges.”

“David Railton is the consummate, well prepared KC. Sometimes silks delegate work to juniors but he really owns the matter and gets into the detail.”

“David Railton is one of the best defence barristers. He is very thoughtful.”

Stuart Ritchie KC

Strengths: “Stuart Ritchie is absolutely excellent. He commands respect.”

“A very impressive performer.”

“Stuart is a very polished advocate.”

“Stuart Ritchie is incredibly hard working, brilliant at leading the team and very commercial.”

Charles Béar KC

Strengths: “Charles is one of the best legal minds and a truly outstanding silk.”

“Charles is just super bright. He’s one of the smartest KCs at the Bar and one of the best advocates on his feet.”

“He is particularly effective at cross examination.”

Derrick Dale KC

Strengths: “Derrick Dale is a pleasure to work with and hugely persuasive. He is also very good with clients.”

Patrick Goodall KC

Strengths: “Patrick Goodall is absolutely superb. He is excellent on his feet and the barrister you want on your team.”

“Patrick is user friendly, commercial and pragmatic. He can give a robust view.”

Richard Lissack KC

Strengths: “Richard Lissack is excellent on his feet and on top of things.”

“Richard provides robust views which the clients appreciate.”

Patricia Robertson KC

Strengths: “Patricia is highly intelligent.”

“Really experienced and good at navigating the client towards what has to be done.”

“Patricia provided astute legal and commercial advice and managed difficult personalities.”

Jeffrey Chapman KC

Strengths: “Jeffrey Chapman is very good and pragmatic when handling complex commercial disputes.”

Richard Coleman KC

Strengths: “He is easy to work with, on top of everything and great when conducting a case.”

Timothy Howe KC

Strengths: “Tim really gets into the detail and is absolutely all over it.”

“Timothy is a superb legal strategist. He is excellent with clients, very commercial and a real pleasure to work whatever level you’re at in the team.”

“Incredibly quick and thinks outside of the box. Timothy possesses a very active and engaging mind and has an attractive way of looking at legal problems.”

Andrew Mitchell KC

Strengths: “Andrew is often involved in complex commercial disputes and can regularly find a creative solution to difficult questions or problems.”

"Andrew is a highly experienced advocate. He is particularly strong at managing different personalities and he provides highly commercial advice."

Rosalind Phelps KC

Strengths: "Ros is absolutely first rate. She is exceptionally strong on strategy and has an incredible ability to cut through complex issues. I would go to her with 'bet the business' disputes." "Ros had great strategic oversight of the case and was able to make sure the solicitors and clients were focused on the key points."

Ben Valentin KC

Strengths: "Ben Valentin is really persuasive in his submissions – he writes beautifully and with brevity."

"Very user-friendly and highly intelligent."

"Ben is fantastic to work with and amazing with clients as he has an amazing emotional IQ."

"Ben Valentin is everything you want in a KC. He is commercial, easy to work with and someone who can adjust his style depending on the judge."

Laura John KC

Strengths: "Laura is an exceptionally talented silk and a devastatingly effective cross-examiner. She is also extremely commercial and popular with clients."

Ben Lynch KC

Strengths: "Ben Lynch has a really nice manner both when on his feet in court and in mediation."

"A highly responsive, modern barrister who is a great thinker."

Stephen Moriarty KC

Strengths: "Stephen is a powerful advocate. He has an insane amount of experience, is so well prepared and is all over the detail."

"Stephen Moriarty is a delight to work with. He is fiercely bright and great on his feet."

"One of the most extraordinary all rounders at the Bar. He is creative, thoughtful, careful and considered. Stephen is someone to turn to for the most complex of cases."

Tamara Oppenheimer KC

Strengths: "Tamara is very strong on the law and very commercial in her approach. She is also very responsive and user friendly and appreciates the wider commercial aspects at play."

"Tamara's knowledge is first rate and she is very effective in court."

"Tamara is exceedingly focused and highly analytical. She takes a well rounded approach and provides to the point advice."

Stephen Rubin KC

Strengths: "Stephen Rubin is a very bright and talented person. Clients trust him."

John Taylor KC

Strengths: "John is incredibly bright and powerfully compelling in both his advocacy and drafting style. He combines this with excellent client service. Furthermore, he can also translate difficult legal concepts into a commercial language which clients like and understand."

"A very commercial, bright and pragmatic silk."

"John Taylor knows details like nobody else. He's so thorough."

"John Taylor performs very effectively with clients and at trial."

James Cutress KC

Strengths: "James Cutress is extremely bright. His ability to see issues is second to none."

"James is very considered and open to thoughts from others."

Edward Levey KC

Strengths: "Edward Levey's written and oral advocacy are great. He is also very good at putting forward the client's interest without being too overbearing."

"Edward is pleasant to work with. He has an attacking mindset and is always looking for solutions."

Michael McLaren KC

Strengths: "Michael McLaren's ability is a given; what I appreciate is that he is user-friendly and easy to work with, especially during the more demanding phases of the litigation cycle."

"Michael is incredibly accessible and incredibly experienced. He is brilliant in court and brilliant with clients."

"Michael is very tenacious, hard working and responsive."

Alexander Milner KC

Strengths: "Alexander Milner knew the case inside out. He is very analytical and insanely bright."

"Alexander is a sound drafter whose work is done well and accurately."

Adam Zellick KC

Strengths: "Adam Zellick provides great opinions and his advocacy is great too. He works well with judges."

"Adam is thoughtful, brave and someone who has the right instincts and judgement."

Simon Atrill KC

Strengths: "Simon Atrill is very practical and commercial. He is strong on the law and is capable of seeing commercial angles and being flexible in his approach."

"Simon writes beautifully and his advocacy is very fluent and persuasive. Clients love him because he is a really good team player."

JUNIORS

Alex Barden

Strengths: "Alex is a very experienced junior. His advice on a complex claim, dealing with difficult issues of strategy, was incredibly helpful and vital in assisting the client in reaching a very good resolution."

"Alex is excellent and a real fighter."

"He offered valuable insight and input when handling our case. I was really impressed with how quickly he got up to speed."

Rupert Allen

Strengths: "Rupert is a standout junior at the London Bar. He is a brilliant, commercially minded barrister, who is an excellent drafter of pleadings and skeletons."

"Rupert is incredibly sharp minded, and readily deals with complex issues. He is a delight to work with."

"The issues were mind-blowingly complex but he was able to distil the important aspects so we could work through them and deliver an excellent result for the client."

"He is a complete machine. He has the ability to take in all sorts of detail and be on top of the many strands in a case."

James Duffy

Strengths: "James Duffy is easy to work with and

clear and authoritative in his advice and advocacy."

"James picked up the right points and argued them well in court."

Nico Leslie

Strengths: "Nico Leslie is an exceptionally able barrister, whose work is a pleasure to witness."

"Simply outstanding."

"Nico is intelligent and switched on. He is able to see the commercial picture and will fight your corner."

"Nico Leslie is very agile and provides amazingly fast responses to your queries."

David Murray

Strengths: "David Murray is a superb draftsman. His drafts were precise and compelling without becoming mired in technicalities."

Philip Ahlquist

Strengths: "An excellent strategist and a very clever and diligent barrister."

"Philip Ahlquist produces excellent skeletons and is very helpful and responsive."

Natasha Bennett

Strengths: "Natasha Bennett is technically excellent and explains issues very clearly and concisely."

"Natasha is personable and effective."

Ian Bergson

Strengths: "Ian is incredibly insightful and a pleasure to work with."

"Ian Bergson's written work is absolutely top notch. He's on the ball and gives really good back up on matters."

Richard Power

Strengths: "Richard Power is very hands on and clever."

"Richard Power is an excellent senior junior. He takes responsibility and has authority."

Nik Yeo

Strengths: "Nik Yeo is responsive and makes himself available to clients."

"Nik Yeo's written work is precise, clear and incisive. His advice is easily applicable to the circumstances of the case and he understands the commercial context and how his strategy can be practically implemented."

Paul Casey

Strengths: "Paul Casey is smart, tremendously nice and brilliant on every level. When he produces work it arrives quickly."

Daniel Edmonds

Strengths: "Daniel Edmonds is very pragmatic and provides good, commercial advice. He turns things around at a remarkable pace."

"Daniel Edmonds is dedicated, insightful and highly knowledgeable. He is an absolute pleasure to work with."

"Daniel is extremely courteous and personable, as well as being very efficient and collaborative. He works well with the team."

Christopher Langley

Strengths: "An excellent senior junior, who is very bright and has a good client manner."

"Chris was on top of the legal and commercial issues in the case and produced excellent written submissions and solid commercial advice. He made excellent contributions to the overall strategy of the case."

"Christopher Langley is very good at analysing

evidence and is very good at the paperwork.”

Adam Sher

Strengths: “Extraordinarily bright and really good on his feet, he is passionate about what he does.”

Alexandra Whelan

Strengths: “Alexandra Whelan is highly responsive, very good at drafting and impressively assured and client-friendly.”

Max Evans

Strengths: “Max Evans is simply outstanding.”
“Max is very careful and considered. The written material he produces is very good – he has a clear, concise drafting style.”

3 Verulam Buildings

3 Verulam Buildings’ market-leading reputation arises out of its involvement in headline-grabbing commercial cases. Recent highlights include the major cases: Phones 4u Limited v EE Limited and others, a case concerned with the collapse into insolvency of Phones 4u; NMC Healthcare Limited v Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC and Noor Bank PJSC, a large scale insolvency related matter; and Supipat v Narongdej & Others, a matter involving an alleged fraudulent conspiracy. One source comments: “This is an extremely capable team with good quality from KC to baby junior.”

Client service:

“The clerks are sophisticated. They provide excellent client service and are very responsive.”

“Steve Penson and Stuart Pullum, joint practice managers, and Lucy Burrows, deputy senior practice manager, are an absolute pleasure to deal with.”

“Team leader Richard Ansell is brilliant, as are his colleagues.”

“The clerks at 3VB have been great to work with. They make a real effort to understand and be responsive to what we need from them.”

SILKS

Adrian Beltrami KC

Strengths: “Adrian Beltrami is super bright, very commercial and user-friendly.”

“Adrian is a superb advocate, who is calm and unflappable.”

“Adrian is a pleasure to work with. He has great judgement and a great court presence.”

Ali Malek KC

Strengths: “Ali is phenomenal when presenting a case; he really cuts to the chase to ensure the tribunal will very clearly see what the case is. He is able to present very compelling concise arguments.”

“The master of charisma and charm.”

Ewan McQuater KC

Strengths: “Ewan McQuater has a very effective court style and is always well prepared.”

“A go-to silk for heavyweight cases. Ewan is hugely experienced at handling complex trial cases and is very strategic and strong in court.”

Andrew Onslow KC

Strengths: “Andrew Onslow is very good on the technical side but always approaches things from a commercial viewpoint.”

“Andrew Onslow is extremely competent and very impressive on his feet.”

“A highly effective and polished operator with a great knack for predicting judges’ instincts.”

David Head KC

Strengths: “David Head is an effortless advocate who makes everything look easy, but he has a strong work ethic underpinning all he does.”

“David is very robust and very client friendly. He has always got one eye on how the court will interpret things.”

“David is unpretentious and willing to roll up his sleeves.”

“David is measured, unflappable and someone with a really good sense of strategy in court.”

Hodge Malek KC

Strengths: “Hodge Malek displays an incredible mastery of extraordinarily technical issues and is able to wrap his head around the non-legal details.”

“Hodge is a brilliant strategist and a real pleasure to work with.”

“Hodge is intelligent, practical and someone who provides client friendly advice.”

Jonathan Nash KC

Strengths: “Jonathan Nash is extremely experienced and very clear thinking. He also writes extremely well and has a very commercial outlook.”

“An excellent leader, who is a pleasure to work with.”

“Jonathan Nash is very pragmatic and very sensible.”

David Quest KC

Strengths: “David Quest is incredibly hard working and highly numerate, making him a good choice for cases where numbers matter.”

“David is at the next level of fiercely intelligent. His forensic analysis of a case and the logic that he brings to bear really impress.”

Jonathan Davies-Jones KC

Strengths: “Jonathan Davies-Jones is a fine silk, who combines formidable court presence with user friendly, succinct advice.”

Peter de Verneuil Smith KC

Strengths: “Peter de Verneuil Smith is very impressive and knowledgeable.”

“Peter has a brilliant technical mind and really digs into the detail.”

“He has excellent legal and advocacy skills.”

“Peter provides superb legal advice. He also has very high commercial awareness and excellent client care skills.”

“Peter is ingenious and resourceful.”

Adam Kramer KC

Strengths: “Adam Kramer is a very good advocate. He is practical in his approach, is very easy to deal with and is prepared to roll his sleeves up and get involved.”

“Adam is very practical and gets the gist of what is important quickly.”

Adam punches way above his weight. He is really intelligent and a fantastic advocate.”

Richard Salter KC

Strengths: “Richard Salter is really well liked and respected by senior judges. When he talks, they listen.”

Matthew Hardwick KC

Strengths: “Matthew Hardwick has an extraordinary ability to grasp the finest detail of a case. He is also a powerful advocate.”

“Matthew is extremely industrious, always well prepared and someone who provides very clear

advice.”

“Matthew is careful to ensure that he has enough bandwidth to deal with the cases he takes on. He reads everything, is really well prepared and he cuts to the heart of a matter quickly.”

“Matthew absorbs details from complicated and substantial files like a machine.”

Tom Montagu-Smith KC

Strengths: “Tom is a great advocate who has a good relationship with judges.”

“Tom is great with clients, highly intelligent and a great team player.”

Rajesh Pillai KC

Strengths: “Rajesh’s client engagement is impressive. He provides detailed, thorough submissions and his written arguments are of a strong quality.”

“He is an incredibly strong advocate and also really client friendly.”

“Rajesh Pillai is absolutely excellent. He’s a talented advocate, who is commercially minded.”

Nicholas Craig KC

Strengths: “Nicholas Craig’s advocacy is excellent and he prepares meticulously. He gets to grips with all the detail extremely quickly.”

“He has really good commercial sense.”

“Nicholas Craig is very hard-working and thorough; he will roll his sleeves up and do the work.”

Andrew Fletcher KC

Strengths: “Andrew Fletcher is very good at providing efficient client service, strong legal opinions and great advocacy. He has very strong commercial awareness and vision.”

“Andrew Fletcher is unflappable and displays great attention to detail.”

Christopher Harris KC

Strengths: “Chris is a robust advocate.”

“Christopher Harris is exceedingly down to earth and sensible. He is happy to roll his sleeves up and get stuck into a case.”

John Jarvis KC

Strengths: “A fixture of the English Bar who is as dynamic and energetic as ever.”

Jamie Riley KC

Strengths: “Jamie Riley is personable, calm and analytical. He’s a strong, unflappable advocate.”

“Jamie provides very clear, client friendly advice on complex matters.”

“He can convey complex messages in a lucid, concise and compelling way.”

Andrew Sutcliffe KC

Strengths: “Incredibly clever and very approachable.”

“Andrew Sutcliffe is really good at cutting through the detail of a case and presenting the case in a clear way.”

“A good all rounder. Andrew can be a very forceful advocate when appropriate; he fights the client’s corner.”

Farhaz Khan KC

Strengths: “Farhaz Khan is very versatile, and is able to bring out the simple points to help the client navigate through the issues. He provides commercial and understandable advice.”

“He is very good at balancing the legal with the practical. Farhaz Khan is always thinking about solutions and how the client operates.”

“He is very technical and highly knowledgeable.”

Matthew Parker KC

Strengths: “Matthew Parker is all over the details,

very punchy and a safe pair of hands.”

“Very straightforward, user friendly and decisive in his advice.”

“A fantastic advocate.”

JUNIORS

James McWilliams

Strengths: “James McWilliams is absolutely brilliant. He’s calm, responsive and client friendly.”
“James is able to turn things around with excellent speed.”

“James writes excellent skeleton arguments.”

“Very knowledgeable and hard working.”

Peter Ratcliffe

Strengths: “Peter Ratcliffe is a very trusted junior on the biggest cases.”

“He is very user friendly and great at coming up with new ideas to advance the client’s interests.”

Philip Hinks

Strengths: “Philip Hinks was a sea of calmness in an ocean of madness.”

“Philip Hinks has a lot of gravitas and is extremely considered in his approach.”

Can Yeginsu

Strengths: “A fantastic barrister.”

“Can Yeginsu is excellent, very responsive and very detailed. He looks into all the angles and really makes a difference for your client.”

“He is a brilliant advocate and is very sensitive to client needs.”

Christopher Bond

Strengths: “Christopher Bond exercises good judgement and gets the right balance between when to argue and when not to.”

“Christopher is highly experienced and very good on tricky issues.”

“Christopher Bond is a good communicator and a great senior junior.”

Liisa Lahti

Strengths: “A team player with a great work ethic, who is super bright.”

Georges Chalfoun

Strengths: “Georges Chalfoun is tactically astute, very conscientious and extremely affable.”

Ryan Ferro

Strengths: “A truly brilliant, outstanding junior.”

“Ryan Ferro operates far above his level of call. He is incredibly bright and very user-friendly. The quality of his written work is exceptional.”

“Ryan has an almost unrivalled capacity to analyse big problems and think several steps ahead.”

Hannah Glover

Strengths: “Hannah Glover is excellent; she is very detailed, very considered and someone who gives clear advice.”

“Hannah Glover is very smart, highly capable and a real pleasure to work with.”

Ian Higgins

Strengths: “Ian Higgins is very technical and very detail focussed. He is thorough and analytical too.”

“Ian Higgins quickly becomes part of the team.”

“Ian is a hard worker and shows incredible attention to detail, leaving no stone unturned. He is also incredibly easy to work with.”

Anne Jeavons

Strengths: “Anne Jeavons is excellent.”

“Anne is hardworking, strategic and great to work with.”

Alexia Knight

Strengths: “Alexia is incredibly bright and always all over the detail.”

“Her main strength is that she is very thorough and commercial in the advice she gives. Her advocacy is also very impressive.”

“Alexia’s written submissions are very clear, very astute and very precise.”

“Alexia is very user-friendly and has good technical skills.”

George McPherson

Strengths: “George McPherson has a brain the size of a planet. He shows good attention to detail and is very strong both on paper and when presenting to the court.”

William Day

Strengths: “William Day is super bright, always very into the detail and always a massive pleasure to work with. He punches above his weight.”

Dominic Kennelly

Strengths: “Dominic Kennelly has complete mastery of everything he does. His submissions are persuasive and well structured.”

“Dominic has a really nice, crisp drafting style which is really effective.”

Rebecca Zaman

Strengths: “Rebecca Zaman is very user-friendly and explains things in common sense terms.”

Band 2

Blackstone Chambers

Blackstone Chambers’ barristers are au fait with all manner of commercial cases and are also particularly noted for their acumen in the fraud, financial services, sports law and competition worlds. They regularly get their teeth into the major cases of the day such as: Virgin Aviation v Alaska Airlines, a contractual dispute; Skatteforvaltningen v Solo Capital Partners, a claim by the Danish Tax Authority arising from alleged fraud; Ridley v Dubai Islamic Bank, a matter related to an injunction; and Recovery Partners GP & anor v Rukhadze & ors, a case concerned with the scope of the solicitor’s equitable lien. One source praises the set as having “a range of leaders in their particular fields who are always technically excellent.” Another interviewee notes that the set has “great depth of expertise both within and beyond the commercial litigation sphere.”

Client service:

“The clerks provide a first class service.”

“The clerks are always on hand and the excellent Adam Sloane, deputy senior clerk, in particular, is terrific.”

“The clerk Billy Brian is great – he’s responsive, proactive and fun to work with.”

“Gary Oliver, senior clerk, superbly leads a first rate clerking team.”

SILKS

Andrew Green KC

Strengths: “Andrew is a superb strategist and advocate. It’s scary how well he is able to predict how a judge will approach a point. He is very down to earth and practical, and he takes a real interest in matters.”

“Andrew is excellent; he’s charming, capable and

authoritative.”

“A superb cross-examiner.”

“Andrew reads the picture very well in terms of what to present in court.”

Andrew Hunter KC

Strengths: “Andrew Hunter was excellent. He provided clear advice and devised a strong and successful strategy.”

“Andrew is reachable, responsive and very clever. He is able to get to grips with things pretty quickly and can identify what legal arguments have the best prospects.”

“Superb and able to quickly get to the root of complex legal issues and their factual background.”

Robert Anderson KC

Strengths: “His written work and analysis is first rate.”

“Robert is experienced and impressive. He knows how to take control and run the show.”

“He always has an idea that no-one else has come up with.”

Shaheed Fatima KC

Strengths: “Shaheed Fatima is phenomenal in every way. She has an incredible intellect and is an excellent barrister.”

“A proper commercial lawyer.”

Tom Weisselberg KC

Strengths: “Tom Weisselberg is excellent all round.”

“His advocacy is really top draw.”

“Tom judges his advocacy perfectly.”

Thomas de la Mare KC

Strengths: “Tom is outstanding and full of energy. He is an excellent advocate, who is very clever and also very proactive and responsive.”

“Thomas de la Mare is a true creative thinker.”

Andrew George KC

Strengths: “Andrew George’s advocacy was outstanding and he judged his arguments really well.”

“Andrew is diligent, conscientious and always responsive to the needs of his instructing solicitors. His advice is clear, concise and practical, and in terms of his advocacy he is by far the most prepared, effective and charismatic barrister in the room.”

“Andrew has a wonderful bedside manner, is a brilliant cross examiner and is extraordinarily technically able. A world champion debater.”

Robert Howe KC

Strengths: “Robert Howe is very reliable and detail orientated.”

“Robert Howe is in a league of his own. He is calm, authoritative and extremely knowledgeable.”

“Robert is good in front of judges.”

Ian Mill KC

Strengths: “A brilliant barrister and advocate.”

“Ian Mill is very cool under fire and has a very good sense of how to edit an argument and present it in an easy to understand way.”

“Extremely robust and a really confident advocate.”

Michael Bloch KC

Strengths: “Michael Bloch is very impressive. He’s determined and not afraid to be firm in his views.”

“One of the top advocates at the Bar. His grasp of both strategy and practicalities is superb, and his mind is razor sharp.”

“Very effective in the courtroom. Michael has a first rate brain and is able to handle the most

complex matters.”

“Michael Bloch is not afraid to take on and deal with difficult points; he doesn’t shy away from them which is incredibly helpful.”

Alan Maclean KC

Strengths: “Alan Maclean is a tough operator, who can be firm when he needs to be but is not overly aggressive.”

“Alan Maclean is very dynamic.”

Anthony Peto KC

Strengths: “A seasoned expert, who is extremely knowledgeable and a known heavyweight in his area of expertise. The mere fact that Tony is advising on a matter is intimidating to his opponents.”

“At the top of his game. He knows the playbook inside out.”

“Anthony Peto is tactically astute and experienced.”

Andrew Scott KC

Strengths: “Andrew Scott is exceptional in every way. His advice is always well considered, his drafting is succinct and effective and his oral advocacy is lasered.”

“Andrew Scott is a fantastic advocate. He has an unmatched ability to take complex legal and factual arguments and present them in a way which is both simple, and overwhelmingly persuasive.”

“His written advocacy is second to none. He has an incredible ability to distil even the most complex issues into manageable chunks on the hoof.”

“Andrew is a force to be reckoned with on any commercial case. His advocacy has reached a very high standard.”

Robert Weekes KC

Strengths: “Robert Weekes is extremely bright, totally unflappable and someone who can absorb and analyse large volumes of information with ease.”

“A client is in safe hands with Rob. He is over every detail of the case and clients can be confident that he has anticipated every argument that will be made against him.”

“Robert is a strong advocate, who is very confident in court.”

Victoria Windle KC

Strengths: “Victoria Windle is fantastic at very complex financial disputes which she genuinely understands. She also has a brilliant ability to communicate with solicitors.”

“Victoria is phenomenal and is able to advise on extremely dense and complex, novel aspects of finance regulation.”

“Victoria is truly great. She is incredibly clever, very easy to engage with and a popular choice for both solicitors and clients.”

“Victoria remarkably balances a keen eye for detail with a highly commercial approach, and has a very easy manner with clients.”

Tom Richards KC

Strengths: “Tom Richards is a calm, considered and quietly effective advocate. He always sees the bigger picture.”

“Highly user friendly and great at thinking outside the box, he is able to pick up complex issues quickly.”

“Tom is really responsive and very much feels like an extension of our team of solicitors. His advice is always well reasoned and thought through, and

his willingness to debate points and discuss ways forward is extremely helpful.”

JUNIORS

Fraser Campbell

Strengths: “Fraser is incredibly clever, quick on his feet and a fantastic advocate. He is also client friendly and his advice and input on strategy are always brilliant.”

“Fraser is an extremely bright barrister, who offers excellent strategic thoughts.”

“A tremendous advocate.”

“Fraser Campbell has a strategic sixth sense and great knowledge of the law.”

Mark Vinall

Strengths: “Mark Vinall is a very effective advocate. He is particularly good in terms of preparation work as he is a very thorough individual.”

Harry Adamson

Strengths: “He is diligent, conscientious and always responsive to the needs of his instructing solicitors. His advice is clear, concise and practical.”

“Harry is extremely impressive, hard working and knowledgeable.”

“Harry is absolutely brilliant. He has an exceptional legal mind and is a real pleasure to work with.”

“Harry Adamson is very detailed and thoughtful.”

David Lowe

Strengths: “A brilliant barrister. David is detailed, has huge intellectual capacity and is always head of the game. He has a canny ability to predict where a case is going and he reacts accordingly.”

“David Lowe has a very powerful advocacy style.”

“David’s written work in particular is excellent; he is incredibly analytical but doesn’t overcomplicate things.”

“David Lowe is excellent. Always very calm and on top of matters, he provides good, commercial advice.”

Shane Sibbel

Strengths: “Shane offers an exceptional level of client service. He is very commercially minded and proactive in offering practical solutions to actual and possible challenges to the client’s case.”

“Shane’s legal analysis is always spot on, and his advice is clear and concise. His advocacy is excellent and he always maintains a calm demeanour. Shane is fantastic at dealing with clients and is able to explain complex legal issues in a straightforward way.”

“Shane is an excellent barrister with a huge brain. He is responsive and client friendly.”

Daniel Cashman

Strengths: “Daniel Cashman is extremely bright and hard working. He is great at commercial disputes and wonderful to work with.”

“Exceptional and undoubtedly a future star. Daniel has that rare combination of ferocious intelligence and excellent communication skills.”

“Daniel’s knowledge of the law and the court rules is unrivalled and he is able to digest and analyse large amounts of complex detail in short order.”

Tom Cleaver

Strengths: “Tom Cleaver is like a computer on legs. He knows all the documents and twists and turns along the way.”

“Extremely sharp-witted and great to work with.”

“Tom Cleaver has a confidence in the way he does his work and sees through the complexities of a case.”

Tom Mountford

Strengths: “Tom Mountford has both intellectual and intuitive intelligence. He gets to the crux of a matter and asks the right questions. His friendly and disarming manner encourages people to open up to him.”

“A great barrister, who is approachable, knowledgeable and professional.”

Simon Pritchard

Strengths: “Simon never wastes a word in his written and oral advocacy.”

“Simon is a fountain of information when it comes to financial services and really has his finger on the pulse of what is happening.”

Gayatri Sarathy

Strengths: “Gayatri is an excellent junior and an important member of any legal group – a keystone between solicitor and counsel teams. Her drafting is superb and her intellect means her analysis of any issue is far beyond her years.”

“Brilliant to work with and someone who puts clients at ease.”

Twenty Essex

Twenty Essex has excellent commercial litigation capability and barristers who are experienced in arguing matters in all of the highest courts. Barristers here have skill in a number of areas including intellectual property, insurance, shipping, international arbitration, and energy, and are particularly noted for their expertise in private international law. Recent examples of the sets work include the Abraaj Litigation, taking place in the Cayman Islands, and Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse & Others, a very high value Commercial Court case. Other matters handled include ClientEarth v Shell PLC and the Board of Shell, a high value claim relating to alleged breaches of duty.

Client service:

“The clerks, including practice director Arron Zitver and practice manager Sam McDowall, are extremely efficient and understand client needs. They are helpful and flexible where required.”

“We have been consistently impressed by the level of service and responsiveness provided by the clerks at the set. They demonstrate a genuine passion for their work and a deep commitment to ensuring that we receive the best possible service.”

“Practice manager Robert Wheeler and assistant practice manager George Wootton are responsive and efficient.”

SILKS

Philip Edey KC

Strengths: “Philip Edey is a very smooth advocate, who has the ear of the court.”

“Philip is a fantastic advocate, who is extremely client friendly and a total pleasure to work with.”

“He is incredibly committed and exhibits an attention to detail that is second to none.”

Duncan Matthews KC

Strengths: “Duncan Matthews is a polished advocate with natural authority and real stature.”

“A real heavyweight and a highly experienced commercial advocate.”

“He is extremely thorough and diligent in his work.”

Charles Kimmins KC

Strengths: “Charles Kimmins is an excellent advocate. He explains things well, is empathetic and has a sense of humour.”

Paul Lowenstein KC

Strengths: “Paul Lowenstein is user-friendly and effective in court.”

“Paul has the ear of the court and tribunal. He is an excellent advocate, who is easily able to grasp the details in a case.”

David Lewis KC

Strengths: “David makes himself familiar with the case and available for all work that needs to be done. A barrister who never sacrifices quality, he is fantastic at providing advice in a clear and succinct manner, even when the issues in the case are complicated.”

“Brilliant at structuring arguments in a methodical way.”

“David Lewis does exceptionally well in technically challenging cases.”

Philip Riches KC

Strengths: “Philip has excellent technical ability and is a very pleasant member of the team.”

“He is extremely hard working and thorough.”

Andrew Ayres KC

Strengths: “Very much on top of the detail, he has an excellent rapport with judges and manages to stay calm even in the most fraught circumstances.”

“His real strength is his advocacy, which is very smooth.”

“Simply brilliant on paper and on his feet.”

Andrew Fulton KC

Strengths: “Andrew Fulton is very user-friendly and fun to work with, as well as extremely tenacious. He will absolutely go the extra mile.”

Blair Leahy KC

Strengths: “Blair Leahy has fantastic commercial acumen.”

“An excellent choice for anything insolvency related or fraud focused. She is excellent on her feet.”

Thomas Raphael KC

Strengths: “Thomas Raphael has a very cerebral, intellectual style. He produces extremely impressive skeleton arguments.”

Tony Beswetherick KC

Strengths: “A very capable pair of hands.”

“Tony has encyclopaedic knowledge of company law and insolvency. He is also very good on the nuances of arguing offshore cases.”

Luke Pearce KC

Strengths: “Very diligent, hardworking and an excellent team player.”

“Luke is a very clear, smooth advocate, who is easy to work with.”

JUNIORS

Susannah Jones

Strengths: “Susannah Jones is incredibly resourceful, organised and diligent.”

“The quality of Susannah’s analysis and her excellent written work both impress.”

Josephine Davies

Strengths: “Josephine Davies absorbs herself into the team but is also able to give an independent perspective on the case.”

“Very good at condensing difficult concepts into straightforward summaries.”

“Josephine is incredibly thorough and a master of her brief. Up to date with the legislation and the case law, she produces thorough written work that makes it easy for judges to judge.”

Belinda McRae

Strengths: “Belinda is responsive, user-friendly and extremely hard working. Her drafting is excellent and her skeleton arguments are a thing of beauty.”

“Belinda sees through the noise and delivers fantastic advice.”

“Belinda is really proactive and good at thinking ahead about what challenges we are likely to face.”

“Belinda is incredibly clever, hugely committed to the case and someone you would be absolutely comfortable putting in front of a client.”

Harris Bor

Strengths: “Harris dovetails very well with his instructing solicitors and acts in a very collaborative way.”

“He has a great ability to interact with clients.”

Sam Goodman

Strengths: “Sam Goodman has a very great knowledge of the law and a keen understanding of legal procedures.”

“Sam is very on top of the details of the case, and drafts very comprehensive pleadings.”

Mark Tushingham

Strengths: “Extremely bright, very user-friendly and good with clients.”

“Very smart, professional and co-operative.”

“Mark has an ability to understand the key issues and find the killer legal point. He is a very good analytical barrister who sees the big picture.”

7 King’s Bench Walk

A strong set with pronounced litigation experience across the commercial market that boasts widely recognised barristers capable of handling complex pieces of litigation. Recent examples include: Dubai Aerospace Enterprise & Others v Lloyd’s Insurance Company, and AerCap Ireland v AIG Europe SA and Lloyds Insurance Company, claims in the aviation sector, as well as Carillion v KPMG, an ongoing professional negligence matter. The lawyers here display a particular acumen for cases involving shipping and insurance. One source comments: “The set has very intelligent barristers who are willing to research technical subject matter in order to become experts on a case.” Another interviewee praises the set saying: “The depth and breadth of expertise at 7KBW is impressive and there is always someone available to suit the client’s requirements.”

Client service:

“The clerks provide an excellent service. Gary Rose, joint deputy senior clerk, is an experienced and commercially minded clerk.”

“The clerks go out of their way to help.”

“Joe Clayton is an exceptional clerk. He takes the time to understand the issues involved, he confidently discusses budgets and he knows his barristers’ capabilities and availabilities inside out.”

“The clerks are second to none. They are really helpful and responsive with strong turn around times.”

Greg Leyden is the senior clerk. “He is very easy to deal with and highly organised.”

SILKS

Jonathan Gaisman KC

Strengths: “Jonathan Gaisman displays an unbelievable grasp of detail and willingness to absorb amounts of detail.”

“Jonathan is fiendishly hard working and does not pull his punches in his determination to do his best for the client.”

David Allen KC

Strengths: “David has an eye for detail and establishes a great relationship with the client. He is really pleasant to work with.”

“A wonderful barrister, who’s great and always on the front foot.”

Rebecca Sabben-Clare KC

Strengths: “Rebecca’s advice was always very clear and well grounded in legal case law.”

“Rebecca is really someone who can cut through all the detail and get to the core points. She deals with matters very effectively.”

David Edwards KC

Strengths: “An impressive practitioner who is helpful and accessible.”

“Very bright and succinct – he gets to the point quickly.”

Gavin Kealey KC

Strengths: “Gavin is razor sharp and a pleasure to deal with.”

“He really comes into his own on his feet. When the case is knotty and difficult he is absolutely outstanding.”

“Gavin can adapt to anything and his advocacy is superb.”

Richard Waller KC

Strengths: “Richard Waller is extremely good on his feet and someone who provides very sensible, clear advice.”

James Brocklebank KC

Strengths: “James gets across the big picture and the detail. He is excellent on his feet and very user-friendly.”

“A very clever and commercially minded KC.”

Dominic Kendrick KC

Strengths: “Dominic Kendrick is always a pleasure to work with. He has an impressive bearing in court and exudes confidence.”

Michael Holmes KC

Strengths: “Michael Holmes provides great strategic advice and his analytical skills are massively impressive.”

Josephine Higgs KC

Strengths: “Jo is absolutely brilliant; she’s incredibly hard working and a joy to work with.”

“Jo’s attention to detail, knowledge and determination to do the very best for her clients impress.”

“Jo is very quick to grasp the facts and legal issues. She has an excellent memory for details and is very easy to work with.”

Jawdat Khurshid KC

Strengths: “Jawdat Khurshid delivers technically excellent, pragmatic advice confidently. He is responsive, sensitive to the commercial issues and someone whose advice is brilliantly delivered

whether in writing or in conference.”

JUNIORS

Keir Howie

Strengths: “Keir Howie displays excellent attention to detail and has a lot of practical knowledge at his fingertips.”

“Keir Howie shows fantastic judgement and has an amazing ability to remember all of the detail in a case.”

Michael Ryan

Strengths: “He produces excellent cross examinations that are minutely prepared and strongly delivered.”

Clara Benn

Strengths: “Clara Benn has impressive powers of analysis.”

“Clara is really excellent at slicing through to the heart of the matter. She also has a gift for distilling a complicated dispute down to its simplest issues, dealing with them effectively.”

Benjamin Parker

Strengths: “Benjamin Parker is very knowledgeable and very bright. He is also commercially astute and great to work with.”

“A very experienced, strong and highly commercial advocate.”

Jason Robinson

Strengths: “An extremely smart barrister, who cuts through stuff well and digests material quickly. There’s no waffle with him – he’s sharp and straight to the point.”

“Jason has an eye for the detail.”

Timothy Kenefick

Strengths: “Timothy provides excellent guidance and submissions of a very high quality.”

Serle Court

A regular presence in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division, Serle Court is a set noted for its work on extremely high-value commercial disputes, particularly those involving civil fraud. Individuals at the set regularly guide clients through the most stressful and complex cases in the market, many of which are international in scope. Recent cases include: The Public Institution for Social Security v Al-Rajaan, a high value fraud claim; the Diesel Emissions litigation; Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse AG & Other; and Various Investors v RSA plc, claims brought by over 50 institutional claimants under s.90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. A source commented that Serle Court is “an excellent set involved in some heavy commercial work.”

Client service:

“Serle Court’s service was professional and prompt at all times.”

“Serle Court are the best clerks that I deal with. I would rate Nick Hockney, practice director, especially highly.”

“The clerks are exceptional as they are flexible and try to accommodate last minute requests. They make themselves available after hours and help with client expectations.”

“They are user friendly and willing to be flexible as to how they approach matters.”

“Serle Court has great clerks, who can make magical things happen. Nick Hockney and Charlie Payne, practice managers, are really user-friendly

and good at what they do.”

SILKS

Elizabeth Jones KC

Strengths: “Elizabeth Jones has a mastery of both strategy and detail. She is able to both zoom into the details of documents and zoom out to consider the wider strategy implications as well.”

“Elizabeth is simply the best in terms of authoritative court presence.”

Philip Marshall KC

Strengths: “Philip Marshall’s strategic nous is amazing.”

“Philip Marshall was forceful in his advice and robust with the clients when confronting difficult points in the case.”

“Philip has unrivalled experience and a continuing passion to drive a case forward. Technically excellent, he’s able to simplify complex legal problems and get to the critical issues.”

“Philip is one of the stars of the KC ranks. He’s consistently hardworking, highly energetic and very impressive in court.”

Jonathan Adkin KC

Strengths: “Jonathan Adkin is extremely practical. He can read different judges really well and understand the way they think. He is also unflappable when facing an aggressive courtroom.”

Philip Jones KC

Strengths: “Philip Jones is really smart and makes a big difference when you have him on your side.”

Lance Ashworth KC

Strengths: “Lance Ashworth is very strategic and clear in his guidance.”

John Machell KC

Strengths: “John Machell is client friendly, very good on his feet, and someone who can package technical advice in a commercial, pragmatic way.”

Justin Higgo KC

Strengths: “Justin Higgo is very strategic and a real fighter. He looks at the points and really go for it.”

“Justin is incredibly persuasive and fierce.”

Daniel Lightman KC

Strengths: “Daniel Lightman always seeks to find solutions to issues. He does creative and clever work.”

“He impresses with his calm approach, and his written work is very persuasive and clear.”

Hugh Norbury KC

Strengths: “Hugh is a brilliant advocate. His ability to create an impression and hold a courtroom is outstanding.”

“He is an exceptional cross-examiner, who has the ability to think on his feet.”

“Hugh provides very strategic insight and has a very modern way of working with everyone in the team.”

David Blayney KC

Strengths: “David Blayney has a massive brain and is very good fun to work with.”

Zoe O’Sullivan KC

Strengths: “Zoe is very user-friendly and a formidable advocate.”

“Zoe is a motivated advocate who grasps issues quickly.”

Rupert Reed KC

Strengths: “Rupert Reed is amazing. He’s super smart, has very high emotional intelligence and is

an excellent oral advocate.”

JUNIORS

Simon Hattan

Strengths: “Simon Hattan is very pragmatic and gives commercial, realistic advice.”

“Simon is a reliable advocate and works very well with other counsel.”

“Simon is a very down to earth barrister with good judgement. When instructed he rolls his sleeves up and is a fine team player.”

Paul Adams

Strengths: “Paul Adams is a bright, commercial thinker. He is all over both the detail and the bigger picture and is really creative in finding solutions.”

“He has an excellent strategic brain, and is always thinking several steps ahead.”

“He is very good at managing the details and documents in a case.”

Matthew Morrison

Strengths: “Matthew is very proactive and responsive. He is good with clients, especially those who may be difficult to handle, and he is generally one step ahead of the game.”

“Matthew is always willing to chat through issues and work out how to move things forward positively.”

Band 3

4 New Square Chambers

4 New Square is praised by solicitors for having “excellent barristers” who have “the ability to quickly understand the nature of a business.” The set’s barristers are recognised for being well acquainted with domestic commercial cases, and also gain recognition for their involvement in high-profile cross-border litigation. Recent examples of the set’s impressive work include Suppipat & Ors v Narongdej & Ors, a high value fraud claim, Various Investors v Standard Chartered Bank, a s90/s90A FSMA related claim, and Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaaan & Others, a claim across various jurisdictions. A source extols: “There is depth of experience and quality throughout the set at all levels and it is rare that you cannot find a suitable candidate from 4 New Square for a piece of litigation.” Another interviewee comments: “The set’s barristers are brilliant for complex business matters and give sophisticated advice produced with attention to detail.”

Client service:

“The clerks are friendly, approachable and highly efficient – nothing is too much trouble.”

“The service levels provided by Dennis Peck, deputy senior clerk, and his team are consistently outstanding.”

“The clerks deliver a first class service. They are prompt to respond and excellent at arranging matters.”

“I find them outstanding in terms of their assistance and willingness at all times to help sort out complex situations in an efficient manner.”

Lizzy Stewart is the senior clerk and CEO.

SILKS

Justin Fenwick KC

Strengths: “Justin Fenwick is extremely experienced and has a very calm demeanour even under pressure.”

“The way he cross-examined was a masterclass.”
 “Justin’s judgement is spot on and he is able to digest very large swathes of information.”

Daniel Saoul KC

Strengths: “Daniel Saoul is excellent with clients and a great strategic thinker.”

“Dan deals with things in a really calm manner and can make complex concepts simple.”

“He is a very smooth and unflappable advocate.”

Graham Chapman KC

Strengths: “Graham is highly intelligent and yet still incredibly user friendly. He garners the confidence of clients quickly and provides well thought out and measured advice.”

“A very level-headed, sensible and effective advocate.”

George Spalton KC

Strengths: “George Spalton is an exceptional advocate, who is extremely persuasive and clear and effective in his questioning. He is able to work through complex and difficult issues with ease and distil arguments and legal points for both clients and the court.”

“Technically gifted and fantastic with clients.”

“George is a great modern silk. He combines excellent advocacy with commercial nous, and is very good at marshalling a team.”

“He is a great team player, who is very focused on what the client is looking for.”

Ben Elkington KC

Strengths: “Strong and very user friendly.”

“She produces effective advice given with clear thought to the commerciality of the matter.”

“Super detailed, really good on the finer points and someone who has a real command of case law.”

Hugh Jory KC

Strengths: “Hugh Jory is extremely good in cross-examination.”

“Hugh provides an excellent level of service, and has great expertise and commercial awareness. His advocacy skills are absolutely second to none.”

Matthew Bradley KC

Strengths: “Matthew is excellent and gives great service.”

“He is in all the brilliant economic tort cases.”

“I was very impressed with Matthew’s commitment and client engagement.”

JUNIORS

Kendrah Potts

Strengths: “Kendrah Potts is extremely easy to work with and a very good advocate.”

“Kendrah is a barrister of very high calibre and an absolute pleasure to work with.”

Lucy Colter

Strengths: “Lucy has a great capacity to manage a lot of complex information, and shows wonderful attention to detail.”

“Lucy Colter is very meticulous and displays an immense ability to get to grips with a massive amount of factual material.”

Saaman Pourghadiri

Strengths: “Saaman is laser focused, very client

friendly and easy to work with.”

“A great team player who gives sound, practical and commercial advice.”

Maitland Chambers

Maitland Chambers is a set whose members are well versed in a wide range of areas of commercial litigation, and who are especially well known for handling company and insolvency-related disputes and cases involving allegations of civil fraud. Members are regularly involved in international cases, and are routinely selected to appear in the most complex of trials. Recent work includes: Upham v HSBC UK Bank, a class action involving 300 claimants related to a failed tax scheme; National Investment Bank v Eland Ghana, a multimillion-dollar dispute over claims of fraud; and Watchstone Group v PricewaterhouseCoopers, a breach of confidence and conspiracy matter. An interviewee comments: “The barristers here have a level of legal analysis and thought that is second to none. Maitland is very much a set of really strong technical lawyers.”

Client service:

“John Wiggs, senior clerk, is exceptional – he’s always responsive, amenable and understanding.”

“The clerks are excellent. Robert Penson, deputy senior clerk, is really responsive, always available and willing to help.”

SILKS

David Mumford KC

Strengths: “David Mumford is cool, calm and collected under pressure.”

“David has encyclopaedic knowledge, and is a sponge who can absorb an enormous amount of legal material and deploy it extremely well.”

“Ferociously bright, meticulous in his preparation and excellent on his feet.”

“He marshals arguments beautifully and nothing gets past him.”

Catherine Addy KC

Strengths: “Catherine Addy is very collaborative and focused on finding common ground. She is also industrious and rigorous in her approach.”

“Phenomenally clever and incredibly hard working, she is a dream silk to work with.”

“Catherine Addy thinks strategically about how to approach a case and, as an advocate, has an assured and confident manner.”

Andrew Twigger KC

Strengths: “Andrew Trigger is an incredibly modest man, who is an approachable barrister with an incredible brain.”

“Andrew is quite relaxed and laid back but has the killer instinct when required.”

Dominic Chambers KC

Strengths: “A superb barrister, who is able to grasp complex issues (including those pertaining to foreign law) quickly.”

“Absolutely brilliant, he produces crystal clear advice that it is impossible to disagree with.”

Matthew Collings KC

Strengths: “Matthew Collings is a very effective advocate.”

“In court he’s very good at jumping in and hammering home points when he spots a weakness.”

Richard Morgan KC

Strengths: “Richard Morgan very quickly gets to

grip with the key issues in a case, and provides clear advice and concise strategy. He is a very strong advocate.”

Thomas Munby KC

Strengths: “Thomas Munby is very user-friendly and extremely nice to work with.”

“Thomas’ drafting is absolutely amazing.”

“Thomas is respected by the court as he has good judgement and knows what points to take.”

JUNIORS

Watson Pringle

Strengths: “Watson is a very impressive senior junior and a delight to work with. The quality of his work and the speed at which he produces it is second to none and he is clearly highly in demand.”

Rosanna Foskett

Strengths: “Rosanna Foskett is very proactive and incredibly responsive. She quickly delivers appropriately practical advice even when dealing with technically complex matters.”

“Rosanna is a great advocate, who is very good with clients.”

Benjamin John

Strengths: “Benjamin is exceptionally clever, highly focused and very nimble on his feet in court.”

“He is ferociously intelligent and an excellent advocate both on paper and in the courtroom.”

Quadrant Chambers

Members of Quadrant Chambers maintain busy commercial dispute practices and regularly receive an abundance of both domestic and international instructions. Recently, members have acted in a slew of high-profile cases such as Soteria Insurance Limited v IBM UK Limited, an appeal to the Supreme Court, and Amir Soleymani v Nift Gateway, a case involving an NFT auction. The set’s barristers are highlighted for their insight on complex matters. A commentator praises members of the set as having “the ability to handle all matters, from lower value litigation all the way through to complex multi-jurisdictional claims.”

Client service:

“The service levels and responsiveness of the clerks are key to our continued use of chambers.”

“The set has a great, responsive clerking team.”

“Daniel Westerman, senior practice manager, is a superstar. He understands a solicitor’s constraints and is always on hand to offer constructive solutions.”

“An excellent team of clerks who are always willing and eager to assist and find solutions.”
 Simon Slattery is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Simon Rainey KC

Strengths: “Simon Rainey is absolutely top flight in his field.”

“Simon is devastating at cross examination.”

“Simon’s reputation as the best in the business is well-deserved.”

“Simon has a way of making the most complicated things really simple and he is incredibly persuasive.”

Paul Downes KC

Strengths: “Paul Downes is a very good advocate

and an excellent cross-examiner.”

“He is a tough advocate with real gravitas and superb client skills.”

Yash Kulkarni KC

Strengths: “Yash is a highly persuasive advocate and a real team player.”

“Yash is very good at putting clients at ease and explaining issues clearly.”

“He is incredibly responsive, has great instincts and is very nice to work with.”

Robert-Jan Temmink KC

Strengths: “Robert immediately wins the confidence of the clients. In court he’s brilliant and judges listen to him.”

“An excellent advocate and a great team player, who really understands the relationship between solicitor and barrister. He delivers successful outcomes for clients.”

Andrew Guy Blackwood KC

Strengths: “He is a very approachable, affable silk who has encyclopaedic knowledge of insurance law, and is an expert on cross border issues relating to the sector.”

“His advice is clear and helpful.”

Jeremy Richmond KC

Strengths: “Jeremy Richmond is technically excellent, a fantastic case strategist, quick on his feet and someone who has an ability to understand enormously complex factual situations.”

“His strengths are that he is technically very astute, a formidable advocate and an excellent draftsman.”

JUNIORS

Stewart Chirnside

Strengths: “Stewart Chirnside is very sharp and he often spots points that other people have missed. He really immerses himself in all of the detail.”

“He is a very meticulous and robust advocate.”

Joseph Sullivan

Strengths: “Joseph Sullivan is really pragmatic and delivers excellent legal views. He understands the clients and their commercial drivers.”

“Joseph has a lot of experience as an advocate.”

Christopher Jay

Strengths: “Sensible, pragmatic and very commercial in his approach.”

Simon Oakes

Strengths: “An exceptionally intelligent individual who adopts a personable approach and can explain complex legal points clearly and simply to lay clients.”

“Simon has a great eye for detail, and works incredibly hard.”

Emily Saunderson

Strengths: “Emily Saunderson can be effective and forceful without being aggressive.”

Turlough Stone

Strengths: “Turlough Stone is very approachable and user-friendly.”

4 Stone Buildings

4 Stone Buildings marshals considerable litigation experience and has long experience of appearing in landmark disputes. Recent examples include Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse, a high value, multiparty piece of litigation relating to allegations of fraud. Members of the set also

appeared in *Autonomy Corporation v Michael Lynch*, a very large scale fraud case, and *Banca Generali v CFE (Suisse) SA and SCO*, a finance related matter. A commentator notes: “Barristers at all levels in this set are very impressive.” Another praises the set for having an “excellent breadth and depth of knowledge to suit all matters.”

Client service:

“The clerks are very pragmatic and commercially aware.”

“Ryan Tunkel, second junior clerk, in particular, is a responsive and approachable clerk.”

“A great team – David Goddard is one of the most respected and well known senior clerks at the Bar. Ben Lashmar, first junior clerk, and Ryan Tunkel are also superb clerks. They are very commercial and sensible in the way they deal with people.”

“They are very responsive and also very friendly. They always connect us to the right people in the set and we are very pleased with their service.”

SILKS

Jonathan Crow KC

Strengths: “Jonathan Crow is one of the finest advocates on his feet.”

“Jonathan has gravitas and the judges listen to him in a way they don’t listen to other KCs.”

“He is fantastically clever and has a really easy manner.”

“Jonathan Crow makes complex matters straightforward. He is an absolute star.”

Richard Hill KC

Strengths: “Richard Hill has amazing authority and the ability to deliver difficult news or advice crisply and in a positive, direct manner.”

“Richard Hill is very practical and great at marshalling a case, whilst always understanding the commercial imperatives behind it.”

“Richard prepares meticulously.”

John Brisby KC

Strengths: “John Brisby is great with clients and gives excellent advice. His cross-examination is also superb.”

“He is a formidable character, who is calm and determined in his submissions.”

“John is an effective advocate.”

Sharif Shivji KC

Strengths: “User-friendly, calm and reassuring, he finds the commercial angles in the cases he undertakes.”

“Very commercial in his approach, he’s the epitome of a modern silk.”

“A barrister with an academic mind who is strong on the legal detail and handles his cases with grace and pragmatism.”

George Bompas KC

Strengths: “George Bompas is a creative thinker and someone who turns around papers very fast.”

“George is strategic and so experienced.”

Andrew de Mestre KC

Strengths: “Incredibly responsive and very personable, he’s someone who always gets on well with clients.”

Alexander Cook KC

Strengths: “Alexander Cook is incredibly responsive and very clever.”

JUNIORS

Gregory Denton-Cox

Strengths: “Gregory Denton-Cox is a client friendly barrister, who is good with technically complex issues.”

“Gregory works incredibly hard, thinks very creatively and produces advocacy that is really stellar.”

“He is a very strong advocate.”

Tom Gentleman

Strengths: “Tom Gentleman is a delight to work with and the backbone of any team he’s on.”

Alastair Tomson

Strengths: “Alastair Tomson is the driving force behind cases. He’s always calm and he has the strongest work ethic I have ever encountered.”

“Very knowledgeable and very professional.”

“Alastair’s drafting is incredibly precise, detailed and impressive.”

“A confident advocate, who’s a tough cross-examiner and someone who really commits to his client’s case.”

“Efficient and helpful, he produced highly strategic advice.”

Christopher Harrison

Strengths: “Christopher Harrison is very bright and has a great feeling for what is going to change a judge’s mind.”

Wilberforce Chambers

Wilberforce Chambers has at its disposal a strong bench of commercial barristers with particularly impressive capability at silk level. Its members are capable of handling a wide spectrum of commercial matters, including, among others, cases arising out of company law, insolvency and civil fraud. The set’s barristers are well known for their ability to represent clients in international disputes, and regularly appear in a range of jurisdictions such as Hong Kong, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. Recently, members have acted in *Tulip LLP v Bitcoin Association*, a very high profile case from the crypto sector, as well as *Suppipat & Others v Narongdej & Others*, a claim alleging fraud and asset-stripping. Other matters handled include the Greensill litigation, a case which followed the collapse of Greensill Capital. One interviewee commented “Wilberforce Chambers is a set crammed with very skilled and sophisticated barristers, who deal with complex multi-jurisdictional litigation matters.”

Client service:

“Nick Luckman, practice director, and Andrew Barnes, senior practice manager, are always available. They are very practical individuals, who want the best outcome for the client.”

“Stewart Cameron, senior practice manager, was a stand out. He was always available and not afraid of discussing pricing.”

“The clerks have very good response times and are not afraid to deal with complex issues such as cost estimates. They are very professional in negotiation and are excellent at liaising with the court.”

“The clerks instil confidence that they will be able to get you what you need in terms of counsel support.”

“The clerks bend over backwards to accommodate requests.”

SILKS

Alan Gourgey KC

Strengths: “Alan Gourgey has an eye for detail like no other and is extremely good at dealing with very difficult clients.”

“Alan is excellent at strategic thinking and has very clear judgement. His advocacy style is also excellent.”

John Wardell KC

Strengths: “John Wardell is a very good listener. He is always keen to listen to the entire team and then give his advice following a hearing from everyone.”

“John is very passionate and very motivated.”

“John is a good strategist.”

“He is forthright in his advice and not afraid to give very robust opinions as to the chances of success.”

“Extremely effective in court.”

Tim Penny KC

Strengths: “Tim Penny is a charming advocate who captivates even when dealing with difficult points. He has the ear and trust of the court.”

“Tim displays extraordinary attention to detail.”

Marcia Shekerdemian KC

Strengths: “Marcia is a great technician.”

“She impresses with her skills, sharp mind, steadiness and composure.”

“Marcia is a delight to watch on her feet.”

James Bailey KC

Strengths: “James is outstanding in his advocacy and in particular the way he deals with issues when on his feet.”

Ian Croxford KC

Strengths: “Exceptional. His advocacy and cross examination were masterful.”

“Ian’s attention to detail and focus on the key issues are superb. He is ferociously hard working and is the best trial advocate.”

“He has great courtroom presence and is a very careful strategist.”

Terence Mowschenson KC

Strengths: “An effective and direct advocate, who doesn’t pull punches.”

JUNIORS

Sri Carmichael

Strengths: “Sri Carmichael is very thorough in her approach.”

“She evidently cares about the work she is doing and is always focused on getting the best outcome.”

“Sri is very approachable, user-friendly and incredibly astute.”

Jack Watson

Strengths: “Jack is a brilliant barrister with a huge brain who takes a very commercial approach to litigation. He is great with clients and fantastic on his feet.”

“Jack was very precise and his cross-examination skills were brilliant.”

Bobby Friedman

Strengths: “Bobby Friedman is highly intelligent and an effective communicator. He is very comprehensive in his approach.”

“A very efficient and personable barrister.”

Tim Matthewson

Strengths: “Tim Matthewson is very switched on, diligent and user-friendly.”

“Tim is very measured. In those situations where

there is a lot of hyperbole and unnecessarily long letters are being thrown around, he’s good at reining in emotions.”

James Walmsley

Strengths: “James had a mastery of the thousands of documents in the case and explained complicated legal concepts in a very straightforward fashion to the clients. His understanding of the law is a sight to behold.”

“James’ intellect is astonishing and his ability to retain huge volumes of information is phenomenal.”

“James is very easy to work with and he provides excellent guidance.”

Band 4

XXIV Old Buildings

XXIV Old Buildings possesses significant talent in the commercial litigation sphere at both silk and junior level, and has barristers who are praised by interviewees for being “very good at handling complex legal issues.” It is regularly involved in key cases across the sector. By way of example, recent matters handled by the tenants include *Ivanishvili v Credit Suisse*, a claim by a Georgian billionaire against a subsidiary of a Swiss bank arising out of allegedly fraudulent acts, as well as *Federal Republic of Nigeria v Tibit* and another, an asset recovery action in the BVI. Barristers here are not only experienced in handling disputes in the UK, but also frequently act in cases overseas, and have noteworthy experience in jurisdictions in the Middle East and the Caribbean, among many others.

Client service:

“Tommie Drury, practice manager, and Perry Brown, senior practice manager, have been extremely helpful.”

“Paul Horsfield, head of clerking, is very responsive and a really nice guy.”

“The clerks always respond promptly.”

“Very commercial and very user-friendly.”

SILKS

Edward Cumming KC

Strengths: “Edward Cumming is hugely hard working and imaginative and a tremendous team player.”

“Edward has really good experience.”

Elsbeth Talbot Rice KC

Strengths: “Elsbeth is an incredibly impressive character. She has gravitas and a sense of judgement.”

“Elsbeth Talbot Rice gives clear and unequivocal advice and is a very good advocate.”

Stephen Moverley Smith KC

Strengths: “Stephen Moverley Smith is very sharp-witted in his replies and provides a good response to whatever arguments are made. He is well prepared and always ready to address matters.”

Alan Steinfeld KC

Strengths: “Alan Steinfeld is an absolute bedrock of legal advice.”

Steven Thompson KC

Strengths: “Very smart and easy to work with, he’s a man who brings genuine knowledge and

enthusiasm.”

“Steven is extremely bright and fights very hard.”

Adam Cloherty KC

Strengths: “Adam Cloherty is a very clever barrister.”

“He is incredibly quick at seeing what the points are.”

JUNIORS

Hugh Miall

Strengths: “Hugh Miall is fantastic at drafting and a safe pair of hands.”

Stuart Adair

Strengths: “Stuart Adair is excellent in court, especially in respect of cross-examination. He is a very powerful advocate, who has a great way of getting the court on side.”

4 Pump Court

4 Pump Court exhibits marked capability in the commercial litigation market and has expertise spanning a wide range of disciplines, such as construction, energy, insurance and shipping. Its barristers adroitly tackle international mandates, steering clients through cases across the globe, including in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. Members have been involved in a number of high profile mandates this year including *PIFFS v Al Rajaan* and others, a high value sovereign wealth fund fraud case that involved numerous defendants, as well as *Skatteforvaltningen v Solo Capital Partners*, a claim brought by the Danish tax authority against a large number of defendants relating to alleged fraud. Other matters handled include *EE Ltd v Virgin Media Ltd*, a breach of exclusivity dispute. A commentator praises 4 Pump Court for being “a strong set of experienced counsel.”

Client service:

“With the clerks here there’s never an issue with responsiveness.”

“The clerks are excellent and very personable. They work hard to build relationships with instructing solicitors.”

“Practice directors Billy Griffiths and Will Jackman are really proactive, very communicative and probably the best clerks I have ever dealt with.”

“Richard Simano, practice director, is very easy to deal with, and a great addition to the clerking team.”

“The clerking team is everything you want from an elite set.”

Carl Wall and Stewart Gibbs are the senior clerks.

SILKS

Stephen Cogley KC

Strengths: “Stephen Cogley is very proactive in finding a route through a difficult task.”

Nigel Tozzi KC

Strengths: “Nigel Tozzi is a very calming influence. He is quick to digest difficult and complicated issues and explain them to clients in very understandable terms.”

“Nigel is a brilliant advocate, who is highly intelligent and client friendly.”

“Nigel is very impressive and experienced.”

Benjamin Pilling KC

Strengths: “Benjamin Pilling is very good at the paperwork—his drafting is clear and promptly pro-

vided. He is also very good at navigating the sticky points of a case.”

“Benjamin is the best advocate I have ever seen on his feet. His preparation is so meticulous and he has a devastatingly effective style.”

“He is an all rounder, who is extremely clever.”

Nick Vineall KC

Strengths: “Nick Vineall is really beautifully clear.”

Alexander Wright KC

Strengths: “Alexander Wright is very clear and assured.”

JUNIORS

Laurence Page

Strengths: “A super advocate and a great team player.”

“Laurence Page is very creative and looks for a solution where often others will look for a problem. He is a great sounding board and is always willing to kick things around.”

“Laurence provides fast turnaround times and is very commercial.”

Gideon Shirazi

Strengths: “Gideon Shirazi is able to get to grips with technical details and material very quickly, and is very adept at understanding the technical aspects of a case.”

Kajetan Wandowicz

Strengths: “Kajetan is operating at a level far beyond his call. He is as bright as they come, responsive, great with clients and extremely pragmatic.”

South Square

South Square operates a thriving commercial dispute practice, and houses a strong bench of leading silks and juniors. Its practitioners are active in sophisticated litigation, with recent cases handled by the team including NMC Healthcare v Noor Capital, an antisuit injunction matter, and Credit Suisse v SoftBank, a matter arising out of the collapse of Greensill. The set is the clear market leader for commercial cases arising out of insolvency, and is praised by solicitors for having “knowledge on insolvency that is second to none.”

Client service:

“The clerks are very responsive and easy to deal with.”

“Lewis Madle, assistant practice manager, is energetic and helpful.”

“The clerks are amazing. They are responsive and attentive, and also work well with other chambers.”

Dylan Playfoot is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Felicity Toube KC

Strengths: “Felicity Toube is very practical and commercial.”

“Clients love Felicity because she is user friendly and at the top of her game in insolvency.”

David Allison KC

Strengths: “David Allison is phenomenal. He is a brilliant, hugely bright advocate, whose judgement is fantastic.”

“David is a brilliant strategist.”

“David is very clear in his delivery and the points he makes. His advocacy is just so reassuring.”

Daniel Bayfield KC

Strengths: “Daniel Bayfield has superb technical knowledge, having worked on many highly complex, novel cases. He is also an extremely effective communicator, who has the ability to identify the key points and arguments in a case without hesitation.”

Aidan Casey KC

Strengths: “Aidan Casey is a great team player, who will go out of his way to accommodate solicitors and clients alike.”

“He is a very crisp and clear advocate.”

“Aidan Casey is a safe pair of hands, who is really good on his feet. He has a nice, gentle approach with the clients.”

“Aidan is unflappable and very calm when on his feet.”

Tom Smith KC

Strengths: “Incredibly intelligent and commercial and a pleasure to work with.”

“Tom is an absolute master. He absolutely demolishes the other side with such style, making it look effortless.”

“Tom is very user-friendly, down to earth and practical.”

Richard Fisher KC

Strengths: “Richard is very good at dissecting a complex case and concisely identifying the relevant issues. He is also a strong advocate, who is able to deal with difficult questions from the bench without pause.”

“He is a fantastic barrister and excellent to use as a sounding board.”

“Richard is very easy to deal with and very impressive in court.”

“Richard is technically excellent and creative in his approach to arguing points.”

Jeremy Goldring KC

Strengths: “Jeremy Goldring is hugely experienced and has excellent technical knowledge and judgement.”

“He has a great style and knows his stuff.”

JUNIORS

Adam Al-Attar

Strengths: “Adam is exceptionally good. He is very calm and considered, and has a persuasive advocacy style.”

“Adam has first rate analytical skills.”

Band 5

Erskine Chambers

Erskine Chambers stands out for its considerable strength in litigation, and has an experienced silk bench capable of handling multi-jurisdictional disputes. Its barristers have a strong track record in the market, as evidenced by recent work including BAT Industries v PwC, a very high value professional negligence case. Members also continued to act in the Carillion matter. A source reports: “Erskine is a real powerhouse of a corporate law set.”

Client service:

“The clerking team is brilliant. Alex Calder, senior practice manager, is a pleasure to deal with.”

“The clerks are very good and prepared to have open conversations.”

“The clerks provide an excellent service, including picking up the phone out of hours. Michael Shillingford, deputy senior clerk, stands out.”

Phil Reeves is the senior clerk.

SILKS

James Potts KC

Strengths: “James Potts is flexible in his approach to working with a team.”

“James has good attention to detail and is straightforward with the courts.”

“He is a sensible advocate.”

Andrew Thompson KC

Strengths: “Andrew Thompson is very clear and presents extremely well in court.”

“A very powerful advocate with quality technical knowledge.”

“Andrew is collaborative and prepared to roll his sleeves up.”

“An absolutely brilliant advocate, who treats all members of the team, from trainee up to partner, with the utmost courtesy.”

David Chivers KC

Strengths: “A very authoritative adviser who is thoughtful and willing.”

“Smooth and utterly persuasive.”

Gatehouse Chambers

Gatehouse Chambers is home to talented silks and juniors, who are regularly sought out for both domestic and cross-border matters, and have appeared in cases stretching as far afield as the Middle East and the Caribbean. Well known for their capabilities in dispute resolution, members at the set make regular appearances before the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. The barristers continue to handle complex cases such as PACCAR Inc v Road Haulage Association, a damages related matter. A commentator reports: “Gatehouse Chambers’ members are very thorough in their analysis of complex issues. They provide timely advice and wise counsel.”

Client service:

“Gatehouse Chambers’ clerks are responsive, comprehensive in their advice and on point.”

“The clerks are a joy to deal with.”

“Amy McClean, practice manager, is superb and on the ball.”

“The clerks are always professional and quick to assist and respond. They provide clear estimates on costs.”

“The clerks are particularly strong at Gatehouse. They are always very prompt in acknowledging papers and in giving quotes. They are also very helpful with other matters such as listing hearings. Of particular mention would be Peter Foad, senior practice manager.”

James Duncan-Hartill is the practice director.

SILKS

Nigel Jones KC

Strengths: “Nigel Jones shows calmness under pressure and great gravitas.”

“Nigel is very approachable and a joy to work with.”

David Lewis KC

Strengths: “David Lewis is an incredible, highly persuasive advocate, whose written work is clear and concise.”

PJ Kirby KC

Strengths: "PJ Kirby is very good on his feet; he has a silky smooth advocacy style. He is a technical expert when it comes to costs and anything litigation funding related."

JUNIORS

Charles Raffin

Strengths: "Charles is fantastic with clients and instantly puts them at ease with his confident, polite and assured manner."

"Charles is excellent on every level."

"Charles is excellent for complex arbitration matters."

Emily Betts

Strengths: "Emily Betts is really good in the preparation of paperwork and works well with a team."

"Emily is a really mature advocate who is clever and technically able."

Louis Zvesper

Strengths: "Clients warm to him quickly and he consistently turns around top quality work."

Littleton Chambers

Littleton Chambers has a highly creditable domestic and international commercial dispute resolution practice. Its barristers are recognised for their involvement in widely publicised cases, including those from different jurisdictions. Examples of the complex work handled by the barristers at Littleton Chambers include *The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care v PPE Medpro Limited*, a high profile PPE supply case. Other matters undertaken include *Arani et al v Cordic Group*, a dispute arising from alleged fraudulent warranties, and *Privatbank v Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, Teamtrend & others*, a case concerned with alleged losses. With an impressive record across the market, its barristers are often called upon to represent clients before the highest courts.

Client service:

"The clerks are commercial and pragmatic."

"Jason Drakefield, senior clerk, and Liz Dux, chambers director, are very good."

"The clerks are responsive and efficient."

"The clerks are very attentive and get things rolling."

"The clerks provide same day response and always strive to help with any issues."

SILKS

Charles Samek KC

Strengths: "Charles Samek is an exceptional talent and a really big brain."

"He is an excellent advocate, who is very robust."

Jonathan Cohen KC

Strengths: "Jonathan Cohen is very creative and willing to take a risk. He is also flexible in his approach."

Adam Solomon KC

Strengths: "The quality of his advice and the level of his service have been superb."

JUNIORS

David Lascelles

Strengths: "David Lascelles' ability to cut through huge volumes of documents and identify the key issues is impressive."

"He is exceptionally bright and a really good tactician and strategist."

Marc Delehanty

Strengths: "Marc Delehanty's written work is excellent. He is also highly responsive and very good on his feet."

Alexander Halban

Strengths: "Alexander is very approachable and highly responsive. He shows good attention to detail and has very good drafting skills."

2 Temple Gardens

The barristers at 2 Temple Gardens are routinely retained by clients seeking representation in commercial disputes involving companies in the UK and overseas, and have a particular flair for litigation involving contract disputes. Recent work includes *Last Bus (Dublin) Limited v (1) Dawsongroup Bus And Coach Limited*; (2) *Evobus Limited*, a multimillion-pound dispute relating to the supply of coaches by Mercedes-Benz to a major operator of bus services in the Republic of Ireland. Another matter handled was *Elite Insurance Company v BCR Legal, CRL Management and BCR Group*, where the set acted for the claimant, a Gibraltar insurer, in a case concerning breach of a binder agreement entered into with the coverholder defendant.

Client service:

"The clerks have been excellent in assisting in last minute applications and contacting the court. They are always available at the end of the phone and respond quickly to emails."

"Billy Hammonds, joint deputy senior clerk, provides an excellent service."

"The clerks foster great working relationships and are a pleasure to deal with."

Lee Tyler is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Charles Dougherty KC

Strengths: "Charles Dougherty punches above his weight."

"Charles is modest, hardworking and team spirited. He is very easy to work with."

"Charles Dougherty is exceptionally bright and really at the top of the tree. He has a real specialism in jurisdiction disputes and conflict of laws, and is very user friendly."

JUNIORS

Timothy Killen

Strengths: "Tim Killen provides excellent written work and very good advice."

"A very intelligent barrister whose advice is superb."

"Tim is exceptionally bright and goes the extra mile to assist."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Simon Adamyk (New Square Chambers)

Strengths: "Simon is an absolute genius, who is tremendous at dealing with cases of huge complexity."

"Simon really investigates all the angles of the legal problem. He gives swift practical advice and is unfailingly polite to lawyers and clients."

"His analytical skills are incredible and his attention to detail is unmatched."

Arnold Ayoo (Henderson Chambers)

Strengths: "Arnold Ayoo is keen to get stuck in and help with discussions."

"Arnold is always ready for a challenge and leaves no stone unturned."

Stuart Benzie (Radcliffe Chambers)

Strengths: "Stuart is excellent, particularly on urgent matters where you need quick, pragmatic advice. He is commercial and inspires confidence in clients."

"Stuart Benzie is clever, responsive and good with clients."

"He is good at strategy and is sharp and effective at cross-examination."

William Buck (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "William Buck is very commercially minded and focused on the outcome of a case."

"He gets the judge's attention and stays calm even when in high pressure situations."

Harriet Fear Davies (Devereux)

Strengths: "Harriet Fear Davies is very happy to roll her sleeves up and work as an extension of the team. She has the most incredible organisational capacity."

Steven Gee KC (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "Steven Gee is very able in terms of his advocacy and good at leading a legal team."

Karim Ghaly KC (39 Essex Chambers)

Strengths: "Karim Ghaly is an absolute delight. It's like working with a chess player who has already planned their moves several steps ahead." "He is extremely clever and has an amazing work ethic."

Harry Gillow (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "Harry Gillow provides sound, practical advice."

"Harry has a strong understanding of the commercial aspects and his overall case management is very strong."

Patrick Green KC (Henderson Chambers)

Strengths: "Patrick is happy to give a quick view on things and is forceful in his opinions."

"An absolutely fantastic advocate."

Drew Holiner (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "Drew Holiner is adept at putting complex foreign law concepts into terms a judge can easily understand."

Robert Levy KC (Three Stone)

Strengths: "Robert is a great courtroom advocate. He obliterates witnesses at the drop of a hat."

Gary Lidington (Radcliffe Chambers)

Strengths: "Gary Lidington is really clever and stands his ground. He is also enjoyable to work with."

"Gary is very clear and good at explaining matters to clients in a way they can understand."

David Lord KC (Three Stone)

Strengths: "David Lord is very clever. He has a huge brain that absorbs information and is a very strong advocate."

Kristina Lukacova (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "Kristina Lukacova is fantastic technically and very user-friendly. She is also incredibly sensible and level-headed."

"Kristina is commercial and easy to deal with."

William McCormick KC (Selborne Chambers)

Strengths: "William McCormick is a great all

rounder, who provides technical and straightforward advice. He is very intelligent and has extensive knowledge."

"Impresses with his ability to give clear, unequivocal advice."

Ognjen Miletic (Henderson Chambers)

Strengths: "Ognjen Miletic has great clarity of expression and is an extremely bright barrister, who has the ability to see problems and resolve them."

"A great pleasure to work with and a real team player."

"Incredibly dedicated and hard working."

Simon Mills (Radcliffe Chambers)

Strengths: "Simon Mills really sticks up for the client's interests."

"A very good senior junior, who really knows his onions."

David Mohyuddin KC (Radcliffe Chambers)

Strengths: "David provides excellent client service. He seamlessly tailors his advice to best suit the particular recipients within the client organisation."

"David is very responsive and user friendly. You really feel like he is part of the team."

Gregory Pipe (Monckton Chambers)

Strengths: "Gregory Pipe is very client focused."

"Gregory Pipe is an excellent cross-examiner, who engages well with the judge and is extremely intelligent."

Tom Poole KC (3 Hare Court)

Strengths: "Tom Poole is very thorough and provides clarity when dealing with the issues at hand."

"Tom has incredible legal knowledge and great technical ability. He is also incredibly user-friendly."

"Tom is very easy to work with and razor sharp on the key issues. In addition, his drafting is very concise and clear."

Amy Rogers (11KBW)

Strengths: "Amy Rogers is very clear and precise."

"Amy is extraordinarily modest and clients love her. She is a fearsome litigator."

Philip Shepherd KC (Chambers of Philip Shepherd KC)

Strengths: "Philip Shepherd is an expert in terms of managing judges."

Andrew Spink KC (Outer Temple Chambers)

Strengths: "Andrew Spink is well respected and has a nice, smooth style with judges."

"Andrew has great command of the courtroom."

Justina Stewart (Outer Temple Chambers)

Strengths: "Justina combines vast investment banking experience with top notch advocacy skills. Empathetic and easy to work with, she gets up to speed very quickly."

"Justina has an excellent eye for detail and always thinks outside the box."

"Justina provides straight and robust advice."

Henry Warwick KC (Henderson Chambers)

Strengths: "Henry is very smart and a pleasure to work with. He gives great advice on both tactics and strategy."

"Henry Warwick is very client friendly, highly intelligent and enjoyable to work with."

Geraint Webb KC (Henderson Chambers)

Strengths: "Geraint Webb is an excellent strategist, who has in depth knowledge."

"A composed and effective advocate."

"He gets up to speed incredibly quickly and seeing him in court is like watching a masterclass in cross examination."

"Geraint is super bright and very commercial. He always thinks strategically and several steps ahead."

Antony White KC (Matrix Chambers)

Strengths: "Antony White has a very good manner in court."

"He is extremely calm, ordered and very easy to work with."

James Woolrich (Three Stone)

Strengths: "James Woolrich is very level headed and calm."

"Excellent, bright and always willing to talk through the pros and cons of a case."

Dispute Resolution Commercial Chancery

Band 1

Maitland Chambers

Maitland Chambers retains its reputation as a leading set for commercial chancery matters. The set's impressive bench of barristers is regularly mentioned by interviewees: "This is a really strong set with expertise across the whole Commercial Chancery spectrum." Chambers offers significant expertise in banking and finance, insolvency and civil fraud claims, and its barristers have experience of handling both domestic and international litigation and arbitrations. Recent cases of note include Carey Street Investments Limited v Brown, and Goyal & Anor v BGF Group pls & Ors, a GBP40-70 million claim concerning alleged fraudulent misrepresentation and unlawful means conspiracy. The set was also involved in Eva Green v White Lantern Film (Britannica) Limited, a USD1 million claim brought by the actor following her dispute with a film production company over the aborted production of the sci-fi film 'A Patriot'.

Client service:

"The clerking is really good. John Wiggs, who leads the team there is highly experienced, runs a very tight ship and has a good group below him."

"The clerks are friendly, responsive and knowledgeable."

"The clerking process is seamless and the team represents a very valuable resource."

SILKS

Christopher Pymont KC

Strengths:

"Very able, has enormous experience and is one of the nicest people at the Bar. He's absolutely delightful as an opponent and plays absolutely fairly."

Catherine Addy KC

Strengths:

"Very collaborative, industrious and rigorous in her approach."

"A dream silk to work with, she's phenomenally clever and incredibly hard-working – I don't know when she sleeps. She's effective, really good with clients, and also really good in court."

"Knows every corner of company insolvency law like the back of her hand, and can answer questions off the top of her head. She thinks strategically about how to approach a case and also, as an advocate, has an assured and confident manner. Catherine does not rush things and is methodical. She also sits as deputy ICC judge, which gives her an extra edge."

David Mumford KC

Strengths:

"Highly strategic and very intelligent, David is consistently able to sense the direction of a case and respond accordingly."

"Extremely bright, calm and measured."

"He's an excellent advocate, who is always clear in his advice."

Andrew Twigger KC

Strengths:

"Modest, approachable and always communicative – he picks his mobile up whenever. He has incredible brainpower behind him but never shows off – it's just there ready to be deployed. Consistently extraordinary in finding the answer

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery
Leading Sets
Band 1
Maitland Chambers
Serle Court
4 Stone Buildings
Wilberforce Chambers
Band 2
Erskine Chambers
Essex Court Chambers
XXIV Old Buildings
South Square
3 Verulam Buildings
Band 3
Enterprise Chambers
New Square Chambers
Radcliffe Chambers
Selborne Chambers
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

to difficult legal problems, he's a softly spoken but highly persuasive character."

"A very good, calm performer in court."

"He's a great lawyer with a very gentle manner – there's nothing overstated in his approach. As a result he earns judicial trust and confidence."

Matthew Collings KC

Strengths:

"Very charming and an agreeable person to work with, he's very client friendly and helpful."

"A very effective advocate."

Edmund Cullen KC

Strengths:

"Outstanding – he is user-friendly, absurdly clever and so thorough."

"He is superb on his feet and judges seem to love him. His advice was brave, commercial and strategically spot on."

"Incredibly bright and someone who gives robust, clear advice, he is fantastic to work with. Able to work quickly without junior support, he is a fearless advocate not to be underestimated. He is a nice and quietly spoken man so people underestimate how effective he is as an advocate. As a result he will often prevail against those who are perhaps more ostentatious in their advocacy."

Michael Gibbon KC

Strengths:

"A fine performer, who is very experienced."

"A seasoned performer who is calm at all times. Judges like him."

George Hayman KC

Strengths:

"Understands the demands of the client and is willing to take a more pragmatic approach than others."

Siward Atkins KC

Strengths:

"He's fantastic. Great to work with, very smart, and someone who knows company law intricacies very well. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the background to any matter he's presented with."

Mark Cunningham KC

Strengths:

"He's incredibly down to earth and a nice person to work with."

Thomas Munby KC

Strengths:

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery

Senior Statespeople

Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners

Steinfeld Alan *XXIV Old Buildings*

Pymont Christopher *Maitland Chambers*

Leading Silks

Star individuals

Beltrami Adrian *3 Verulam Buildings*

Higgo Justin *Serle Court*

Crow Jonathan *4 Stone Buildings*

Hilliard Lexa *Wilberforce Chambers*

Band 1

Addy Catherine *Maitland Chambers*

Jory Hugh *4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Bompas George *4 Stone Buildings*

Kramer Adam *3 Verulam Buildings*

Chivers David *Erskine Chambers*

Leahy Blair *Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇*

Gourgey Alan *Wilberforce Chambers*

Lowe Thomas *Wilberforce Chambers*

Grant Thomas *Wilberforce Chambers*

Moverley Smith Stephen *XXIV Old Buildings*

Hill Richard *4 Stone Buildings*

Rowley Keith *Radcliffe Chambers*

Jones Elizabeth *Serle Court*

Scott Tiffany *Wilberforce Chambers*

Jones Philip *Serle Court*

Singla Nikki *Wilberforce Chambers*

Marshall Philip *Serle Court*

Stallworthy Nicolas *Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) ◇*

McGrath Paul *Essex Court Chambers*

Tager Romie *Selborne Chambers*

McQuater Ewan *3 Verulam Buildings*

Tregear Francis *XXIV Old Buildings*

Millett Richard *Essex Court Chambers*

Band 4

Mumford David *Maitland Chambers*

Akkouh Tim *Essex Court Chambers*

Salzedo Simon *Brick Court Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Atkins Siward *Maitland Chambers*

Smith Tom *South Square*

Ayres Andrew *Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇*

Smouha Joe *Essex Court Chambers*

Bailey James *Wilberforce Chambers*

Talbot Rice Elspeth *XXIV Old Buildings*

Bayfield Daniel *South Square*

Tolaney Sonia *One Essex Court (ORL) ◇*

Boardman Christopher *Radcliffe Chambers*

Toubé Felicity *South Square*

Boeddinghaus Hermann *4 Stone Buildings*

Wardell John *Wilberforce Chambers*

Bradley Matthew *4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇ □*

Band 2

Adkin Jonathan *Serle Court*

Brownbill David *XXIV Old Buildings*

Arden Peter *Erskine Chambers*

Casey Aidan *South Square*

Bhaloo Zia *Landmark Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Clarke Ian *Selborne Chambers*

Brisby John *4 Stone Buildings*

Clutterbuck Andrew *4 Stone Buildings*

Cumming Edward *XXIV Old Buildings*

Collingwood Timothy *Serle Court*

de Garr Robinson Anthony *One Essex Court (ORL) ◇*

Craig Nicholas *3 Verulam Buildings*

Hagen Dakis *Serle Court*

Croxford Ian *Wilberforce Chambers*

Lightman Daniel *Serle Court*

Cunningham Mark *Maitland Chambers*

Lissack Richard *Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Davenport Simon *4 Pump Court (ORL) ◇*

Machell John *Serle Court*

Davies Edward *Erskine Chambers*

Moeran Fenner *Wilberforce Chambers*

Fisher Richard *South Square*

Mowschenson Terence *Wilberforce Chambers*

Grant David E *Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Norbury Hugh *Serle Court*

Hutton Louise *Essex Court Chambers*

Penny Tim *Wilberforce Chambers*

Khan Farhaz *3 Verulam Buildings*

Potts James *Erskine Chambers*

Levy Robert *Three Stone (ORL) ◇*

Reed Rupert *Serle Court*

Lord David W *Three Stone (ORL) ◇*

Shivji Sharif A. *4 Stone Buildings*

Lucas Bridget *Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Stanley Clare *Wilberforce Chambers*

Malek Ali *3 Verulam Buildings*

Twigger Andrew M *Maitland Chambers*

Mohyuddin David *Radcliffe Chambers*

Band 3

Allison David *South Square*

Mold Andrew *Wilberforce Chambers*

Ashworth Lance *Serle Court*

Munby Thomas *Maitland Chambers*

Ayliffe James *Wilberforce Chambers*

Phillips Mark *South Square*

Beswetherick Tony *Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇*

Pickering James *Enterprise Chambers*

Blayne David *Serle Court*

Poole Tom *3 Hare Court (ORL) ◇*

Cohen Lawrence *Wilberforce Chambers*

Richardson Giles *Serle Court*

Collings Matthew *Maitland Chambers*

Riley Jamie *3 Verulam Buildings*

Cullen Edmund *Maitland Chambers*

Roe Thomas *3 Hare Court (ORL) ◇*

de Mestre Andrew *4 Stone Buildings*

Shekerdemian Marcia *Wilberforce Chambers*

de Verneuil Smith Peter *3 Verulam Buildings*

Temmink Robert-Jan *Quadrant Chambers (ORL) ◇*

Dowley Dominic *Serle Court*

Trompeter Nicholas *Selborne Chambers □*

Gibbon Michael *Maitland Chambers*

Willan James *Essex Court Chambers*

Hayman George *Maitland Chambers*

New Silks

Cloherly Adam *XXIV Old Buildings*

Cook Alexander *4 Stone Buildings*

den Besten Ruth *Essex Court Chambers*

McCourt Fritz Dan *Serle Court*

□ *direct access (see p.24).*

◇ (ORL) = *Other Ranked Lawyer.*

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	Raffin Charles Gatehouse Chambers (ORL) ◇
Denton-Cox Gregory 4 Stone Buildings	Rivett Jack Erskine Chambers
Gentleman Tom 4 Stone Buildings	Roscoe Tom Wilberforce Chambers
Keller Ciaran Essex Court Chambers	Tilley Gareth Serle Court
Pringle Watson Maitland Chambers	Warents Daniel XXIV Old Buildings
Band 2	Watson Jack Wilberforce Chambers
Adamyk Simon New Square Chambers	Band 4
Barden Alex Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇	Adair Stuart XXIV Old Buildings
Drake David Serle Court	Allcock Jonathan Maitland Chambers
Eaton Turner David New Square Chambers	Beasley Tom Radcliffe Chambers
Foskett Rosanna Maitland Chambers	Brock Laurie Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇
Halkerston Graeme Wilberforce Chambers	Cardew Maxim Maitland Chambers
Harrison Christopher 4 Stone Buildings	Chew Jonathan Wilberforce Chambers
Holden Andrew XXIV Old Buildings	Clegg Richard Selborne Chambers A
John Benjamin Maitland Chambers	Davies James Enterprise Chambers
Knott James 4 Stone Buildings	Deacock Adam Radcliffe Chambers
Mohamedbhai Adil Serle Court	Gavaghan Jonathan Ten Old Square (ORL) ◇
Robinson Thomas Wilberforce Chambers	Hackett Stephen 3 Hare Court (ORL) ◇
Sawyer Edward Wilberforce Chambers	Holcombe Sophie Serle Court
Sheehan James Essex Court Chambers	Holland Eleanor 4 Stone Buildings
Weale James Serle Court	Hood Nigel New Square Chambers
Band 3	Hubbard Mark New Square Chambers
Adams Paul Serle Court	Jhittay Narinder Maitland Chambers
Al-Attar Adam South Square	Johnson Simon Enterprise Chambers
Bor Harris Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇	Kinman James Maitland Chambers
Brown Rory 9 Stone Buildings (ORL) ◇	Kynoch Duncan Selborne Chambers
Calland Timothy Maitland Chambers	Littler Anna Wilberforce Chambers
Francis Edward Enterprise Chambers	Mathewson Tim Wilberforce Chambers
Friedman Bobby Wilberforce Chambers	McCombe Duncan Maitland Chambers
Gunaratna Kavan Enterprise Chambers	Nersessian Tiran 4 Stone Buildings
Hattan Simon Serle Court	Ovey Elizabeth Radcliffe Chambers
Hinks Philip 3 Verulam Buildings	Page Rowena Maitland Chambers
Kalfon Olivier Maitland Chambers	Peters David Essex Court Chambers
Lilly Donald 4 Stone Buildings	Roseman Gideon Ten Old Square (ORL) ◇
Lloyd Christopher Essex Court Chambers	Scher Laurie Maitland Chambers
Mather James Serle Court	Shah Bajul XXIV Old Buildings
McCluskey Alec Maitland Chambers	Shepherd Tom 4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
McCreath James Wilberforce Chambers	Sherwin Timothy XXIV Old Buildings
McCulloch Niall Enterprise Chambers	Staff Marcus XXIV Old Buildings
McKechnie Emily Wilberforce Chambers	Timmins Nicola 4 Stone Buildings
McLeod Andrew One Essex Court (ORL) ◇	Tomson Alastair 4 Stone Buildings
Miall Hugh XXIV Old Buildings	Wigley Joseph 4 Stone Buildings
Morrison Matthew Serle Court	Wright Caley Maitland Chambers
Murphy Emer Wilberforce Chambers	Up-and-coming individuals
Newton Laura Brick Court Chambers (ORL) ◇	Hassell-Hart Lara 4 Stone Buildings
Ohrenstein Dov Radcliffe Chambers	Jones Oliver Serle Court
A direct access (see p.24).	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

"His advice is very practical – he is flexible and can adapt to the way a case is moving, dealing effectively with the pressures involved. His opinions are always considered and to the point, and he is very client friendly. Clients value his pragmatic and reasonable approach and he knows how to listen to them."

"Strategically very switched on, he's quick and sharp-witted in court. Very charming as an advocate, he's extremely bright and his powers of analysis are impressive. Thomas is very good at getting across sometimes complicated and lengthy arguments in a succinct fashion that is well received."

"He has an excellent eye for detail and is able to retain a vast working-knowledge throughout the course of a matter, while giving well considered

and insightful advice."

JUNIORS

Watson Pringle

Strengths:

"A solid junior, who gets right into the detail, and supports his leaders. Able to understand the commercial elements of a case well, he always understands the client's position. Watson has a good read of the courts and judges, and always deals with any arguments that come up efficiently. Last minute issues or questions not expected from the judiciary are not a problem for him."

"Top drawer, he is an excellent commercial junior barrister, who works exceptionally hard and is very good in a difficult case. He's good at handling expectations and delivers first rate work."

"Clients like Watson because of his friendly and approachable manner, and his expertise in complex areas. He works through difficult legal issues with lay and professional clients, and puts them at ease when there are high stakes in play."

Rosanna Foskett

Strengths:

"Very proactive, incredibly responsive, highly practical and client friendly. We regularly involve her in client facing conversations, and she quickly delivers appropriately practical advice, breaking down technically complex issues into understandable concepts for us and them. Rosanna really rolls up her sleeves and gets stuck in. She's also technically brilliant."

"A great advocate, who is both excellent on paper and on her feet. She's very good at putting clients at ease, but can deliver tough advice if needs be. On top of this, she's brilliant on the law."

Benjamin John

Strengths:

"Ferociously intelligent and an excellent advocate both on paper and on his feet."

"Technically excellent, he gives advice that is robust and commercially sound."

Timothy Calland

Strengths:

"Extremely good, very sensible and someone who pleads a very sensible case."

Olivier Kalfon

Strengths:

"An excellent advocate, who is tactically astute and extremely user friendly. He always works to maintain a good relationship with us, and is a trusted adviser/advocate."

"An excellent advocate, calm and effective in cross-examination. who always has one eye on the commercial options open to clients. In court he is a reassuring presence."

"An excellent barrister with fantastic written advocacy skills."

Alec McCluskey

Strengths:

"His strengths are his confidence, his knowledge of the law, and his ability to persuade the tribunal."

Jonathan Allcock

Strengths:

"An excellent advocate with good technical knowledge, who has very strong writing skills."

"The type of advocate that judges immediately warm to."

"Careful in his approach, he picks his arguments well and is an excellent advocate with great judgement."

Maxim Cardew

Strengths:

"He has impressive advocacy skills and shows excellent attention to detail."

"A very considered, thoughtful, methodical lawyer, who likes to work collaboratively. If I want something where I need a considered and careful approach, he's the one as he will put all of the pieces of the puzzle together. Quite a quirky individual in a really good way, breaks the mould of what you'd expect of a barrister, proving brilliant in a modern, understated way. He is just very easy to work with and has a nice manner."

"Really good with clients and opponents, and excellent on the law. There's nothing missing from

the package.”

Narinder Jhittay

Strengths:

“Very responsive, she really rolled her sleeves up and got stuck in. She worked on a very, very technical case and got up to speed really quickly.”
 “Narinder combines a collaborative, responsive approach with excellent technical skills and good commercial sense. She has the ability to swiftly grasp the legal and factual aspects of complex, long running cases, and works seamlessly with the solicitor team towards achieving the client’s commercial objectives.”

James Kinman

Strengths:

“Tremendously clever, very responsive and always willing to jump into a matter and do whatever is needed to help.”

“A wonderful barrister, who’s integral to our team. Very patient and clever, he’s a calming influence in any case and a great advocate.”

“He has judgement well beyond his years.”

Duncan McCombe

Strengths:

“His written work is extremely strong and eloquent and above the standard of someone of his year of call. Charming and likeable, he handles situations very well and is also able to be tough with the client when the situation demands it. In terms of his support for leaders at trial, he’s extremely reliable.”

“A very able advocate, who was able to find clever arguments that weren’t obvious.”

“His written advocacy was very persuasive.”

Rowena Page

Strengths:

“A fantastic up-and-coming junior with great judgement that belies her relatively recent year of call. She produces immaculate paperwork and has a really good sense of how things play out in court.”

“Has always got the client’s back and is the one you’d want fighting your corner. She’s completely all over the detail.”

“A very able and knowledgeable barrister, who is both pragmatic and sensible.”

Laurie Scher

Strengths:

“Very responsive and someone who can provide technical answers to difficult questions. He applies the law to the facts very well, and is totally to be trusted.”

“An absolute pleasure to work with, he’s very thorough and good with clients due to the fact that he has a very lovely manner.”

“Meticulous, organised and well prepared, he’s particularly good at cross-examination of witnesses. Laurie takes a very pragmatic approach to even the most complex of matters, and never loses commercial perspective.”

Caley Wright

Strengths:

“Very intelligent, great on the client side, easy to work with and someone who adapts well to changes in the case.”

“Caley is excellent at breaking down complex matters into bite size chunks and explaining strategy and risk with great clarity.”

“Has a really outstanding ability to make a diffi-

cult set of facts seem very attractive. He’s good on his feet and the courts find him very persuasive.”

Serle Court

An instructing solicitor describes Serle Court as “exceptional across the board.” The set houses an enviable bench of senior and junior barristers, and is regularly called upon to undertake the most complex cases in the market. Examples include Equity Real Estate (Bracknell) Ltd v Patel & Ors, a multi-million pound claim in the Chancery Division by five SPVs who are the alleged victims of a complex property fraud. Members have also appeared in Wong v Grand View, an action in the Supreme Court of Bermuda concerning the validity of five purpose trusts worth over USD15 billion. This is thought to be the largest contentious trust litigation ever.

Client service:

“The clerks are always responsive and proactive.”

“Fine clerks who have a great relationship with the listing office and court – they can make magical things happen. Nick Hockney and Charlie Payne are really user-friendly and good at what they do.”

“They are user friendly and willing to be flexible in how they approach matters.”

SILKS

Elizabeth Jones KC

Strengths:

“A real leader, in every sense, she’s always on top of her brief and excellent to work with.”

“Simply the most authoritative and precise barrister you could wish to meet, she has fabulous presence in court and inspires huge confidence in the client.”

“The one you want in your corner. She takes no prisoners.”

Philip Jones KC

Strengths:

“Has a very gentle, avuncular style but is a really piercing, highly forensic advocate when it comes to it.”

Philip Marshall KC

Strengths:

“Really experienced and brings a lot of knowledge to bear.”

“He comes up with imaginative solutions to difficult problems.”

“Philip is a force of nature and has an outstanding reputation.”

Jonathan Adkin KC

Strengths:

“Extremely practical and can read different judges really well as he instinctively understands the way they think. He’s absolutely unflappable when facing an aggressive courtroom, proving extremely persuasive, calm and forceful in his submissions.”

“A very impressive barrister with great gravitas in court.”

Dakis Hagen KC

Strengths:

“He’s extremely pleasant to work with and clients love him.”

“Absolutely brilliant and extremely well respected. Everyone wants to instruct him.”

Daniel Lightman KC

Strengths:

“A barrister who does creative, clever work, he always seeks to find solutions to issues.”

“An excellent draftsman with exceptional attention to detail, he has unrivalled technical expertise in his chosen fields. Commercially aware and very astute, he’s a team player whom it’s a pleasure to work with.”

“A man with a brilliant mind, who is really knowledgeable in his field.”

John Machell KC

Strengths:

“A subject matter expert in a number of areas and an excellent advocate, he’s very client friendly and someone who can package technical advice in a commercial, pragmatic way.”

“He’s very down to earth, hardworking and concise in his analysis.”

Hugh Norbury KC

Strengths:

“Pleasant, calm and considered.”

“He really knows his stuff, has a really good manner with everyone he encounters, and is very well respected.”

Rupert Reed KC

Strengths:

“He is very willing to roll up his sleeves and good at distilling complex issues into simple concepts.”

Lance Ashworth KC

Strengths:

“Brilliant with the clients and has excellent judgement of how the courts will look at an issue. He’s also great fun to work with and gives very astute and reliable advice.”

“Responsive and someone who rolls his sleeves up, he’s fantastic with clients.”

“A very able communicator, who has a brain the size of a planet. Down to earth and able to relate to the client, he provides a superb service.”

David Blayney KC

Strengths:

“He’s a very bright chap, who produces good written work.”

Dominic Dowley KC

Strengths:

“A fantastic advocate who can absorb a lot of detail.”

“A great opponent, who is even-handed and extremely fair minded.”

Justin Higgo KC

Strengths:

“He’s got a really easy manner in court and is liked by judges.”

Timothy Collingwood KC

Strengths:

“Very experienced in this kind of law, he’s very personable and comes across very well with judges.”

“Clever and articulate in court but with a light touch, he gets the judge on side and knows the law inside out.”

Giles Richardson KC

Strengths:

“He’s very commercial in his approach, very approachable and someone you can pick up the phone to.”

“He’s massively intelligent and has always been extremely user-friendly.”

Dan McCourt Fritz

Strengths:

“He’s very punchy and all over the detail.”

JUNIORS

David Drake

Strengths:

“A super nice guy and one of the smartest people around. He has a big brain and is excellent for tricky cases.”

Adil Mohamedbhai

Strengths:

“Really bright and very user friendly, he works incredibly hard and turns stuff around overnight.”
“Very responsive, hugely hardworking and someone who gets into the detail, he masters documents more quickly and better than the other side. He offers diligence and great understanding alongside responsiveness.”

“Easy to work with and very responsive, he’s commercially minded and very strategic and pragmatic in his approach. Great with clients, he uses commercial language with them rather than legal jargon. He’s very good on his feet, very persuasive, and a barrister who fights really hard for his client.”

James Weale

Strengths:

“Very bright, very responsive and someone who has the technical aspects spot on. His drafting skills impress.”

“Academically strong, user friendly and a barrister who will bend over backwards for his clients. He’s all over the detail in a case and is both a good drafter and a good advocate, who is very well respected.”

“Incredibly hard working and a purveyor of excellent advocacy.”

Paul Adams

Strengths:

“His strengths are very much on the detail and his written work is excellent. Very charming, extremely bright and quite unassuming, he reassures clients that they are in the right hands.”

“So clever and a good commercial thinker, he’s all over the bigger picture and totally gets the client’s sensitivities and nuances. He’s also really creative in finding solutions.”

Simon Hattan

Strengths:

“He’s very good analytically and good at coming up with arguments even in the most difficult cases.”

James Mather

Strengths:

“Accessible and a good team player, he is able to communicate difficult concepts well.”

Matthew Morrison

Strengths:

“Very well prepared in his approach to matters, succinct in his delivery and someone who had a very good manner with the judge. He was responsive (including out of hours) and was very forensic in his approach.”

Gareth Tilley

Strengths:

“He has superior analytical skills, he is excellent at client management, and he produces written work that is first class.”

“Very responsive, very clever and very clear with clients. He’s always happy to get stuck into a case

and really delves into the detail.”

Sophie Holcombe

Strengths:

“She’s really responsive, her drafting is really good, and she’s incredibly thorough. Really likeable, she makes it easy to pick up the phone and ask her questions.”

Oliver Jones

Strengths:

“Technically excellent, commercially minded, and a lawyer who produces high quality drafting in really short time. He’s lovely to deal with and very much part of our team.”

“Excellent to work with; his ability to absorb information and produce written submissions of the highest quality in record time is hugely impressive. Seemingly never flustered, he is also fantastic on his feet.”

“Pragmatic, commercial and very communicative, you can get an immediate response, even despite time differences.”

4 Stone Buildings

4 Stone Buildings is an impressive chancery set, housing a strong bench of barristers at both senior and junior level who are well versed in high-profile and complex disputes. The team’s expertise spans a wide range of areas, and its members routinely undertake cases involving financial services and banking, commercial contracts and insolvency law. Shareholder disputes are also a key area of strength for the team, drawing on the set’s established expertise in company law. The set’s barristers are regularly instructed in litigation arising in the oil and gas sector, and have experience of acting in both domestic and international matters. As testament to their skill they have recently been involved in some major cases including *Re the Will of the late HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh*, and *Marex Financial Ltd v Carlos Sevilleja Garcia*. They have also had continued engagement in the high profile *Autonomy Corporation v Dr Michael Lynch* matter. Commentators say that “comprehensive, commercial and strategic advice is always received from this set. Its barristers are intelligent and highly approachable.”

Client service:

“Head clerk David Goddard knows everybody and everyone – he’s one of the greats of that profession.”

“The clerks provide a very personable, bespoke service.”

“The clerks are always very efficient, helpful and friendly. If things go wrong, I know I can always phone them.”

SILKS

Jonathan Crow KC

Strengths:

“Jonathan is first class and is probably the barrister with the most air miles at appeal level. He sits as a judge in Guernsey, so he has that perspective from the bench too. He has gravitas and judges listen to him in a way that they don’t listen to other KCs.”

“The best thing about him is he is forthright in his views – he will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. He is a solid performer, who is top of his field.”

“If I needed someone to argue for my life, it would be Jonathan Crow.”

George Bompas KC

Strengths:

“A very intellectual barrister, who provides calm advice, and is very easy to work with.”

“A good advocate, who is extremely measured and highly experienced.”

Richard Hill KC

Strengths:

“A very good, analytical lawyer, who has bags of intellectual fire power. That’s part of the reason why he is very persuasive.”

John Brisby KC

Strengths:

“An excellent advocate, who is very good at picking up points others miss.”

“John is a real bruiser, who performs best in a tough fight – he is not shy about anything and definitely has the ear of the court.”

“Excellent from a strategy perspective.”

Sharif Shivji KC

Strengths:

“Incredibly intelligent, ferociously hard-working, and well-respected. He talks the language of the clients and understands their business.”

“He has the ability to formulate a plan to deal with all issues in the dispute and bring in the key elements in submissions and hearings to illustrate the facts and consequences.”

“An absolute pleasure to work with. He provided excellent, out of the box advice that was very much appreciated by the client. Sharif has particular expertise in DIFC disputes and a massive roll call of experience.”

Andrew de Mestre KC

Strengths:

“Incredibly responsive, very personable, and someone who always gets on well with clients. He is very intelligent, so he can see issues that I frankly don’t see. On top of this he’s a team player, who treats everyone the same.”

“Excellent on paper and very good in court.”

“He’s incredibly user friendly and a very bright man.”

Hermann Boeddinghaus KC

Strengths:

“He is able to advise on complex matters and is a formidable advocate who remains cool, calm and collected throughout.”

Andrew Clutterbuck KC

Strengths:

“Very responsive, on top of the detail and a pleasure to work with.”

“He’s a great team player and always has an impressive overview of matters. I’ve always been very impressed with his grasp of a case.”

“Very calm and measured, and has good strategic judgement. He’s very much a team player and available when he needs to be.”

Alexander Cook KC

Strengths:

“Incredibly efficient, works extremely hard and is very responsive to clients.”

“Alex is phenomenal. Not only is he technically brilliant, but also a real joy to work with. When he gives you work back, it is always in your house style, and, for an instructing lawyer, that makes such a huge difference. Not only is it technically

perfect, but structurally it is spot on too.”

“He’s a lovely opponent, who’s really respectable and courteous in court, and excellent on the law.”

JUNIORS

Gregory Denton-Cox

Strengths:

“He’s thorough, client friendly and good with technically complex issues.”

“100% reliable and will always meet deadlines.

He does everything with the right attitude and fits into the team very well. A go-to senior junior for complex cases requiring depth of analysis and great drafting skills.”

“He is an absolute workhorse, who will leave no stone unturned in finding the best arguments and facts to advance the case. His advice is practical and commercial, and he is not afraid to say it how it is.”

Tom Gentleman

Strengths:

“He has a thorough approach and is very good tactically. He thinks ahead and his drafting is concise.”

“Lovely to work with and against, he drafts beautifully and is really knowledgeable on the law.”

“A consummate gentleman, who’s a delight to work with and the backbone of any team – he gets things done.”

Christopher Harrison

Strengths:

“His paperwork is excellent, with his skeletons reducing the most complex points to simple terms. Christopher is meticulous and thoroughly prepared at all stages. He inspires confidence, works seamlessly with the team and gets on brilliantly with the client. His advocacy is firm, precise and very effective, and in court he is calmness and professionalism personified.”

“So vastly experienced that he’s seen and done it all. He provides clear and concise views at a very early stage of the case in order to help refine strategy.”

“A man of great judgment, and someone who is very good with clients and has a great eye for detail. He really rolls his sleeves up and gets into it.”

James Knott

Strengths:

“Such a reliable pair of hands, James punches above his level. His written work is exceptional and his advice both pragmatic and clear. He delivers work in a quick manner and is able to effortlessly grasp highly technical matters.”

“He is experienced beyond his years and is good at producing written material under pressure.”

“Very bright and has a lovely manner with clients. He is creative and his drafting is top notch.”

Donald Lilly

Strengths:

“Down to earth, very approachable, and someone with a great bedside manner with the client, Donald will roll up his sleeves and get stuck in. His advocacy is spot on and his advice on point.”

“Exceptionally bright and a very reassuring barrister, who is just so thorough in his preparation.”

“A very clever, commercially savvy and hard working senior junior. His advocacy is calm, measured and persuasive, and his commercial judge-

ment spot on.”

Eleanor Holland

Strengths:

“Very diligent and thorough in her work, Eleanor is a nice person to work with.”

“Her research is excellent and she puts forward good skeleton arguments. She’s very responsive and communicative.”

“A very strong junior barrister, who is bright and quick on her feet.”

Tiran Nersessian

Strengths:

“Has a nice way of crystallising a point and writes in an engaging and persuasive way.”

“He’s very experienced and a very steady pair of hands.”

Nicola Timmins

Strengths:

“Nicola has extraordinary attention to detail, is very responsive, and is someone who quickly gets to grips with key issues.”

“Nicola is responsive and strategic in her advice.”

Alastair Tomson

Strengths:

“Has a great ability to read the clients and engage at their level in meetings and discussions. He helps us to get them to see the most sensible choices to be made.”

Joseph Wigley

Strengths:

“Very personable, a good fighter and someone who really gets on top of the detail in a case.”

Lara Hassell-Hart

Strengths:

“Hugely experienced and knowledgeable, Lara is technically very strong, extremely hard-working and someone who always delivers what she promises.”

“She is very responsive and like a sponge in her absorption of information.”

Wilberforce Chambers

An impressive set, noted for its expertise in complex commercial chancery litigation arising in the UK and across several international and offshore jurisdictions. The team is regularly instructed in company, insolvency and civil fraud disputes, and offers considerable strength when undertaking complex commercial litigation involving elements of pensions, trusts and property law. One instructing solicitor notes: “The set is always my first port of call. It has a large stable of barristers so there’s always someone at the right level whether I need a silk or junior.” Members are instructed in high-profile matters of the greatest complexity including *Tulip LLP v Bitcoin Association*, a multibillion-pound cryptocurrency claim, and *Suppipat & others v Narondej & 16 others*, a matter concerning an alleged fraud arising out of the sale of Thailand’s largest wind energy company.

Client service:

“The clerking is brilliant – very efficient and friendly. I work with them a lot and they always bend over backwards to help me.”

“The clerks are responsive, cooperative, and people who go out of their way to meet your requirements.”

“The clerks at Wilberforce Chambers are respon-

sive, generous with their time and polite – they are a pleasure to work with.”

Nicholas Luckman is the Practice Director.

SILKS

Alan Gourgey KC

Strengths:

“A fantastic advocate, who’s very bright and quick at analysing matters.”

“Very much a details person, he’s excellent at strategic thinking. In court he has very clear judgment and an excellent advocacy style.”

“His written pleading is impressive.”

Thomas Grant KC

Strengths:

“Very able on points of complex academic law, he’s an excellent, very persuasive advocate, who’s very experienced in front of judges at all levels of seniority. He’s also good with lay clients too and very charming.”

“Thomas did a brilliant job on the advocacy: he had great presence in court, and cut to the chase effectively. Excellent on his feet, he was brilliant on the strategy and easy to work with. All round, he did a super job.”

John Wardell KC

Strengths:

“Always keen to listen to the entire team and give his advice following input from everyone: clients, solicitors and any other relevant people. Very responsive and highly engaging, he really gets to grips with the facts and chases points down.”

“An absolutely lovely man, who’s forthright and not afraid to give a very robust view on the chances of success. A very strong advocate who stands by his word, he understands the pressures solicitors are under, and is mindful of commercial realities.”

“John is extremely effective in court – he doesn’t waste words and is both direct and clear. His style reflects his written advocacy; its sharp and succinct.”

Fenner Moeran KC

Strengths:

“Fenner is an exceptional barrister specialising in civil fraud cases. His deep knowledge of the law, combined with his meticulous analysis, sets him apart. This allows him to navigate complex legal issues with ease. His intellectual courage ensures that no aspect of the case goes unexamined, and he leaves no stone unturned in his analysis of the facts and evidence. He is a formidable advocate and his compelling arguments are difficult to resist. With his user-friendly approach, clients can rely on him for exceptional legal representation and guidance.”

Terence Mowschenson KC

Strengths:

“An effective and direct advocate who doesn’t pull any punches.”

Tim Penny KC

Strengths:

“A charming advocate who captivates the court, even when he’s handling difficult points. Tim has the ear and trust of the court and can take any argument forward well. He is also great at cross examination, proving both calm and composed.”

“A very strong advocate, who is client friendly and easy to get on with. Judges love his easy approach

to his advocacy, which is both effective and persuasive.”

“Excellent in court and always on top of his brief.”

Clare Stanley KC

Strengths:

“She absorbed a huge amount of information and was so direct; there was no beating around the bush. Outspoken and robust in a good way, she backed me up to the hilt with the client and was collaborative in her working style.”

“Very responsive and easy to work with, she rolls her sleeves up and gets stuck into the matters. Excellent in court and always very well prepared, she is excellent on case strategy.”

“A no nonsense, go get ‘em type of advocate, who impresses with her trial craft.”

James Ayliffe KC

Strengths:

“One of the most pleasant, hardworking impressive barristers around. He’s very clever and a hugely effective advocate.”

Lawrence Cohen KC

Strengths:

“Has good institutional knowledge and the ability to apply in-depth knowledge contextually and against a backdrop of current legal positions and authorities.”

“It’s always a pleasure to have him as an opponent; he’s very charming to deal with.”

Lexa Hilliard KC

Strengths:

“Very good at trial and very detailed in her approach, she is just so easy with the judge.”

“Absolutely brilliant and a safe pair of hands on any matter.”

“She is a very capable advocate, who is delightful to work with, in all respects.”

Thomas Lowe KC

Strengths:

“Judges love him; he has a great approach and an affable manner in court.”

“He’s an impressive performer.”

Tiffany Scott KC

Strengths:

“Very on top of the detail and someone with real clarity of thought, she is totally focused on understanding the facts and legal issues in a case. Possessed of an incredible intellect, she makes a fiercely complicated case seem a lot simpler than it is.”

“Tiffany is extremely clever and always has an eye to the future – she foresees potential problems down the line and takes action to avoid them. Always realistic with clients, she helps them make informed decisions.”

“Incredibly commercially sound.”

Nikki Singla KC

Strengths:

“Nikki is very knowledgeable and has a nice style about him. He takes on board things you say and you can have a very healthy dialogue and debate with him. Super responsive and approachable, he makes himself available night and day.”

“Very tenacious and brilliant at cross-examination, he’s a real master of his brief. He is a tough but wonderful barrister, who offers a Rolls-Royce service.”

“Brilliant with clients, personable, measured and someone who instils confidence, he gets good

results.”

James Bailey KC

Strengths:

“Knowledgeable, approachable and a very good advocate.”

Ian Croxford KC

Strengths:

“A thoroughly lovely man, he’s very honest and a genuine opponent.”

“A very sound, hard-working, and thorough individual.”

Andrew Mold KC

Strengths:

“He’s very commercial, easy to work with and someone who gets to the point very quickly.”

“A very pleasant person to deal with.”

Marcia Shekerdemian KC

Strengths:

“Always first rate when it comes to tactics and someone who knows the court system very well.”

“Incredibly easy to work with, very charming and very client oriented. She’s someone whom clients respect as she has a straightforward way of explaining legal content.”

“A very clever barrister, who is very assured in court.”

JUNIORS

Graeme Halkerston

Strengths:

“Technically brilliant and responsive. A fearless advocate.”

“He has an astonishing work rate and a fantastic ability to unpick and understand everything very quickly.”

Thomas Robinson

Strengths:

“An absolute delight to work with, he is ferociously intelligent, very quick to grasp the detail, alive to commercial sensitivities and very personable and client friendly.”

“As well as having technical expertise, he always makes practical suggestions. Very accommodating and tremendously, clever, he has a really calm and impactful manner in court.”

“He knows his stuff and is extremely user friendly. We work very closely with him and he’s very easy to pick up the phone to and ask questions of.”

Edward Sawyer

Strengths:

“Edward is a very capable fellow.”

“Offered impressive advice and support: he identified issues and options before providing a clear route map for us to follow.”

“Everything was written very lucidly and clearly signposted for the judge. He made complex concepts easy to understand.”

Bobby Friedman

Strengths:

“Very comprehensive, highly intelligent and someone who communicates very effectively.”

“He is without a doubt fantastic with clients; he’s super user friendly.”

“A fantastic barrister who can handle cases singlehandedly against much more experienced barristers and merge into a larger team with ease. He is very user friendly from the perspective of a solicitor and clients are always happy to work with him.”

James McCreath

Strengths:

“James provided sound, clear and concise advice and was mindful of the commercial realities within which our client operates.”

“He’s a measured and well balanced advocate.”

Emily McKechnie

Strengths:

“Smart, aggressive, really good to deal with and very responsive. She will be a big name in the industry in a few years time.”

“Emily was very responsive and put a lot of effort into producing work within short deadlines. Her contribution to the matter was integral to providing the client with sound advice from an English law perspective, and she considered the case from all angles.”

“Excellent and easy to work with.”

Emer Murphy

Strengths:

“Very bright, hardworking and user-friendly – a future star of the bar.”

Tom Roscoe

Strengths:

“Incredibly responsive, very diligent, very able, good on the detail, and someone who comes out with helpful, constructive suggestions.”

“I was very impressed with Tom. He had excellent knowledge and recall of the details of our case which spanned a significant period. He gave us good, strategic advice throughout. His written and oral advocacy proved highly persuasive and resulted in us achieving an excellent result for our client.”

“Excellent, responsive and clear.”

Jack Watson

Strengths:

“A top quality barrister working on complicated matters, who is comfortable taking the lead on large and complex cases. He provides clear and concise advice at every stage.”

“Very commercially minded, he gets to point very quickly and is good on his feet.”

“Incredibly accomplished, responsive and articulate.”

Jonathan Chew

Strengths:

“Able, practical, clever and resourceful, he’s good with clients, hard working, and accessible.”

“He’s really personable and has a very effective courtroom manner that judges warm to quickly.”

“A really solid barrister, who provides pragmatic solutions and is good on the strategy.”

Anna Littler

Strengths:

“Very wise and good at getting to the core of issues, she doesn’t get bogged down in complexities. She’s very commercial and on the ball, never missing a trick. A joy to work with, she is always calm and happy.”

“Anna is hard-working, technically brilliant, and someone who provides hands-on support.”

“Her output is incredibly high in terms of its quality and she has the technical aspects of a case down to a tee. She’s also considerate, which is key when matters are running high on emotion. All in all she’s a real role model for people in the industry.”

Tim Matthewson

Strengths:

“Switched on, bright, diligent and user-friendly.”
 “Very calm and highly intelligent. He’s all over the detail and someone you really enjoy working with him as he’s very polite and considerate.”

Band 2**Erskine Chambers**

Erskine Chambers is well regarded for its expertise spanning a wide range of commercial chancery matters, and its strong bench of barristers is routinely instructed in high-profile cases. Members are experienced in the handling of complex commercial litigation, including difficult insolvency, banking and financial services, company and civil fraud disputes. Over the years the set has been involved in many of the leading cases before the Chancery and Commercial courts, including *ENRC v Decherts & The Director of the SFO*, a matter regarding breach of duty. This matter involved a claim of reckless breach of duty brought against the law firm and an allegation of misfeasance in public office levelled at the Director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Client service:

“The clerks are very responsive and good at handling offshore logistics.”

“The clerks provided an excellent service, including picking up the phone out of hours. Michael Shillingford, deputy senior clerk, stands out.”

Phil Reeves is the senior clerk.

SILKS**David Chivers KC****Strengths:**

“A steel hand in a velvet glove advocate, who’s all over the detail and the technical points.”

“His advocacy is smooth and utterly persuasive.”

Peter Arden KC**Strengths:**

“He’s very quick on the uptake and has great mental agility.”

“Peter is excellent and really knows his stuff. He can effortlessly deal with big, difficult cases.”

James Potts KC**Strengths:**

“What stands out with him is his flexible approach to working with the team. He has been very creative in how he approaches problems, using case law from other jurisdictions.”

“He shows good attention to detail and is a delightful guy to work with.”

“He’s got a real clarity in the delivery of his oral advocacy—he’s very easy to listen to and very concise.”

Edward Davies**Strengths:**

“Very pragmatic and good at finding a solution where there isn’t an obvious one.”

“Everything about his advocacy and preparation for trial was brilliant but, in particular, his cross-examination was astounding. His approach was measured, calm and highly strategic—Ed always seemed to ensure his line of questioning reached the point where the witness could not avoid answering the key points in such a way that

it really emphasised the weakness in their position.”

“A great strategist and a quick thinker, he is always one step ahead of everyone. Ed is very approachable and incredibly nice to work with. You can trust every piece of advice he gives.”

JUNIORS**Jack Rivett****Strengths:**

“He’s been responsive and his advocacy has been brilliant.”

“Impresses with his attention to detail, availability, user-friendliness and academic excellence.”

“A very capable junior, who produces consistently top quality work, and has a real depth of legal knowledge. Reliable and hard-working, he has very sound strategic judgment and is delightful to have on the team.”

Essex Court Chambers

This set’s barristers are noted for their expert handling of complex and high-profile commercial chancery disputes, with the team offering significant strength in civil fraud and banking litigation. The team receives regular instructions to handle cases in offshore jurisdictions, and frequently undertakes complex shareholder disputes involving the Far East and the CIS. Regularly instructed on both sides of major commercial chancery disputes, they have been involved in some of the most celebrated cases of recent years including *BAT v Sequana*, *PrivatBank v Kolomoisky*, and *Vale International SA v Beny Stenmetz & Ors*.

Client service:

“Senior Clerk Joe Ferrigno is transparent, very straightforward and collaborative. If you have any issues or problems, he’ll help address them with a light touch. He knows all the barristers and they all respect him. Joe runs the clerking team brilliantly – when things are difficult he steps in and resolves them. You can always rely 100% on him to deliver.”

SILKS**Paul McGrath KC****Strengths:**

“Judges really listen to him as he’s such an expert in the area. He’s also very user-friendly and a nice bloke to work with.”

“Every judge knows he knows exactly what he’s talking about.”

“He’s very clever and great at explaining the complexities of a case clearly.”

Richard Millett KC**Strengths:**

“Smart and very diligent, he came up with new arguments we hadn’t thought of. He’s also a great drafter; Richard’s opinion was much better written and much more insightful than the opponent’s.”

“Superbly talented and responsive, he is immensely clever and brilliant in terms of his strategy and ability to convey difficult concepts.”

Joe Smouha KC**Strengths:**

“A force of nature. He knows exactly what to do and gives beautifully thought out, practical advice to clients.”

Tim Akkouh KC**Strengths:**

“Works exceptionally hard.”

“An exceptionally bright, very polished advocate, who is easy to deal with.”

Louise Hutton KC**Strengths:**

“She has an enormously good brain and is a powerhouse of intellectual activity.”

“Really measured, she gave a very considered opinion in the case and was both user-friendly and responsive.”

“Judges like her, and she’s a joy to work with.”

James Willan KC**Strengths:**

“Wise beyond his years, he comes up with clear, precise answers to knotty problems.”

“Although a recent KC, it’s clear he’s operating many years ahead of his call. He has an incredible legal mind, he’s a fantastic writer and he’s unbelievably effective in court.”

“Clear in his advocacy and incredibly bright.”

Ruth den Besten KC**Strengths:**

“Very clever and really on top of matters.”

“Well liked by clients, as she’s both approachable and commercially aware.”

“A very impressive advocate.”

JUNIORS**Ciaran Keller****Strengths:**

“Exceptionally bright and able to break down legal complex arguments into digestible, compelling arguments. He can weave difficult concepts into his submissions and impress the court.”

“Absolutely great, he is an excellent, technical lawyer, who is also very practical and hard-working. He’s a really smooth and efficient lawyer, who’s a really good drafter.”

“A barrister of great reason and judgement, he is absolutely phenomenal. He’s also very humble and is just a pleasure to work with.”

James Sheehan**Strengths:**

“James is a very gifted barrister, who really rolls his sleeves up and gets stuck in. He thinks outside the box and is a very effective lawyer.”

“An in demand senior junior, who’s thoughtful and authoritative.”

“A very calm and unflappable performer, who has excellent drafting skills.”

Christopher Lloyd**Strengths:**

“He’s incredibly clever and was an absolute lynchpin in our case. Very quick and on the ball, he really considers things and comes at it his cases with a different way of thinking to others. He also drafts well in a succinct and concise way.”

David Peters**Strengths:**

“Highly imaginative, very clever, totally on top of his papers and fearless. He’s always willing to push the boundaries in a case.”

“A very smooth advocate, who’s good with the court.”

“An exceptionally hard worker who provides excellent, inventive advocacy.”

XXIV Old Buildings

XXIV Old Buildings is highly regarded for its expertise in complex cases arising in offshore jurisdictions, earning praise from instructing solicitors who say of its barristers: "They are very commercial and cover a good breadth of work." The set's members undertake a wide range of commercial chancery matters, and are frequently instructed in high-value commercial litigation, especially civil fraud and insolvency disputes. The team is also well versed in commercial matters involving elements of professional negligence, trusts and partnership law, drawing on the set's established strengths in these areas. Members have appeared in *Ivanishvili v CS Life*, a USD1 billion claim arising from a rogue trader fraud at a Swiss bank, and *Wong v Grand View*, a multi-billion dollar piece of litigation in Bermuda challenging the validity of five purpose trusts.

Client service:

"The clerks are extremely quick and highly responsive."
Paul Horsfield leads the clerking team.

SILKS**Alan Steinfeld KC****Strengths:**

"Good at reading the mood of the court, and the absolute bedrock of any team he's in."

"He has the court's ear and is definitely very well respected."

Elsbeth Talbot Rice KC**Strengths:**

"An incredibly impressive character, who is formidable in terms of her oral advocacy and someone who instils fear in her opponents. She is a no nonsense silk with great gravitas, who is one of the biggest names in the trust world."

"Clear and unequivocal in her advice, she slots in with any team she's on very well."

"She gives it everything and presents incredibly well in court."

Edward Cumming KC**Strengths:**

"Very clever and savvy in how he approaches his cases, he's always looking for alternative avenues to go down."

"Very bright and commercial, he has a fantastic client manner and a great breadth of activity."

"Very user-friendly, he involves himself in all aspects of a case, and is just such a nice person to work with."

Stephen Moverley Smith KC**Strengths:**

"He was consistently cool under pressure, resolute and strong. I was impressed by his intellectual consistency and stamina."

"Stephen is fantastic to deal with – he's bright, incredibly personable and very persuasive."

"An excellent barrister and advocate, who represents a good all round package if you've got a complicated offshore case. You know you're in safe hands."

Francis Tregear KC**Strengths:**

"The most user friendly advocate you could ever wish to meet, he delights clients."

"A fount of knowledge."

David Brownbill KC**Strengths:**

"A very well respected senior practitioner, who adopts a highly commercial approach and is good on trusts cases with highly technical aspects to them."

Adam Cloherty KC**Strengths:**

"A very good advocate, who is very bright and has a stellar career ahead of him."

"A real up and coming star in the field – he'll do very well as a KC. He's a good advocate, who's very thorough and easy to work with."

"Really excellent and definitely a barrister for the more difficult cases"

JUNIORS**Andrew Holden****Strengths:**

"A very clever guy with excellent judgement."

"A very bright, lovely guy, who really knows the law."

Hugh Miall**Strengths:**

"Very effective on his feet and really good on paper."

"He's a very bright chap, who's a tenacious and aggressive litigator. He has an impressive future ahead of him."

Daniel Warents**Strengths:**

"He's really energetic and drives his cases forward impressively."

Stuart Adair**Strengths:**

"Excellent on his feet, especially in terms of cross-examination, he's a very powerful and articulate advocate, who has a real way of getting the court on side. Always immaculately prepared and able to identify issues others have missed, he's an absolute gentleman, who is really easy to work with."

Bajul Shah**Strengths:**

"Utterly reliable, he's a good, common sense drafter, who's really good with difficult clients."

"A lovely person and a very, very clever advocate with a very effective style. He's very good at gently manoeuvring the judge to his way of thinking."

"A very able lawyer, who is always very calm, methodical and thorough."

Tim Sherwin**Strengths:**

"An excellent junior, who is very bright."

Marcus Staff**Strengths:**

"A calm and collected individual, but also someone with an incredibly steely side to him. He gets so on top of the detail of a case that he truly knows it inside and out."

"An unflappable character."

South Square

In addition to offering significant strength in insolvency law, South Square is also highly regarded for its expertise in a wide range of commercial chancery disputes. The team is well versed in the handling of both contentious and non-contentious matters. Members are regularly called upon to act in claims brought against accountants and

professional service firms and complex cases involving derivatives and securitisation transactions, among other commercial matters. The team is known for its expert handling of both domestic and international disputes. Recent examples include *Primeo Fund v HSBC*, a high profile piece of litigation against HSBC contingent upon the Madoff fraud. Members also handled substantial multi-jurisdictional claims arising out of a global fraud uncovered in the NMC Healthcare Group which led to its subsequent collapse in 2020. They further acted in *Citibank v Speciality Steel UK Ltd.*, a case resulting from the failure of Greensill.

Client service:

"The clerking team is top notch. All concerned are very attentive."

"The clerks are efficient – you ask for something and they get back to you pretty quickly. They never overpromise in relation to their barristers."

The clerking team is led by Dylan Playfoot.

SILKS**Tom Smith KC****Strengths:**

"A supremo in major litigation, he's hugely respected by the judiciary. Very cool, calm and collected, he's incredibly good on his feet and always able to get to grips with the detail however immense the case."

"Everyone thinks that he is top drawer and that he will end up in the Supreme Court at some stage. Very good at both written and oral submissions, he works like a trojan and can be relied upon to secure the right outcome for the client."

"He is just an absolute master and definitely one of the leading KCs operating in offshore jurisdictions."

Felicity Toube KC**Strengths:**

"If we could have her on every case we could. She's very bright and commercial, and she delivers time after time."

"An absolutely fantastic practitioner, who is a great strategist."

"Loved by clients, she's able to manoeuvre a case quickly and expertly, even when things are very complicated. Judges trust and respect her."

David Allison KC**Strengths:**

"A brilliant strategist, who's great to work with."

"Lovely and charming to work with, he goes out of his way to check in with all members of team at all levels of seniority. Everyone loves having him on the team. Very smooth, agile in court and quick-witted, he's just a real gentleman and a consummate professional. "

Daniel Bayfield KC**Strengths:**

"Daniel presented very well on the advice he was given and was really good with the client. He explained issues clearly and provided cogent advice on what things might look like going forward. The strategic advice and guidance were very helpful."

"Daniel has superb technical knowledge, having worked on many highly complex and novel cases. He's an extremely effective communicator, who is both practical and commercial; he understands the needs of the client and puts legal arguments

and solutions into a commercial context. Overall, he is extremely smart, great to work with and a go-to silk for any restructuring and insolvency situation."

Aidan Casey KC

Strengths:

"Extremely bright and a great team player, he'll go out of his way to accommodate you and your clients as far as he can. Also, he's a very good person to bounce things off and doesn't look to set the clock running from the off, choosing instead to discuss how to put a case together."

"An excellent leader, the quality of whose quiet and authoritative drafting is reflected in the results he achieves before courts and tribunals."

"Very confident in his written work, he produces excellent skeletons. On his feet he adopts a nice, gentle approach that plays well – he is a really calm presence in court."

Richard Fisher KC

Strengths:

"Just brilliant, he's incredibly knowledgeable and charming in court."

"Technically excellent and creative in his approach to arguing points, he is a focused and very effective advocate. He's never flustered and puts his points very clearly and effectively."

Mark Phillips KC

Strengths:

"A very strong advocate, who is adept at his craft." "Someone with a massive capacity for work, he leaves no stone unturned."

JUNIORS

Adam Al-Attar

Strengths:

"Exceptionally good, he has a very calm, considered and persuasive advocacy style, and displays real gravitas in court. He's excellent on his feet, has first rate skills of analysis and is easy to work with."

3 Verulam Buildings

3 Verulam Buildings is particularly well regarded for its handling of commercial chancery litigation involving complex elements of banking and financial services law. Members are also well versed in civil fraud and insolvency disputes, and are regularly called upon to appear in major litigation arising in several international and offshore jurisdictions. Cases of note include Haring & Charles Trading Co & Ors v Mehta & Ors, a high value commercial fraud claim against individuals responsible for a gold bullion fraud against Indian banks, and NMC Healthcare Limited v Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC and Noor Bank PJSC, a high profile insolvency matter.

Client service:

"The clerks are absolutely brilliant. They are always very responsive and willing to help."

"The set offers very responsive and user-friendly clerking."

Stephen Penson and Stuart Pullum are joint senior practice managers.

SILKS

Adrian Beltrami KC

Strengths:

"Intellectually as rigorous as they come and really

good with clients, he is empathetic but delivers his views in a way which reflects his actual thinking – he's not afraid of telling clients things are difficult. Because he is so respected, he has the ear of the court."

"He's a very composed advocate and just very nice to listen to. You can tell judges really respect him."

"Exceptionally clever and good for really complicated legal issues, he can change the weather in a case."

Ewan McQuater KC

Strengths:

"He's a real heavyweight and it's easy to see why he's a leader in the field. A true strategist, he's someone you want with you in the toughest of fights. His gravitas and tenacity really shine through."

"Really impressive in terms of his performances at trial and his running of massive pieces of litigation."

Peter de Verneuil Smith KC

Strengths:

"An energetic silk, who's discerning and goes the extra mile for the client. He is constantly looking for new angles to improve his case and he's a very creative thinker. Clever, proactive and commercial, he's intellectually courageous and not afraid to face legal challenges head on. Peter is robust, hard-working and a good bloke – not an automaton type in any way."

"His key strength is his advocacy. Incisive in his thinking, he's at his best on his feet, promoting his client's case."

Adam Kramer KC

Strengths:

"User friendly and very accessible, he is a very modern style barrister."

Nicholas Craig KC

Strengths:

"Supremely intelligent, he's a man of good judgement, who inspires confidence."

"A really decent guy, who's a very effective cross-examiner. He presents extremely well and is calm under pressure. When dealing with clients he has a nice manner – he will say what he thinks but put it in a nice way."

Farhaz Khan KC

Strengths:

"He was clearly very experienced in the field and was very good at bringing someone with little knowledge up to speed. I found him very responsive and very personable to work with."

"He's very hard-working."

Ali Malek KC

Strengths:

"An excellent strategist, who is very slick. He's very easy-going, friendly and someone who treats everyone with respect."

Jamie Riley KC

Strengths:

"A great trial lawyer, who can convey complex messages in a clear, concise and compelling way."

"A capable, bright lawyer with an easy courtroom manner."

JUNIORS

Philip Hinks

Strengths:

"In the case he was a sea of calmness in an ocean

of madness. Calm and measured, he worked hard for the client and didn't get riled easily."

"Thoroughly on top of all the detail and someone with good judgement, he analyses and deals with points well."

"A really easy personality to be around. In his presentation to court, he's very user friendly and commercial."

Band 3

Enterprise Chambers

An impressive set, noted for its expertise in high-value commercial litigation as well as complex insolvency, company and property matters. Instructing solicitors praise Enterprise Chambers for its "excellent barristers, who are well able to deal with complex and difficult cases." The team is particularly well regarded for its handling of shareholder disputes, and members are regularly instructed in both domestic and international matters. Its recent cases include Mintpal Ltd; Wolloff & Short v Kennedy, a ground-breaking crypto-currency matter; and Hotel Portfolio II UK Ltd v SMA, a piece of litigation arising from a high value commercial fraud.

Client service:

"Always available and very responsive, the clerks come back on any queries without delay and are able to very quickly suggest counsel for new work."

"The clerks, and in particular Raj Lamba, are helpful, efficient and effective."

The team is led by senior clerk Michael Ireland.

SILKS

James Pickering KC

Strengths:

"James is a great team player, who is always ready to pitch in and be responsive."

"Very user friendly and incredibly good on his feet."

JUNIORS

Edward Francis

Strengths:

"A little hidden gem and a man with the intellect to be a judge someday."

"Ed is brilliant for the unusual, the technical and the downright obscure matters as he takes a strong intellectual approach to his work. He is also particularly responsive."

"On his feet he is astonishingly good. He manages to explain complex factual scenarios in a clear fashion and his cross-examination is nothing short of exceptional. In addition, he turns his paperwork round with great speed and doesn't sit on the fence when it comes to giving advice, which is really helpful. That really gives confidence to clients and solicitors alike."

Kavan Gunaratna

Strengths:

"One of the most industrious barristers around and a man with a good eye for detail. Really friendly, really firm in court and a really good advocate, he works hard to get the job done properly."

"Well liked by clients, he takes a deeply analytical approach and delivers advice in a clear and acces-

sible way.”

“A man with a razor sharp intellect, who leaves no stone unturned. He’s a beautiful advocate, who remains very calm under pressure.”

Niall McCulloch

Strengths:

“A very calming presence in court, he’s not overly aggressive. This approach tends to endear him to judges who regularly come round to his point of view.”

“Unflustered in all he does, he’s dependable and gets the job done.”

James Davies

Strengths:

“James’ preparation is always very thorough and he fully grasps all of the factual and legal information in a case. The quality of his advice, written and oral, is excellent.”

“Really calm yet assertive, he works hard to get the best out of clients.”

“He’s always happy to pick up the phone and talk to you about any matter or issue you might have. He’s very, very approachable.”

Simon Johnson

Strengths:

“Works incredibly hard and is very user-friendly. He’s absolutely charming and never loses his cool even when he has a very challenging client. Simon is intellectually very strong and produces excellent pleadings and superior advocacy.”

“Apart from being a brain and a half, he is an excellent advocate. His ability to assimilate complex details is incredible.”

“Seeing him on his feet and firing on all cylinders is a pure pleasure. His written work is sharp and he provides practical solutions to problems. He’s also responsive to all members of the instructing team.”

New Square Chambers

New Square Chambers handles commercial chancery disputes arising both in the UK and in several offshore jurisdictions. Areas of strength for the team include complex contractual disputes, insolvencies, shareholder disputes and high-value commercial fraud claims. The team is well versed in shareholder and partnership disputes. Members have experience of appearing before the highest courts in the UK and the Caribbean. They have recently been involved in such cases as Re Montpelier Services Ltd, a USD45 million claim involving allegations of embezzlement that was heard in the Isle of Man.

Client service:

Michelle Greene is the senior clerk.

“The clerks are efficient, professional and very amenable if you’re looking to get papers across to counsel. They run a very slick operation.”

“The clerks go out of their way to help.”

Members of the set are authors of go-to guides and publications, and host notable events including conferences attended by hundreds of practising solicitors and barristers.

JUNIORS

Simon Adamyk

Strengths:

“Clever and diligent, he really investigates all angles of the case, yet still provides swift, prac-

tical advice. A very good all-rounder, he can pick up the essence of any commercial legal issue and analyse it thoroughly and effectively. He’s also unfailingly polite and very friendly.”

“His attention to detail is absolutely incredible. He’s able to dig into the brief and manage a vast volume of information very quickly.”

“I’ve never seen someone with such a level of foresight and the way he takes a judge through the evidence is so easy that it’s almost conversational.”

David Eaton Turner

Strengths:

“Charming and an absolute pleasure to work with. He’s extremely knowledgeable in commercial disputes of all kinds.”

Nigel Hood

Strengths:

“A very good advocate, who is eminently sensible.”

“He gets up to speed quickly and is both incredibly hardworking and highly supportive.”

Mark Hubbard

Strengths:

“Mark is excellent. He’s very good with clients and really on top of the law.”

“He has particularly detailed knowledge of anything to do with trusts including offshore trusts.”

Radcliffe Chambers

An impressive set with noted expertise in commercial chancery matters. Instructing solicitors are quick to praise Radcliffe Chambers’ insolvency offering, while its strong bench of barristers also offers considerable strength in high-stakes banking, civil fraud and securities matters. International disputes concerning commercial trusts are also a key area for the team. Recent matters handled include director disqualification proceedings arising out of the collapse of Carillion PLC in 2018, and a claim against the former receivers of Blackpool FC, alleging a loss of GBP26 million because assets were sold at an undervalue.

Client service:

The Senior Clerk is John Clark.

“The clerks are very good and come back to you quickly. We get a great service from them.”

“A good bunch of clerks who are helpful and responsive.”

The set further operates a practice-area wide client feedback programme and provides an extensive webinar programme.

SILKS

Keith Rowley KC

Strengths:

“He is super knowledgeable about anything to do with chancery litigation.”

“Excellent to have on your side if you have a technically complex matter.”

Christopher Boardman KC

Strengths:

“Really excels at planning a case and applying lateral thinking to it. He comes up with solutions where others may not find them.”

“Christopher assesses the key issues in a case from the outset and then expertly marshals the evidence and manages the expectations of the client. Drafting wise, he’s very good and his skelton arguments always impress. In court he’s

really on top of the case law and has a very good manner before judges. He understands the particular judge he’s in front of and the style of advocacy they like.”

David Mohyuddin KC

Strengths:

“A tough, robust but always pleasant advocate.”

JUNIORS

Dov Ohrenstein

Strengths:

“An absolute pleasure to work with, Dov is attentive, prompt and someone who gives clear advice on a wide range of complex issues.”

“A very sensible commercial barrister.”

“Very bright and hardworking.”

Tom Beasley

Strengths:

“A charming barrister with an easy but detailed style of working his way around cases. He’s never stressed about anything and gives his advice really quickly. His is a really good, friendly way of dealing with people.”

“Always offers commercially practical advice and has a keen eye for detail.”

Adam Deacock

Strengths:

“Immensely experienced and fantastic at getting right to the heart of the case.”

“Adam is not afraid of telling clients what they need to hear and he does it in a manner they can understand. He builds trust with people and looks at things thoroughly.”

“Very client friendly and great on his feet. He’s creative and extremely capable technically.”

Elizabeth Ovey

Strengths:

“A very strong barrister, who is always responsive.”

Selborne Chambers

Selborne Chambers is a well-regarded set offering significant expertise in commercial chancery litigation. Its members are regularly instructed in civil fraud, company, partnership and general commercial disputes, as well as complex trusts and property cases. Instructing solicitors praise the barristers’ expertise in these areas, saying: “Counsel at Selborne prove themselves highly capable when handling complicated matters.”

Client service:

“The clerks are first rate. They are polite, responsive and courteous at all times.”

“The clerks always respond in a timely manner and keep you updated as to progress at all times.” The clerking team is led by Paul Bunting and Darren Madle. Richard Sheehan is the deputy senior clerk.

SILKS

Romie Tager KC

Strengths:

“One of the smartest and most utterly ferocious barristers around. He does not suffer fools gladly and if you have clients who are sufficiently robust, he is amongst the best. If anyone can get a client out of a hole, Romie can.”

“He always provide us with a range of solutions

that provide successful results. The depth of knowledge he possesses is impressive.”

Ian Clarke KC

Strengths:

“Ian is very good in terms of his knowledge and ability to express his advice in terms that clients can understand.”

“Ian is responsive and understands the client’s objectives. He spots issues well and gives comprehensive advice with an overall strategy in mind.”

“He is pragmatic, relatable and someone who provides high levels of commercial strategy. It’s always a pleasure to introduce clients to him and work with him as part of a team.”

Nicholas Trompeter KC

Strengths:

“He’s responsive, hardworking, and someone who goes the extra mile.”

“An outstanding silk, who’s incredibly intelligent, highly responsive and someone you want in your corner.”

JUNIORS

Richard Clegg

Strengths:

“A man of quiet authority, who quickly captures the judge’s attention.”

Duncan Kynoch

Strengths:

“Duncan is calm and unflustered in the face of difficult circumstances.”

“Very personable and approachable, he’s very much a people person and is good at guiding the client through the whole litigation process.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Andrew Ayres KC (Twenty Essex)

Strengths:

“Very approachable and easy to run things past, he makes time to speak to you if you want to pick up the phone. He also has a huge amount of broad experience – there’s very little he hasn’t seen before.”

Alex Barden (Fountain Court Chambers)

Strengths:

“Very much willing to roll his sleeves up and get into the detail, and someone whose advocacy is significantly above juniors of his level of call. He’s able to present his cases in a simple and persuasive way.”

“Very hard-working, highly intelligent and happy to throw himself into the case.”

“A very academically able lawyer who shows great attention to detail.”

Tony Beswetherick KC (Twenty Essex)

Strengths:

“Really good at applying the law to a specific set of facts, he always keeps in mind the practical and human considerations surrounding a piece of litigation.”

“A real battler with impressive experience and judgement.”

Zia Bhaloo KC (Landmark Chambers)

Strengths:

“Delivers top class, client-focused advice every time.”

Harris Bor (Twenty Essex)

Strengths:

“A very calm, steady character, who is good to have in a team as he’s generally available and always prepared to get involved in the nitty gritty of the case.”

“Harris is underestimated by opponents because of his quiet, non-bombastic approach. He leaves no stone unturned in the pursuit of his case and is calm and methodical throughout. Judges appreciate him.”

Matthew Bradley KC (4 New Square Chambers)

Strengths:

“Matthew is particularly good on his feet and adapts to changing situations well. He gets the ear of the judge and can read the courtroom well.”

“Matt always gets back to you quickly, which is greatly appreciated. He never fails to spot new angles to a case, be they legal or commercial, and is able to understand the lay-client’s business quickly.”

Laurie Brock (Fountain Court Chambers)

Strengths:

“An intellectual heavyweight, who excels in all areas. He is able to form good relationships and explain information in a ‘client-friendly’ manner, and his commercial knowledge and research skills are outstanding. His advice is always logical, thoroughly researched and easily understood. Importantly, he is able to understand the client’s goals and apply these to his advice throughout the matter.”

“Laurie is extremely analytical and practical.”

Rory Brown (9 Stone Buildings)

Strengths:

“A very able advocate, who is always well prepared.”

“An incredibly effective opponent with an impressive legal mind, who deals with the most difficult points smoothly.”

Simon Davenport KC (4 Pump Court)

Strengths:

“His strategic advice is excellent and he quickly builds a rapport with the judges, who are always very receptive to his style of advocacy.”

Anthony de Garr Robinson KC (One Essex Court)

Strengths:

“A joy to work with and a man whose powers of analysis are a cut above. He’s just incredibly good at taking a knotty problem apart.”

Jonathan Gavaghan (Ten Old Square)

Strengths:

“Very technically knowledgeable, but also very commercial. He looks for solutions and doesn’t get bogged down in the detail.”

David Grant KC (Outer Temple Chambers)

Strengths:

“A gentleman, a nice opponent and someone who’s very sensible in negotiation.”

Stephen Hackett (3 Hare Court)

Strengths:

“Good in court, all over the detail and someone with a very good brain, he’s both pragmatic and commercial. Not afraid to take on seemingly unwinnable points but always realistic, he always has the client’s end goal in mind. He used to be a solicitor before becoming a barrister, so he has really good client management experience and is very much a team player.”

“A rising star and a man with a superb work ethic, he is commercially sound and someone who gets good results.”

“User friendly, incredibly intelligent and a barrister who has real empathy with clients.”

Hugh Jory KC (4 New Square Chambers)

Strengths:

“Very clever and user friendly.”

“Extremely good with clients, he’s a fabulous advocate and an absolute pleasure to work with.”

Blair Leahy KC (Twenty Essex)

Strengths:

“A very user friendly KC, who works well with all members of the team however junior. She’s a great trial lawyer, whose cross-examinations are excellent, and her management of a case is second to none. Clients are really impressed by her.”

“Very personable, incredibly intelligent and somebody who goes above and beyond in pursuit of the client’s cause.”

“Clear and concise in court, she’s very cool, calm and collected.”

Robert Levy KC (Three Stone)

Strengths:

“A great courtroom performer, who has a real rapport with the judge. In court he obliterates witnesses at a drop of a hat.”

“Robert is absolutely dogged and extremely detailed in his cross-examination. If you want to get information out of people, he’s your man.”

Richard Lissack KC (Fountain Court Chambers)

Strengths:

“A barrister who goes about his business with aplomb and immense charm.”

“Extremely hardworking and always accessible, he is there night and day for those that instruct him.”

David Lord KC (Three Stone)

Strengths:

“A strong advocate with a huge brain who can really Hoover up information.”

Bridget Lucas KC (Fountain Court Chambers)

Strengths:

“Level headed, very commercial and not afraid to make difficult calls quickly, she’s a real pleasure to work with. A barrister who takes a no-nonsense approach and someone devoid of ego, she produces arguments that are solidly based, creative and often bold. She always focuses on what is important, and is always mindful of the big picture.”

“Calm and measured in the way she delivers submissions, she’s unflappable in court. She is also very user-friendly and receptive to working in a team.”

“Incredibly easy to work with, very collaborative, accessible and incredibly helpful.”

Andrew McLeod (One Essex Court)

Strengths:

“Extremely astute, he is adept at marshalling complex fact patterns and dealing with sophisticated data. His legal analysis is second to none and he operates at a level far above his year of call. Andrew’s drafting is superb, and he’s extremely effective in achieving success for clients. Adept at working across different jurisdictions and a lawyer with superior client handling skills, he is a genuine pleasure to work with.”

“Andrew provided an excellent service; he deliv-

ered prompt, detailed advice. He was at all times conscious of the client's motivations and concerns and was excellent to work with."

Laura Newton (Brick Court Chambers)

Strengths:

"Thorough, reliable and easy to work with."

"Absolutely fantastic. She works so hard and is so clever."

"Absolutely superb and a pleasure to work with. She's very clever and her draftsmanship is of the highest order."

Tom Poole KC (3 Hare Court)

Strengths:

"A communicative and responsive barrister, who is clinically precise in his submissions."

"Careful, easy to work with and spot on with his advice, he provides clarity when dealing with the issues at hand. Clients are always very pleased with his contribution."

"Tom has got incredible legal knowledge and great technical ability."

Charles Raffin (Gatehouse Chambers)

Strengths:

"A lawyer with a very good mind, who has an eye for detail. He's both user friendly and responsive."

Thomas Roe KC (3 Hare Court)

Strengths:

"Very erudite, extremely intelligent and a really fine performer in court."

Gideon Roseman (Ten Old Square)

Strengths:

"Extremely diligent and a lawyer with encyclopaedic knowledge. In court he's very forceful – almost like a dog with a bone. He really fights your corner and is a strong persuasive advocate."

"Incredibly hard-working, very tenacious, quick to grasp facts and really prepared to put the hard yards in."

Simon Salzedo KC (Brick Court Chambers)

Strengths:

"Extremely willing to get into the detail of the case and grapple with the facts in an impressive way. He gives firm advice, including on merits, in situations where some barristers may have a tendency to sit on the fence. Simon is very well regarded by the judiciary and comes across very well on his feet."

"He's a fantastic advocate and a very calm and collected person."

Tom Shepherd (4 New Square Chambers)

Strengths:

"Gives down to earth, sensible advice and produces strong written work."

"A robust, fearless and naturally gifted advocate who is really at home in court. Tom can be counted on to never give up and will fight hard for the client every time."

"Clever and extremely personable."

Nicolas Stallworthy KC (Outer Temple Chambers)

Strengths:

"There's a certain brilliance in his powers of analysis, and he's very clever in court."

"His knowledge is deep and wide, and his judgement is excellent."

Robert-Jan Temmink KC (Quadrant Chambers)

Strengths:

"Pragmatic, sensible and solution-oriented, Robert immediately wins the confidence of clients and is brilliant in court. The bench listens to him as he's incredibly persuasive – it's difficult to resist agreeing with what he says."

"An excellent advocate and a good team player, who really understands the relationship between solicitor and barrister and delivers positive outcomes. A modern KC in every sense, he understands the changing landscape of the profession and is always alive to client needs."

"User-friendly and very affable, he's extremely easy to work with and has a very nice style in court which judges like."

Sonia Tolaney KC (One Essex Court)

Strengths:

"A brilliant, tough performer, who has strong judgment."

Energy & Natural Resources

Energy & Natural Resources

Leading Sets

Band 1

Brick Court Chambers

One Essex Court

Band 2

Atkin Chambers

Essex Court Chambers

Keating Chambers

4 Pump Court

Band 3

Twenty Essex

39 Essex Chambers

7 King's Bench Walk

Quadrant Chambers

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Brick Court Chambers

Brick Court Chambers is "of the highest calibre" and "a gold-standard chambers" with a strong bench of experienced silks and juniors collectively offering an impressive level of expertise in the energy sector. Members are particularly respected for their prowess in commercial cases,

in addition to competition, public law and insurance disputes. Clients include multinational oil and gas companies, energy regulators and financial services giants. A key case for the set this year was *Zaur Leshkasheli v Republic of Azerbaijan*, defending the latter against claims of expropriation of interest in an oil field and other breaches of an investment treaty. An interviewee remarks: "I was extremely impressed by their ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

Client service:

"The clerks have always been helpful."

"Brick Court Chambers is really efficient with good clerks."

"Phil Wilkes, practice manager, is great. Client service is very, very good."

Paul Dennison and Tony Burgess are senior clerks.

SILKS

Helen Davies KC Helen Davies KC has a strong focus on the energy sector and is very highly reputed for her advocacy skills. Her practice takes in various issues ranging from resource exploitation to utility supply, and she does a lot of work relating to the oil and gas industry. Her broad experience covers disputes involving oil and gas

fields in the North Sea, Azerbaijan and Africa.

Strengths:

"Helen Davies is a heavyweight commercial and competition litigator. Her reputation is formidable, one of the very best."

"Clients rave about her."

"She is excellent: a strong advocate."

Mark Howard KC Mark Howard KC cuts a commanding figure at the Commercial Bar and has an excellent reputation in the energy sector. His energy work generally consists of very high-value commercial disputes, and he is noted for his formidable cross-examination in court.

Strengths:

"Mark Howard is a fearsome advocate and a draw for some of the biggest energy-related disputes."

"He is excellent, one of the top silks at the Bar. He's exceptional."

"Mark Howard is the ultimate operator at the Bar when looking for someone in this field."

Daniel Jowell KC Daniel Jowell KC is a well-regarded silk who is known for his commercial, competition and energy work. He has a healthy practice that focuses on cases concerned with domestic energy and utility supply markets. Jowell frequently advises clients with regard to

Energy & Natural Resources	
Leading Silks	
Band 1	McMullan Manus <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Brannigan Sean <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Mildon David <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Davies Helen <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Moran Vincent <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Doerries Chantal-Aimée <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Ng Jern-Fei <i>7BR (ORL) ◇</i>
Gunning Alexander <i>One Essex Court</i>	Schaff Alistair <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Howard Mark <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Southern Richard <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Matthews Duncan <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Tromans Stephen <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
McCaughran John <i>One Essex Court</i>	Vineall Nick <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Persey Lionel <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Walker Steven <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Rabinowitz Laurence <i>One Essex Court</i>	White Andrew <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Rainey Simon <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Wilken Sean <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Streatfeild-James David <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Wolfson David <i>One Essex Court</i>
Toledano Daniel <i>One Essex Court</i>	Band 4
Band 2	Ashcroft Michael <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Allen David <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Birt Simon <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Buehrle Veronique <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Bools Michael <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Catchpole Stuart <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Chennells Mark <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Choo Choy Alain <i>One Essex Court</i>	Choat Rupert <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Day Anneliese <i>Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>	Cogley Stephen <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Dennison Stephen <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Emmett Laurence <i>One Essex Court</i>
Gaisman Jonathan <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Flynn Vernon <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Harris Christopher <i>3 Verulam Buildings (ORL) ◇</i>	Gledhill Orlando <i>One Essex Court</i>
Hossain Sa'ad <i>One Essex Court</i>	Grabiner Anthony <i>One Essex Court</i>
Malek Ali <i>3 Verulam Buildings (ORL) ◇</i>	Howells James <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
O'Sullivan Sean <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Hughes Adrian <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Onions Jeffery <i>One Essex Court</i>	Kramer Adam <i>3 Verulam Buildings (ORL) ◇</i>
Parkin Fiona <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Lamont Calum <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Parsons Luke <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Lewis Christopher <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Tozzi Nigel <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Lewis David <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Band 3	Midwinter Stephen <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Ansell Rachel <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Miles Wendy J <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Blanchard Claire <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Packman Claire <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Dennys Nicholas <i>Atkin Chambers</i>	Patton Conall <i>One Essex Court</i>
Dunning Graham <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Pilbrow Fionn <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Garrett Lucy <i>Keating Chambers</i>	Sharpe Thomas <i>One Essex Court</i>
Ghaly Karim <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>	Smith Chris <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Hughes Simon <i>Keating Chambers</i>	New Silks
Jowell Daniel <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Buckingham Paul <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Leabeater KC James <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Dhar Siddharth <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
McCafferty Lynne <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Eschwege Richard <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
 Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

regulatory judicial reviews and in arbitrations in the LCIA.

Strengths:

"Daniel Jowell is a super advocate. He makes his points very firmly, but politely."

"Daniel is very well respected. He is sensible and has good judgement."

Simon Birt KC Simon Birt KC is noted for his commercial practice and his representation of oil companies in a wide variety of cases, including North Sea disputes.

Strengths:

"Simon Birt is a very helpful, serious and conscientious barrister."

"Simon is a very effective advocate."

Michael Bools KC Michael Bools KC is a respected silk with experience of oil and gas exploration disputes, acting both for and against government bodies of various nations. He is also adept in cases pertaining to renewables. Bools is frequently instructed by major oil companies in Commercial Court proceedings.

Strengths:

"Mike thinks through practical issues very well

and is very client- and user-friendly."

Vernon Flynn KC Vernon Flynn KC is a respected silk with a broad commercial practice who represents clients in a vast array of energy-related disputes, principally those relating to electricity and oil and gas. His practice frequently sees him advising clients in cross-jurisdictional cases, both at trial and on appeal, and he is also regularly involved in arbitrations at UNCITRAL and the LCIA.

Strengths:

"Vernon Flynn is a well-respected energy practitioner who is client-friendly and has the ear of the court or tribunal before whom he appears."

"Vernon is a very good advocate and makes submissions in a realistic and effective way. Tribunals listen to him."

Stephen Midwinter KC Stephen Midwinter KC is particularly adept at handling cases related to the oil and gas industries. He regularly appears in arbitrations and has experience in the Commercial Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

Energy & Natural Resources	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	Ho Edward <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Livesey Kate <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Shah Nehali <i>One Essex Court</i>
Band 2	Adams Lauren <i>Atkin Chambers</i>
Box Joanne <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>	Bury Paul <i>Keating Chambers</i>
Crangle Thomas <i>4 Pump Court</i>	Davies Evans Jane <i>3 Verulam Buildings (ORL) ◇</i>
Gardner Ben <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Healy Sandra <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Jones Emma <i>One Essex Court</i>	Pounds Caroline <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Robinson Jason <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>	Rothschild Gerard <i>Brick Court Chambers</i>
Sharma Gaurav <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Sinclair Duncan <i>39 Essex Chambers</i>
Sloboda Nicholas <i>One Essex Court</i>	

"Stephen Midwinter is outstanding and a very good advocate. He is very knowledgeable and composed, and his advocacy style is good for arbitration."

Fionn Pilbrow KC Fionn Pilbrow KC is a familiar presence at the Energy Bar. He regularly handles high-value disputes concerning joint venture terms, mining licences and product quality, among other issues. He is particularly noted for his expertise in matters involving detailed technical evidence. Pilbrow has considerable experience acting in high-value fraud cases for energy industry clients. His experience covers arbitrations in the ICC, UNCITRAL and the LCIA, as well as cases before the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court and the Administrative Court.

Strengths:

"Fionn Pilbrow is super response and really on top of procedural rules."

"He is an absolute pleasure to work with. He's measured, calm and reliable."

"He has a way about him, the way he presents, that is endearing and believable. He gets the judges on his side."

Richard Eschwege KC Richard Eschwege KC attracts significant praise from solicitors and barristers alike. He handles a substantial caseload of disputes in the oil and gas industry and has multi-jurisdictional expertise. He is noted for his capacity to handle disputes concerning oil and gas production in the North Sea.

Strengths:

"Richard Eschwege is very hard-working, thorough and diligent. He's excellent."

"He's absolutely top drawer; a very quick worker, and very smart."

JUNIORS

Edward Ho Edward Ho is widely regarded as an impressive performer in international arbitration and commercial disputes, with considerable expertise in the energy sector. He has a strong track record handling high-value disputes arising from mining operations, particularly in Africa and Central Asia.

Strengths:

“Edward Ho has an amazing ability to grasp essential issues quickly and present them concisely and persuasively.”

“Edward Ho is absolutely fantastic. He’s unbelievable.”

“He drafts well, works hard and gives the people who lead him a lot of support.”

Joanne Box Joanne Box is a highly rated junior on commercial litigation and arbitrations. She has an impressive track record in the oil and gas sector and can act on the full range of disputes, from upstream to downstream.

Strengths:

“Joanne Box is spectacularly blunt about what needs to be delivered, but in a charming fashion. She is super bright.”

“She takes on cases that are horrifically complex, and she’s always, always well prepared.”

Gerard Rothschild Gerard Rothschild is widely reputed as a rising star in energy regulation. He regularly appears before the CMA, Ofgem and the High Court on behalf of energy companies and regulators in high-profile disputes and appeals.

Strengths:

“Gerard Rothschild is highly rated, very thoughtful and really clever. He adds value and dimension to his work.”

One Essex Court

One Essex Court is a market-leading set for energy and natural resources work with an unparalleled membership of heavy-hitting advocates. The expertise of the barristers spans the full range of energy disputes, including those relating to oil and gas, renewable energy sources, water, nuclear and conventional power and mining. Members maintain an outstanding reputation for success in the Commercial Court and in arbitrations, and are frequently seconded to regulators such as Ofgem and Ofwat. The set acted for Trafigura defending claims brought by Rasmala Trade Finance Fund alleging fraudulent coal trades. An interviewee says: “One Essex Court is the go-to set for complex matters in the energy sector.”

Client service:

“One Essex Court has one of the best sets of clerks.”

“The clerks are responsive, efficient and able to quickly digest and progress the most complex cases.”

Darren Burrows is the set’s senior clerk and Jackie Ginty is the first deputy senior clerk.

SILKS

Alexander Gunning KC Alexander Gunning KC is well regarded by peers and solicitors for his effective style of advocacy. He has been involved in a range of energy infrastructure cases, and has acted for contractors in disputes concerning the mining, drilling and transportation of natural resources. Gunning frequently represents clients from Central Asia and China.

Strengths:

“If Alexander Gunning is on the other side, it’s unfortunate. He’s just the absolute pinnacle of who you want on energy cases, whether pricing or construction.”

John McCaughran KC John McCaughran KC is

an outstanding advocate with a widely acknowledged and thoroughgoing sector specialism. He is an experienced litigator and arbitrator with great expertise both domestically and internationally, and is admitted to the Bar in the BVI and Cayman Islands. His clear focus is the oil and gas industry, and he acts for a range of major energy and utilities players in the upstream and midstream markets. McCaughran has an in-depth knowledge of the workings of a number of institutions, including the LCIA, the SCC and UNCITRAL.

Strengths:

“John McCaughran is a go-to lawyer for energy disputes. He is a real industry expert with a very strong client-following.”

“He’s incredibly responsive and user-friendly, offering top-notch legal analysis. For contractual interpretation questions in the energy industry, he’s second to none.”

“John is super bright. Once he’s analysed something and worked it through, that’s the answer.”

Laurence Rabinowitz KC Laurence Rabinowitz KC is a dominant presence in the commercial energy arena, with a reputation as a go-to resource for an array of litigation and arbitration matters worldwide. Solicitors turn to him for his ability to take on the cases with the highest stakes, and he deals with contractual disputes surrounding some of the biggest energy deals in the market. His areas of practice range from traditional oil and gas to alternative energy. He is equally comfortable handling both domestic and international disputes.

Strengths:

“Laurence remains one of, if not the, leading energy disputes KC. His advice is clear and commercial.”

“Laurence is one of the most well-known barristers. He’s one of these big names people will deploy.”

“He’s very competent; judges listen to him and he’s a very effective advocate.”

Daniel Toledano KC Daniel Toledano KC is widely respected as an established and robust silk, and he exhibits a winning manner in the courtroom and with clients. He is known for his sharp analytical skills and strong sense of commitment, both of which he demonstrates when representing large industry bodies in a broad range of commercial disputes involving complex contractual and regulatory issues. Toledano has a particular aptitude for handling North Sea oil and gas disputes.

Strengths:

“Daniel Toledano listens and is very considerate. He doesn’t overtrade, but allows enough time for matters and is properly on top of the detail.”

“Daniel has superb technical skills and industry-sector knowledge. He can analyse the most complex issues and deliver clear, commercial and pragmatic advice.”

Alain Choo Choy KC Alain Choo Choy KC is an eminent figure in the energy market who operates both domestically and internationally across a spectrum of commercial energy matters, with a particular focus on cases concerning the financing and ownership of large projects and resources. Key areas of expertise include mining and the upstream oil and gas industry. He frequently appears in both international arbitrations and court hearings, including those before the BVI

Commercial Court and Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Strengths:

“Alain Choo Choy is incredibly intelligent. If he’s on a case, it makes clients sit up and think they’ve hired the big guns.”

Sa’ad Hossain KC Sa’ad Hossain KC is a prominent commercial barrister frequently involved in energy issues, including disputes over the rights and responsibilities associated with natural resources and infrastructure. He frequently acts in cases in the oil and gas sector, with downstream utility supply a particular area of strength. His practice also involves advising clients on operating, transportation and capacity agreements, as well as drilling rig and FPSO operations.

Strengths:

“Sa’ad Hossain is user-friendly, incisively intelligent and good on his feet.”

Jeffery Onions KC Jeffery Onions KC is acclaimed for his undoubted intellect and fierce commitment to complex commercial cases, many of which have a regulatory or environmental angle. He exhibits deep energy sector expertise and acts for heavyweights in the oil and gas industry. His practice spans advisory and advocacy work, and sees him handling both arbitrations and High Court litigation.

David Wolfson KC David Wolfson KC is known for his analytical approach to a variety of cases in the energy sector, including those arising from the extraction and supply of gas. His commercial practice frequently sees him appearing in high-profile oil and gas disputes.

Strengths:

“David is charming and can express his points of view well.”

“He’s excellent.”

Laurence Emmett KC Laurence Emmett KC is a well-regarded silk who has an impressive repertoire of energy cases, especially in relation to the upstream and downstream oil industries. He earns praise for handling regulatory and commercial cases relating to both traditional and non-traditional sources of energy. His practice spans both domestic and international cases.

Strengths:

“Laurence is really easygoing, down to earth and very bright. People who are not easily impressed by lawyers are impressed by Laurence Emmett.”

“He’s very good on oil and gas matters and on moving into the energy transition. He’s a very thorough and thoughtful lawyer.”

“Laurence is very good in conference. He is calm and gets right to the point.”

Orlando Gledhill KC Orlando Gledhill KC is a respected silk who handles significant cases across a wide range of areas, tackling matters concerning both traditional and non-traditional resources. Gledhill represents engineering contractors, facility operators and utility providers. He is held in high regard for his emissions trading practice.

Anthony Grabiner KC Anthony Grabiner KC is a well-known silk with a strong reputation across a variety of commercial law areas. He brings esteem and gravitas to significant cases and is noted for his work as an arbitrator. Grabiner has the capacity to handle a range of sizeable com-

mercial disputes pertaining to the oil and gas industry.

Conall Patton KC Conall Patton KC is a highly regarded silk who is capable of dealing with both the commercial and regulatory aspects of energy work. He has experience in advising and representing clients both in court and in arbitration, and acts for high-ranking developers and facility operators, as well as commodity traders. Patton is equally capable of handling disputes relating to the oil and gas, renewable energy and mining sectors.

Strengths:

“Conall is superb. One of the very best of his generation.”

“He’s a big hitter on corporate and commercial disputes.”

Thomas Sharpe KC Thomas Sharpe KC is an accomplished competition law practitioner with significant experience on the regulatory side of energy work. He represents a range of clients, including utility companies, investment funds and regulatory bodies, providing both advocacy and non-contentious regulatory advice. He is particularly well regarded for his work in the water industry. Sharpe acts for significant market players from across Europe, including German and French clients.

Strengths:

“He’s able to take a very clear view on the most complex of matters.”

JUNIORS

Nehali Shah Nehali Shah is a highly regarded junior with a strong practice advising clients on all aspects of upstream and downstream oil and gas disputes. She regularly appears in commercial litigation and arbitrations, both domestically and internationally, and a number of her cases focus on the financing aspects of projects.

Strengths:

“Nehali Shah is excellent. She’s extremely good at drafting and is responsive.”

Emma Jones Emma Jones acts across a broad range of commercial energy matters. She has particular expertise in cases relating to contractual matters, especially those with contract for difference agreements. Jones focuses on acting for clients in court hearings and arbitrations in the oil and gas and alternative energy sectors.

Strengths:

“Emma Jones is a highly capable junior with excellent technical skills, knowledge of complex industry sectors and superb written advocacy.”

Nicholas Sloboda Nicholas Sloboda is well regarded by solicitors for his oil and gas experience. His clients include energy companies and mining majors and he acts in oil sale disputes, upstream cases and a range of arbitration matters. He regularly appears before the Commercial Court.

Strengths:

“Nicholas Sloboda is very good on tactics and group litigation. He’s very sharp, hard-working and concise in his advice.”

Band 2

Atkin Chambers

Atkin Chambers is home to an outstanding group of energy barristers with significant construction and engineering experience. Members stand out for their representation of upstream and downstream oil and gas clients in high-profile disputes, and also have an increasing presence in renewable energy cases. Barristers at Atkin Chambers regularly appear in disputes relating to large projects across the world, as well as in cases regarding UK-based schemes. For example, members of the chambers acted on both sides of Energy Works (Hull) Ltd v MW High Tech Projects UK Ltd & Others, a five-week hybrid TCC trial involving multimillion-pound claims arising from the construction of a waste to energy power plant. The parties received the first judgment in December 2022 and settled the same month. A source describes Atkin Chambers as “a premium set with extraordinary practitioners at all levels.”

Client service:

“Justin Wilson, senior clerk, is brilliant. He is very responsive and is excellent at business development. He looks after his barristers and the set’s clients.”

“David Barnes, director of clerking, can be singled out for particular praise.”

“David Barnes leads an outstanding team that is very accessible and solutions-oriented.”

SILKS

Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC is head of Atkin Chambers and has a widely respected energy practice with a significant international element, spanning both traditional and non-traditional resources. She regularly undertakes construction and professional negligence work and is frequently instructed in arbitrations. Her work often impacts globally significant and highly complex oil and gas projects.

Strengths:

“She has a very authoritative yet relaxed style, which works very effectively.”

“Chantal is extremely impressive.”

“Her submissions are elegantly written. She can make the best job of a difficult case.”

“Chantal is great. She’s very grounded and sensible and has good judgement.”

David Streatfeild-James KC David Streatfeild-James KC has earned a strong reputation among peers and clients for his formidable intellect and ability to handle technically complex matters. He frequently leads cases involving overseas as well as domestic parties, and represents a wide range of energy clients both in litigation and in arbitration. His expertise is centred on providing advice on cases relating to LNG and power plant projects.

Strengths:

“David Streatfeild-James is one of the most outstanding silks.”

“He’s incredibly easy to listen to, very persuasive and extremely clever. It’s a devastatingly effective combination.”

“David Streatfeild-James is a brain of the Bar. He’s got a great skill of making incredibly difficult topics understandable.”

Stuart Catchpole KC Stuart Catchpole KC is a well-respected silk who wins praise for his effective advocacy and his knowledge of the energy sector. He specialises in construction and design disputes concerning various facilities, including power plants and transport infrastructure. Catchpole frequently represents clients in international arbitrations, and has acted in cases relating to some of the biggest mining and drilling projects worldwide.

Strengths:

“He has an extremely effective advocacy style, where it comes across as there just could be no other answer.”

“Stuart Catchpole is superb and a pleasure to work with.”

“He understands engineering and technical issues very well. He’s very on top of the detail.”

Stephen Dennison KC Stephen Dennison KC is well known for his ability to get on top of the details of a matter and his success in establishing a positive relationship with clients. He offers a broad spectrum of expertise and is effective in cases concerning engineering and infrastructure projects, ranging from oil and gas facilities to renewables, such as waste-to-energy plants.

Strengths:

“He is very good at cutting through all the detail and really focusing on issues.”

Fiona Parkin KC Fiona Parkin KC displays a noted mastery of detail in technically complex disputes. Her broad caseload sees her handling matters relating to the construction of oil rigs and wind farms and the commercial supply of electricity. She also has a strong PFI/PPP practice, advising industry clients on contractual issues.

Strengths:

“She’s very good with tribunals. They listen to her, because she can express herself in a way that anyone listening can understand.”

“Her written work is very good.”

Nicholas Dennys KC Nicholas Dennys KC is a well-regarded construction, professional negligence and insurance expert who regularly handles energy-related cases. His caseload in the sector centres on contractual disputes between players in large civil and non-civil engineering projects, including those relating to mining, hydro facilities and electrical cabling. His frequent appointment as an arbitrator in institutional and ad hoc arbitrations provides him with additional insight into the best way to handle disputes.

Strengths:

“Nicholas Dennys is a clever guy who knows the law and produces persuasive documents.”

“He’s very impressive, very practical and very good at understanding human characteristics, not just commercial and legal issues.”

Manus McMullan KC Manus McMullan KC is a highly impressive advocate whose reputation among solicitors and peers goes from strength to strength. His work in the energy sector centres on construction and engineering disputes, including cases relating to power station facilities and large-scale transport infrastructure. He has experience acting for clients in delay and quantum disputes.

Strengths:

“His court craft is very good, and he knows a hell

of a lot about construction and energy.”

Steven Walker KC Steven Walker KC is popular with instructing solicitors, and he has a solid practice that is focused on contractual disputes concerning the construction of renewable power facilities, especially waste-to-energy plants. He acts for both developers and contractors, and frequently appears in adjudications, as well as proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court.

Strengths:

“He is super responsive, easy to work with, open-minded, pragmatic and clever.”

“Steven Walker is a very effective cross-examiner and is exceptional at reading the room and understanding the best approach in a courtroom.”

“Stephen is a very sensible, grounded advocate.”

Andrew White KC Andrew White KC is acclaimed for his diligence and deep experience handling matters in the energy sector, particularly those relating to the exploration and production of oil and gas. He has additional strength in claims of breach of contract, including those concerning conventional power projects.

Mark Chennells KC Mark Chennells KC is an experienced practitioner who enjoys a growing reputation among peers and clients. He acts in a variety of high-value energy disputes, many of which have a construction slant, and is regularly instructed in cases involving oil field development and operation, as well as offshore wind farm construction. Chennells frequently appears in the Technology and Construction Court and the Supreme Court, and routinely handles international arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Mark Chennells works incredibly hard, really gets into the documents and does a good job setting up his clients for good results.”

“He’s mega-bright.”

“Mark provided clear advice that is readily understood by the client.”

Rupert Choat KC Rupert Choat KC is a highly thought-of barrister for construction matters who frequently appears in energy disputes. He has appeared in both court hearings and international arbitrations relating to the full gamut of energy cases, notably handling disputes involving offshore wind farms and drilling rigs.

Strengths:

“Rupert presents in a convincing and forthright way.”

“He’s excellent.”

James Howells KC James Howells KC is recommended for his impressive technical expertise and diligence in cases. He handles a range of disputes, including those relating to defect and damages and alleged wrongful terminations arising from power and oil and gas projects. He is equally at home representing his clients in the domestic courts or in claims seated in other jurisdictions.

Strengths:

“James Howells is an extremely talented and hard-working silk.”

“He’s an excellent lawyer.”

Christopher Lewis KC Christopher Lewis KC continues to offer high-quality representation of clients in commercial energy disputes. He is frequently used for significant international arbitra-

tion matters and has a noticeable bent towards issues arising from the construction of power and oil facilities.

Strengths:

“He’s a superb advocate and an excellent cross-examiner.”

JUNIORS

Lauren Adams Lauren Adams is increasingly sought after for complex disputes concerning traditional and renewable energy projects, particularly those involving construction and professional negligence-related claims.

Strengths:

“She’s always confident and on top of the material.”

Essex Court Chambers

Essex Court Chambers is a heavyweight set which draws upon particular strengths in international arbitration and commercial disputes to represent clients in a range of energy matters. Members are renowned for their strong international practices and are adept at handling cases relating to oil and gas pricing, climate change, insurance matters and construction problems. An interviewee says: “Essex is first rate.”

Client service:

“The clerks just get it. They genuinely give good options, are very responsive and very strong in terms of energy expertise.”

“The clerks have good turnaround time and are courteous.”

Joe Ferrigno is senior clerk and Ben Perry is deputy senior clerk.

SILKS

Claire Blanchard KC Claire Blanchard KC is a strong commercial litigator and arbitrator who is very much at home handling energy cases. She is known by market sources for her impressive courtroom demeanour and pronounced insurance expertise.

Strengths:

“Claire Blanchard is very practical, extremely bright and forthright in her views.”

Graham Dunning KC Graham Dunning KC is a silk with a strong reputation for shipping litigation, also advising clients on a range of commercial energy disputes. In particular, he is focused on the oil and gas sector and frequently appears in arbitrations at the ICC and LCIA.

Strengths:

“The quality of his advice is outstanding.”

“He’s a very strong courtroom advocate.”

David Mildon KC David Mildon KC is experienced at handling an array of energy matters and offering a strong overseas practice. Mildon is an expert in oil and gas, electricity and renewables issues; he is also noted for his work on cases concerning the Climate Change Levy and carbon trading. Acknowledged for his intellectual capacity, he has a particular interest in cases requiring in-depth economic analysis.

Strengths:

“He is able to deliver effective and helpful legal advice and work well with instructing solicitors.”

“He’s impressive.”

Siddharth Dhar KC Siddharth Dhar KC is a

respected barrister with wide-ranging commercial expertise who has experience in significant energy cases in both a courtroom and arbitration context. He is often instructed to act as lead advocate in large arbitrations and in appeals.

Strengths:

“He’s great.”

“Sid has an impressive ability to identify strengths and weaknesses in an extremely succinct, coherent and commercial matter.”

Keating Chambers

Keating Chambers is a highly regarded set with leading dual expertise in energy and construction disputes. Members are instructed by high-profile energy companies, the owners and operators of oil, gas, nuclear and renewable energy facilities, corporate investors and contractors in a plethora of high-value disputes. Barristers regularly appear in the LCIA, ICC, TCC and Court of Appeal in high-profile matters. A notable case for the set this year is HSM v Aker, concerning a delayed load out of two process modules for a North Sea offshore platform. An interviewee reports: “There is an incredible depth to the expertise at Keating, and I have never had anything but outstanding service from both senior and junior counsel.”

Client service:

“The clerks are responsive and always helpful.”

“The clerks are organised and responsive. Good service in chambers.”

“The clerks are top-notch and provide an invaluable role and service as part of the team.”

“Keating Chambers has a great clerks’ room that is on the ball and very customer-focused.”

“James Luxmoore, joint director of clerking, is of particular assistance in identifying exactly what we require and resolving any issues quickly and professionally.”

SILKS

Veronique Buehrlen KC Veronique Buehrlen KC is noted for her ability to grasp the pertinent details in complex energy cases. She operates a strong practice in both litigation and arbitration, and regularly handles matters concerning the construction of oil production and transportation facilities. Her strengths in the sector include advising on farmout arrangements, SPAs and injunctive relief issues.

Strengths:

“Veronique combines detailed understanding with strategic vision. She is tenacious in pursuing her client’s case.”

“She is technically astute and hard-working.”

“She knows how to pick the key points that a tribunal really wants to hear.”

Lucy Garrett KC Lucy Garrett KC is praised by many for her expert handling of cases and diligent preparation. She stands out for her strength advising on issues concerning the construction of energy projects, including contractual issues, delays and claims of defective work and misconduct. Her deep oil and gas expertise is complemented by her ability to handle disputes in the wider sector, including in nuclear energy.

Strengths:

“Lucy is an incredibly bright and energetic lawyer. She is fantastic with clients and a real joy to work

with.”

Simon Hughes KC Simon Hughes KC is a well-known construction silk with noted experience in the energy sector. He frequently appears in international disputes involving oil fields, coal-fired power plants and nuclear power plants.

Strengths:

“He’s a good lawyer and a good advocate.”

“Simon Hughes gets brought in at the last minute when people think things are going to be lost.”

Vincent Moran KC Vincent Moran KC is a highly capable performer in energy, professional negligence and construction cases. He is a regular fixture at the Technology and Construction Court, and has particular experience of cases relating to domestic waste and power plants.

Strengths:

“He’s just a great silk, and his finance background gives him a unique perspective.”

“Vincent’s ability to absorb complex, technical information is extraordinary.”

Sean Wilken KC Sean Wilken KC is notable for his thorough knowledge of the upstream oil and gas sector. He is frequently instructed in large-scale international litigation, especially in cases concerning the development of significant African resources. He has considerable experience advising on contractual disputes stemming from environmental crises and issues connected to renewable assets.

Calum Lamont KC Calum Lamont KC is recognised for his strength in the energy space as part of his wider construction practice. He has experience handling issues across the full gamut of energy projects, from gas pipelines to energy-from-waste facilities. He has noted skill on his feet.

Strengths:

“Calum is incredibly intelligent and an outstanding advocate.”

“He has great attention to detail and is a tenacious cross-examiner.”

Paul Buckingham KC Paul Buckingham KC is a respected barrister who brings noted experience as a process engineer in the oil and gas sector to a practice that takes in engineering, construction and energy matters. He has particular expertise in issues involving international parties, and is held in high regard for his capacity to advise clients on the technical aspects of energy disputes.

Strengths:

“His ability to talk to clients about ‘pipes and wires’ at the same level is invaluable.”

“Paul exudes confidence and knowledge.”

“Paul is very good, measured and very authoritative. He knows a lot about the energy industry.”

JUNIORS

Paul Bury Paul Bury is an accomplished junior who routinely acts in onshore and offshore energy infrastructure disputes, such as biomass and power plant cases. He has expertise acting in ICC arbitrations and before the High Court.

Strengths:

“He has a comprehensive expertise on procedural points and provides very clear advice.”

“He’s great to watch, even when he’s on the other side of you.”

4 Pump Court

4 Pump Court is an esteemed commercial construction set with a plethora of experience in energy sector construction, engineering, shipping and technology disputes. Its international client roster includes shipyards, contractors, insurers and reinsurers, in addition to leading energy companies. Although offering a breadth of experience across various energy sectors, 4 Pump Court garners particular acclaim for its standout work in relation to oil and gas projects, including onshore and offshore oil fields, pipelines and LNG plants. A key matter from this year was Apache North Sea v Esso Exploration and Production and others, representing Esso. This USD150 million dispute concerned obligations of security provided by Apache to Esso and others during oil field decommissioning in the North Sea. A source highlights: “4 Pump Court is a very strong chambers in terms of its ability to digest complex contractual disputes quickly and provide pragmatic advice.”

Client service:

“Sam Penny, practice manager, is extremely responsive and accommodating.”

“The clerks are fantastic.”

“The clerks are quick in terms of inquiries.”

“The clerks at 4 Pump Court are always available to assist.”

“Clerks from this set have always been available to propose barristers for new work and are quick to answer any questions about ongoing matters.”

Stewart Gibbs and Carl Wall are the senior clerks.

SILKS

Sean Brannigan KC Sean Brannigan KC is a pre-eminent member of the Construction Bar who carries his expertise into the field of energy law, allowing him to handle energy infrastructure disputes of considerable magnitude. He is consistently highlighted by market sources for his good client manner and no-nonsense attitude, and is frequently involved in litigation involving overseas clients. The lion’s share of his client base is composed of contractors active in the construction of large-scale facilities in sectors ranging from oil exploration to wind energy.

Strengths:

“If you’re going to have a big fight and you need someone who’s going to go in there and have a proper brawl, he’s your man.”

“Sean Brannigan consistently delivers for clients.”

“He has the perfect combo of skills to rule the Bar: an iron fist in a velvet glove that can be a sledgehammer or a fencer; as well as being a great strategic thinker.”

“Sean Brannigan is very charismatic and an elegant speaker. He’s all-round excellent.”

Sean O’Sullivan KC Sean O’Sullivan KC is a widely acclaimed, technically and commercially sound advocate with great knowledge of the energy industry. Particularly well known for his expertise in the marine engineering sphere, he specialises in drilling, shipping and offshore issues and has particular experience of representing contractors. He has a strong arbitration practice but is equally adept at handling straight commercial litigation.

Strengths:

“His practice is impressive. You won’t find fault in his submissions, either written or oral.”

“Sean O’Sullivan’s strategic thinking and his ability to get across a huge array of technical issues and focus on key areas is critical in achieving good results.”

“Sean O’Sullivan is very sensible and measured. He knows energy.”

Nigel Tozzi KC Nigel Tozzi KC has a broad practice that takes in energy and construction matters. His particular expertise lies in the midstream oil market, and he has handled a variety of cases pertaining to the supply and transportation of raw materials. Cases concerning shipping and pipeline infrastructure are a particular specialism of his. He supplements his litigation practice with frequent appearances as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

“Nigel is a very good advocate. He’s loved by his clients and is sensible.”

Rachel Ansell KC Rachel Ansell KC is a leading construction silk with an increasingly solid reputation in the energy sphere, who is known for her involvement in large infrastructure disputes in this market. Her work centres on defects and damages claims relating to projects ranging from wind farms to oil facilities. She has a strong Middle Eastern practice and regularly advises clients on disputes in the region.

Strengths:

“Rachel Ansell is really good. She’s very sharp and has a direct approach in court.”

“I have never seen a silk work quite so hard to attain the level of understanding of such a technically complex matter. Her work ethic knows no bounds.”

“Rachel Ansell is extremely good in high-value cases and highly complex cases. She’s absolutely excellent.”

James Leabeater KC James Leabeater KC has a loyal following among solicitors, who see him as a tried and tested resource for big-ticket cases. He has well-rounded energy expertise stemming from his construction, shipping and insurance experience, and he deals with disputes concerning both the engineering and operation of onshore and offshore drilling and transportation facilities. Leabeater frequently appears in arbitrations both domestically and internationally, including those in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Strengths:

“James Leabeater is an excellent advocate. He’s very approachable and provides succinct advice quickly.”

Lynne McCafferty KC Lynne McCafferty KC is highlighted for her effective advocacy both in written submissions and in the courtroom. She is frequently instructed by engineers, utilities companies and other industry professionals for her expertise in the energy sector.

Strengths:

“Lynne McCafferty is extremely bright, gets the detail quickly and talks with instructing solicitors, clients and witnesses with ease.”

“She’s really impressive on her feet.”

Nick Vineall KC Nick Vineall KC has a reputation for being able to handle some of the most technically challenging cases, especially on the construction and engineering side of the market. He has been involved in numerous upstream issues, including those relating to the construction and

operation of offshore facilities. Vineall is active in both traditional litigation and large-scale international arbitrations. He is widely praised for the breadth of his practice and handles a broad range of commercial energy disputes.

Strengths:

"Nick is very knowledgeable and always gives timely and precise advice."

Stephen Cogley KC Stephen Cogley KC is noted as a creative advocate with a strong background in shipping. He increasingly channels his breadth of expertise into substantial cases in the upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas sectors. He has recent experience handling complex disputes arising from the construction of solar parks.

Strengths:

"He is very knowledgeable and experienced in handling high-value disputes in major jurisdictions."

Claire Packman KC Claire Packman KC is a renowned construction specialist with experience in high-value and technically complex renewable energy disputes. Whether the dispute concerns a solar farm or energy from waste plant, she possesses a firm grasp on the technical and contractual facts of her work.

Strengths:

"Claire Packman is an impressive advocate and a safe pair of hands when dealing with complex commercial cases."

"She's absolutely brilliant."

"Claire is incredibly down to earth, hard-working, client-friendly and a brilliant cross-examiner."

JUNIORS

Kate Livesey Kate Livesey is a talented junior, particularly sought after for her skill in project insurance matters, as well as contractual and payment disputes. Her energy expertise spans renewables through to oil and gas.

Strengths:

"Kate Livesey is really excellent. She's clever and hard-working, and solicitors love her."

"She's very thorough and hard-working. Even when she gets instructed on a case late, she is phenomenally quick with the technical detail."

Thomas Crangle Thomas Crangle is a respected construction barrister with a growing reputation in the energy and utilities sector. He has acted for a number of major players in contractual disputes relating to the construction and decommissioning of power plants at home and abroad. Crangle is also an expert in cases relating to offshore energy facilities and regularly handles oil and gas disputes.

Strengths:

"Thomas Crangle is very clever. He understands energy disputes and the complexities they come with."

"He's great to work with."

Band 3

Twenty Essex

Twenty Essex has a group of highly esteemed litigators and arbitrators with a notable energy focus. Members are equipped to handle the full range of oil and gas and mining-related matters,

including upstream, midstream and downstream work, construction disputes and corporate issues. The barristers here are frequently active in high-profile international disputes, including those in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. The set has acted for Glencore Energy this year in a dispute related to allegations of contaminated crude oil.

Client service:

"Practice director Anthony Carroll is incredible. His responsiveness to requests and the barristers Twenty Essex puts forward are spot-on."

"Twenty Essex has a great clerking team that develops personal relationships with clients."

"A great clerking team who develop personal relationships with clients."

SILKS

Duncan Matthews KC Duncan Matthews KC is a highly experienced practitioner in the energy sector, with a focus on international disputes across the full range of upstream, midstream and downstream oil work. His practice covers large-scale, high-profile litigation and arbitration, and he regularly tackles cases with civil fraud aspects, as well as highly technical considerations. He has specific expertise in relation to disputes concerning onshore and offshore oil and gas drilling, as well as the carriage of goods and commodities in the energy sector.

Strengths:

"Duncan Matthews is a highly experienced commercial advocate."

"He's a first-class lawyer."

Michael Ashcroft KC Michael Ashcroft KC is a knowledgeable silk highlighted for his courtroom advocacy. He is skilled in matters involving complex issues, such as contractual disputes and project delays. He has particular strength in oil and gas disputes.

Strengths:

"He is incredibly bright."

"He's very experienced and knowledgeable."

David Lewis KC David Lewis KC is a well-reputed silk with significant experience as both an advocate and adviser in oil and gas disputes. He has expertise in relation to various joint venture agreements and production sharing contracts. His practice includes contractual disputes relating to the transportation of oil and LNG, as well as mining claims.

Strengths:

"He's extremely diligent and gets completely immersed in the detail."

"He's a very able and user-friendly silk."

"He's one of the best examples of the modern legal brain. He's super responsive, provides just the right level of analysis, and is crisp and clear."

"David Lewis is someone you take very seriously if you see him on the other side."

Wendy Miles KC Wendy Miles KC specialises in international disputes concerning the transaction and operation of oil and gas, mining and renewable assets.

Strengths:

"Wendy is very kind, very thorough and always at the top of her game."

39 Essex Chambers

39 Essex Chambers is a respected set offering a breadth of experience across energy mandates, including construction, engineering, environmental and planning disputes, as well as regulatory work and the representation of public bodies. Tenants are additionally qualified to handle international arbitration for energy sector clients and others. Cases undertaken by barristers at the set range from those arising in the oil industry to disputes relating to nuclear power stations. Demonstrating regulatory and nuclear expertise, members advised the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and Magnox Limited on issues relating to transfer of AGR stations and use of nuclear sites. One interviewee says: "39 Essex is reputable in the energy sector, and I always recommend them."

Client service:

"The clerks have strong service levels, particularly from Mark Winrow, senior practice manager."

"The clerks are excellent. They are quick and on the ball and come back with accurate info very quickly. Elliott Hurrell, senior practice manager, is very good."

The energy team is managed by Andrew Poyser, deputy senior clerk, and Mark Winrow.

SILKS

Karim Ghaly KC Karim Ghaly KC is a respected silk held in high regard for the quality of his representation in disputes relating to construction, engineering and energy. He is frequently engaged by large-scale international clients to deal with issues all over the world, and he regularly handles arbitrations. He has a particularly strong practice concerning the legal fallout from the construction, hire and failure of heavy-duty oil and gas facilities.

Strengths:

"Karim Ghaly has a sharp intellect and is incredibly hard-working."

"He knows everything."

Stephen Tromans KC Stephen Tromans KC is an outstanding name in the environmental and planning spheres, who brings these skills to the energy sector. He is also known for his pre-eminent expertise in legal matters pertaining specifically to nuclear energy. Tromans is commended by peers for the strength of his regulatory practice.

Strengths:

"He's the go-to person for nuclear queries."

Adrian Hughes KC Adrian Hughes KC is a reputable construction and arbitration expert with a strong energy specialism. He frequently acts on engineering and contract disputes which arise from major international energy projects.

Strengths:

"Natural resources and energy is always very technical in an engineering sense. He's totally at home in all of that."

JUNIORS

Duncan Sinclair Duncan Sinclair specialises in the regulatory and competition aspects of energy law and has frequently been involved in judicial review procedures. He handles both contentious and advisory work, representing major electricity suppliers and undertaking investigations for

public authorities.

Strengths:

"He is really good and approachable. His written work is really good."

7 King's Bench Walk

7 King's Bench Walk is an esteemed group of barristers with significant experience in energy and natural resources disputes. The set handles environmental, shipping, insurance and contractual claims, to name a few. Members offer deep expertise in the field of oil and gas exploration and production. The set is also known for its success in complex international arbitrations, with barristers regularly appearing in the LCIA. A highlight matter for the set this year was acting for Verum Plus on Commercial Court claims to recover damages from a long-standing oil and gas JV partner. One source highlights: "It is a very talented set all round and is always able to handle the most complex and sophisticated matters with skill, tact and charm."

Client service:

"The clerks are second to none. They're really helpful and really responsive with strong turn-arounds."

"The clerks are excellent; always available and willing to discuss issues."

"The clerks provide a very good service."

Greg Leydon is the set's senior clerk, and Eddie Johns and Gary Rose are joint deputy senior clerks.

SILKS

David Allen KC David Allen KC is well known as a robust advocate, with a strong capacity for analysing in-depth technical detail. He specialises in a range of oil and gas cases relating to pipelines, drilling operations and offshore structures, and handles large international disputes between oil companies, marine engineering firms and other industry bodies. Allen has frequently appeared in arbitrations at the LCIA and LMAA on behalf of energy industry clients.

Strengths:

"David Allen is an outstanding advocate. He's able to focus on the big issues and convince a tribunal of his client's case."

"David's powerful insight into the oil and gas industry is truly exceptional."

Jonathan Gaisman KC Jonathan Gaisman KC is an outstanding commercial all-rounder who can adroitly turn his hand to energy cases, particularly those requiring in-depth contractual expertise. Gaisman handles cases concerning insurance and commercial issues pertaining to infrastructure and the extraction of reserves. His broad practice focuses on contested litigation but also encompasses advisory work and appearances as an arbitrator.

Alistair Schaff KC Alistair Schaff KC has a considerable reputation as an intellectual heavyweight for a range of commercial disputes. His strong practice covers commercial and insurance litigation and arbitration. Issues handled range from difficulties with construction projects to major environmental disasters, and both traditional and non-traditional energy project matters are well represented in his caseload. His experi-

ence is evidenced by his regular appearances as an arbitrator at the ICC, LCIA and LMAA.

Strengths:

"Alistair Schaff is very good at the law. He's analytical and accurate."

Richard Southern KC Richard Southern KC possesses a wealth of experience in the energy sector, frequently appearing in corporate disputes on behalf of major oil and gas clients. He has great expertise in crude oil and iron ore cases and regularly appears as both an advocate and an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Richard is very authoritative on his feet in court. He's very calm, and his advice is pragmatic and precise."

JUNIORS

Sandra Healy Sandra Healy is a strong commercial junior who handles a broad array of energy issues including upstream and downstream work. Her experience includes geopolitically sensitive international arbitration cases concerning oil and gas exploration and development rights. She has noted strength in cases which involve shipping, insurance and offshore issues.

Strengths:

"Sandra has amazing attention to detail and excellent presentation skills."

Jason Robinson Jason Robinson is a respected commercial litigator who has had involvement in a range of leading energy cases. He has acted for a number of prominent energy entities including major oil companies.

Strengths:

"He's very impressive. You have to watch yourself on the other side because he's smart."

"Jason Robinson is incredibly hard-working, efficient and proactive. He exceeds expectations."

Quadrant Chambers

Quadrant Chambers is a leading shipping set with a strong energy offering. Barristers at Quadrant are routinely engaged by upstream and downstream oil and gas clients in significant disputes. Unparalleled experience in marine, rig and transport engineering also informs the set's growing energy practice. Barristers from the chambers acted for the UAE oil and gas company, Der Mond, and its parent company, Locafrique, in their defence of a claim by the Russian oil company, LITASCO, filed in the High Court. The claim concerned the failure by Der Mond to pay for cargoes of oil following imposition of sanctions on Russia. One source notes: "All barristers we've worked with have excellent knowledge of the industry and underlying drivers."

Client service:

"The clerks offer a perfect level of services and perfect responsiveness. What more can one expect?"

"Senior clerk Simon Slattery is very client-friendly and responsive."

"You're always able to get hold of someone, and the clerks are very good at managing counsel availability."

SILKS

Lionel Persey KC Lionel Persey KC is a clear

choice for mammoth oil disputes. Persey is highly regarded in the field for the depth of his technical expertise, especially in marine engineering. He specialises in midstream and upstream cases including those relating to pipeline, ship and rig construction, as well as oil production and exploration. He is well versed in cases involving oil majors and national oil companies, and has expertise in a number of Middle Eastern jurisdictions. He also has a significant amount of experience sitting as an arbitrator in shipbuilding disputes.

Strengths:

"He's excellent."

Simon Rainey KC Simon Rainey KC is a strong commercial silk with noted prowess in complex, high-profile oil and gas work. He is an expert in maritime and shipping issues, especially those concerning transportation and rig engineering. He frequently appears in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, as well as in arbitrations, and is highlighted by peers for his skilful advocacy.

Strengths:

"Simon is the best there is."

"Simon is impressive. He just comes in with really incisive points and comments. He just gets to the point."

"He's rightfully regarded as one of the top energy silks."

"His knowledge of oil and gas is incredible. He has decades of real experience."

Luke Parsons KC Luke Parsons KC is highly respected for his commercial and admiralty practice. His noted shipping expertise strongly informs his adroit handling of a variety of marine engineering disputes in the E&P sector, and he is also adept at dealing with high-value corporate matters. His experience includes advising clients on disputes involving oil rigs, exploration platforms, floating storage platforms and pipelines.

Strengths:

"He's really fantastic, smart and a good cross-examiner."

"He is a superb energy specialist."

Chris Smith KC Chris Smith KC is an impressive commercial silk who has expertise in energy as part of a wider shipping and commodities practice. He is highly skilled in matters pertaining to the oil and gas sector. He regularly acts on behalf of top-drawer energy companies both in court and in arbitration.

Strengths:

"He's an effective advocate and has genuine expertise in this area."

JUNIORS

Ben Gardner Ben Gardner is a go-to junior for notable firms in the energy space on a range of complex disputes including in the oil and gas, power and mining sectors. He is frequently sought after for ICC, Singapore and LCIA arbitrations.

Caroline Pounds Caroline Pounds continues to impress in heavy contractual disputes across the oil and gas sector involving construction issues, terminated contracts and disputed payments. She has experience in cases before the Commercial Court and in arbitration.

Strengths:

"Caroline is sensible and experienced."

"Caroline has enormous attention to detail."

Gaurav Sharma Gaurav Sharma is dual-qualified in England and France and has experience working as both an in-house litigator for Shell and a solicitor-advocate. He has a strong oil and gas specialism, acting on commercial disputes and international investment disputes.

Strengths:

“Gaurav is a rising star in international arbitration for energy matters.”

“Gaurav Sharma is extremely experienced in oil and gas disputes. He has an immense knowledge of the industry unparalleled in junior counsel.”

“Gaurav has shown excellent legal skill and ability to speak the same language as clients.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jane Davies Evans (3 Verulam Buildings) Jane Davies Evans of 3 Verulam Buildings is a dual qualified barrister and accountant who acts on highly technical and detailed energy and construction arbitrations. She handles disputes across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa and is equally at home with nuclear and renewable technologies as with oil and gas.

Strengths:

“She operates at a silk level.”

“She is very good on paper and in pleadings. The way in which she develops her cases through written work is excellent.”

Anneliese Day KC (Fountain Court Chambers) Anneliese Day KC of Fountain Court Chambers is broadly considered a specialist for construction disputes within an energy context, especially in

relation to traditional and renewable energy projects. She possesses equal abilities in both international arbitrations and commercial litigation on behalf of energy sector clients and other large corporations.

Strengths:

“She’s very good at leading a team and keeping everyone going.”

“She is just phenomenal.”

“Anneliese Day is a fantastic advocate with the ear of the tribunal.”

Christopher Harris KC (3 Verulam Buildings) Christopher Harris KC of 3 Verulam Buildings is rising through the ranks of the Energy Bar. Harris is a barrister with a particular reputation in international arbitration, who is expert both in the technical side of oil and gas disputes and in financing issues. As well as acting for large oil companies, he is familiar with the issues inherent in representing national governments, especially in the Middle East and Central Asia. He has appeared in an array of oil and gas industry cases, particularly those concerning the upstream and midstream market.

Strengths:

“Christopher Harris is an outstanding counsel with very strong strategic and advocacy skills.”

“Chris Harris is gifted, intelligent, approachable and compelling. He can be mesmerising on his feet.”

“He is a thorough and highly effective advocate. He’s impressive all around.”

Adam Kramer KC (3 Verulam Buildings) Adam Kramer KC of 3 Verulam Buildings is noted for his academic rigour and robust courtroom

demeanour. He is frequently involved in energy cases and has a depth of experience in oil and gas and diesel emissions cases. He is a particular expert on fraud and contractual disputes.

Strengths:

“Adam is a very smooth and polished advocate. People sit up and listen when he speaks.”

Ali Malek KC (3 Verulam Buildings) Ali Malek KC of 3 Verulam Buildings is a strong commercial barrister with a broad practice that takes in a copious caseload in the oil and gas sector. He specialises in exploration issues, and has handled cases concerning assets in a number of African and Asian jurisdictions. Malek frequently appears as an advocate in arbitrations with an international aspect to them, including cases governed by ICC, LCIA and SIAC rules.

Strengths:

“He is a superb leader who drives cases forward by concentrating on important issues.”

“He has a certain charm and magic that make him a terrific advocate.”

Jern-Fei Ng KC (7BR) Jern-Fei Ng KC of 7BR is admired for his diverse practice and ability to handle disputes in the mining and metals, oil and gas, and renewables arenas. He is particularly noted for his expertise in Asian jurisdictions and for his adroit handling of international arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Jern-Fei gives excellent legal advice and advocacy coupled with a first-rate bedside manner with clients.”

“Jern-Fei is an excellent advocate, strategist and team member.”

Offshore (Bar)

Offshore
Leading Sets
Band 1
XXIV Old Buildings
Serle Court
Wilberforce Chambers
Band 2
Essex Court Chambers
Maitland Chambers
South Square
4 Stone Buildings
3 Verulam Buildings
Band 3
Brick Court Chambers
Erskine Chambers
New Square Chambers

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

XXIV Old Buildings

XXIV Old Buildings maintains a superb reputation for its handling of an array of offshore work, with members frequently appearing in trusts, funds, fraud and restructuring disputes. The “premier offshore” set is able to offer significant expertise in the Channel Islands, the BVI and the Cayman Islands, as well as in Middle and Far Eastern jurisdictions. Members appear in high-profile cases including *Wong v Grand View*, *Ivanishvili v Credit Suisse Life*, and the X Trusts dispute before the Bermudian Supreme Court. A source refers to the set as a “go-to for complex matters.” Another calls it a “powerhouse” for offshore trust work.

Client service:

“The clerks are really user-friendly and reliable. They’re easy to get on with, and you can talk straight with them on fees and timings.”

“The clerking team are very efficient. They market their barristers well and I’ve always found them to

be honest and open. They make sure we get the right barrister on the matter if our first choice isn’t available.”

Paul Horsfield is the head clerk.

SILKS

Elsbeth Talbot Rice KC Elspeth Talbot Rice KC is a highly regarded and much sought-after expert who handles a full spectrum of commercial and traditional chancery work. She has experience of acting in jurisdictions spanning the BVI, Bermuda and the UK Crown Dependencies, and acts for both claimants and defendants in significant trust and estates disputes. She has particular experience in cases concerning asset transfers and restructuring.

Strengths:

“Elsbeth is absolutely excellent. She’s very user-friendly and very direct, which is often incredibly helpful. She’s an exceptional resource and someone you want on your side.”

“Elsbeth is one of the best advocates around. She

Offshore	
Leading Silks	
Star individuals	Ng Jern-Fei 7BR (ORL) ◇
Crow Jonathan 4 Stone Buildings	Quest David 3 Verulam Buildings
Talbot Rice Elspeth XXIV Old Buildings	Reed Penelope 5 Stone Buildings (ORL) ◇
Band 1	Smouha Joe Essex Court Chambers
Adkin Jonathan Serle Court	Stanley Clare Wilberforce Chambers
Allison David South Square	Todd Michael Erskine Chambers
Atherton Stephen Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇	Tregear Francis XXIV Old Buildings
Brownbill David XXIV Old Buildings	Wardell John Wilberforce Chambers
Cumming Edward XXIV Old Buildings	Band 3
Flynn Vernon Brick Court Chambers	Alexander David South Square
Green Brian Wilberforce Chambers	Ayres Andrew Twenty Essex (ORL) ◇
Hagen Dakis Serle Court	Boulton Richard One Essex Court (ORL) ◇
Ham KC Robert Wilberforce Chambers	Chaisty Paul Kings Chambers (ORL) ◇
Hilliard Jonathan Wilberforce Chambers	Chapman Graham 4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
Howard Mark Brick Court Chambers	Collings Matthew Maitland Chambers
Jones Elizabeth Serle Court	Fenwick Justin 4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
Jones Philip Serle Court	Fisher Richard South Square
Le Poidevin Nicholas New Square Chambers	Hollington Robin New Square Chambers
Lowe Thomas Wilberforce Chambers	Houseman Stephen Essex Court Chambers
Marshall Philip Serle Court	Isaacs Barry South Square
McGrath Paul Essex Court Chambers	Machell John Serle Court
McQuater Ewan 3 Verulam Buildings	Mold Andrew Wilberforce Chambers
Millett Richard Essex Court Chambers	Montagu-Smith Tom 3 Verulam Buildings
Moverley Smith Stephen XXIV Old Buildings	Morgan Richard Maitland Chambers
Smith Tom South Square	Parker Christopher R Maitland Chambers
Taube Simon Ten Old Square (ORL) ◇	Richardson Giles Serle Court
Warnock-Smith Shân 5 Stone Buildings (ORL) ◇	Salzedo Simon Brick Court Chambers
Wilson Richard Serle Court	Saoul Daniel 4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
Band 2	Shivji Sharif A. 4 Stone Buildings
Brisby John 4 Stone Buildings	Singla Nikki Wilberforce Chambers
Chivers David Erskine Chambers	Steinfeld Alan XXIV Old Buildings
Cooper Gilead Wilberforce Chambers	Toube Felicity South Square
Furness Michael Wilberforce Chambers	Valentin Ben Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇
Hardwick Matthew 3 Verulam Buildings	Weekes Robert Blackstone Chambers (ORL) ◇
Levy Robert Three Stone (ORL) ◇	Willan James Essex Court Chambers
Lord David W Three Stone (ORL) ◇	New Silks
Mowschenson Terence Wilberforce Chambers	Cloherly Adam XXIV Old Buildings
Mumford David Maitland Chambers	McCourt Fritz Dan Serle Court
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Offshore	
Leading Juniors	
Band 1	Halkerston Graeme Wilberforce Chambers
Tucker Lynton New Square Chambers	Band 2
Al-Attar Adam South Square	Fletcher Thomas Serle Court
Hargreaves Emma Serle Court	Holden Andrew XXIV Old Buildings
Hubbard Mark New Square Chambers	Keller Ciaran Essex Court Chambers
Shah Bajul XXIV Old Buildings	Weaver Elizabeth XXIV Old Buildings
Band 3	Blake Andrew Erskine Chambers
Feltham Piers Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇	Flavin Marcus Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇
Harrison Nicholas Serle Court	Haywood Marcus South Square
Jordan Ruth Serle Court	Langlois Nicole XXIV Old Buildings
Leslie Nico Fountain Court Chambers (ORL) ◇	Lewison Josh Radcliffe Chambers (ORL) ◇
Littler Anna Wilberforce Chambers	Morrison Matthew Serle Court
Paton Matthew 5 Stone Buildings (ORL) ◇	Roscoe Tom Wilberforce Chambers
Staff Marcus XXIV Old Buildings	Thompson Stephanie Serle Court
Warents Daniel XXIV Old Buildings	

known for his liquidation work, and he has acted for clients in Bermuda, the BVI and the Cayman Islands. He offers additional expertise in trust disputes and has been active in Jersey. Tregear regularly acts for shareholders and liquidators.

Strengths:

“Francis is a very able, intelligent, and clear advocate.”

“Francis is excellent – very strong in insolvency and very user-friendly.”

“Francis Tregear KC is a masterful advocate who can get across all the facts quickly and confidently.”

Alan Steinfeld KC Alan Steinfeld KC has wide commercial and traditional chancery expertise and a profound knowledge of trust disputes. He has broad offshore experience across the Channel Islands, the Caribbean and Hong Kong. Steinfeld is well versed in hedge fund, investment fund and property disputes. He is also active on behalf of private clients in family and estate disputes.

Strengths:

“Despite being one of the most established and senior KCs at the Bar, his accessibility, enthusiasm, and willingness to roll up sleeves is no different from a four years’ call junior. He is excellent counsel.”

Adam Cloherly KC Adam Cloherly KC impresses sources with his courtroom advocacy skills, and has particular experience of BVI and Cayman Islands cases. His clients, who include beneficiaries and shareholders, benefit from his extensive trust knowledge. He has also handled matters in Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

Strengths:

“Adam’s a very bright barrister and very amenable.”

presents incredibly well to courts – she gives it everything.”

“A real presence offshore, and a force to be reckoned with.”

David Brownbill KC David Brownbill KC is a natural choice for the most complex and contentious trusts litigation. He is frequently called upon to handle work in the Channel Islands, the BVI and the Cayman Islands. His specialism lies in multi-jurisdictional and high-value traditional and commercial chancery work. Brownbill is particularly sought after for claims arising out of liquidation and insolvency.

Strengths:

“David’s as knowledgeable as anyone in the international trust field. He’s very well known in the field, and very experienced. He’s also a good advocate and I like working with him.”

Edward Cumming KC Edward Cumming KC is highly regarded among peers for his excellent advocacy skills. He frequently appears in trust, company and general commercial litigation. He has a substantial offshore practice and appears in Singapore, South Africa and Mauritius, alongside more traditional jurisdictions in the Caribbean and Channel Islands. Cumming is instructed on behalf

of multinational corporates in addition to high net worth private clients.

Strengths:

“Edward Cummings KC is phenomenal. He is one of the most user-friendly King’s Counsel that I have ever worked with. He involves himself in all aspects. Just such a nice person to work with.”

“Ed’s incredibly impressive. He goes above and beyond what I’d expect from my silk.”

“Edward has this unbelievable energy around him; he’s like a Duracell bunny. He’s very bright, gets into the detail, and is very user-friendly.”

Stephen Moverley Smith KC Stephen Moverley Smith KC is well versed in a range of commercial cases, including those concerning restructuring, fraud and insolvency. He also specialises in fraud and corruption cases.

Strengths:

“The doyen of the offshore world.”

“Stephen’s consistently cool under pressure. He’s resolute and strong. I’m impressed by his intellectual consistency and stamina.”

“Stephen’s one of the main names at the offshore Bar. He knows the courts and the judges. He’s an excellent barrister and advocate.”

Francis Tregear KC Francis Tregear KC is well

JUNIORS

Andrew Holden Andrew Holden receives consistent praise for his deep level of experience in trust litigation work. He also handles pension and liquidation disputes. His experience extends to Bermuda, the Channel Islands, the BVI and the Cayman Islands, among others. Holden acts on behalf of high net worth families and individuals as well as commercial entities.

Strengths:

"Andrew's a very clever barrister and he writes good submissions."

Bajul Shah Bajul Shah has an enviable offshore practice and handles cases in Dubai, Cyprus, the Caribbean and the Channel Islands. He offers expertise in a broad range of commercial chancery areas, including insolvency, trusts, probate and civil fraud, and is frequently called upon by liquidators and trustees.

Strengths:

"Bajul is super good. He's a very impressive junior barrister."

"Bajul is reliable and measured. He knows the papers backwards and forward and he's also good with difficult clients."

"A phenomenally good junior."

Elizabeth Weaver Elizabeth Weaver is a deeply experienced junior barrister, well versed in professional negligence and general chancery matters. She is routinely called upon for her expertise in international trusts disputes, high-value commercial litigation and asset recovery, and also frequently acts for ultra high net worth families. She has been called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and has been active in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Strengths:

"Elizabeth Weaver is great; very technical."

"Elizabeth is very strong in the trusts world. She's very experienced."

Nicole Langlois Nicole Langlois is a respected junior with considerable credentials in commercial contractual and trust litigation, whose other areas of expertise include insolvency and fraud. She is called to the Bar in both the UK and Jersey. She regularly handles cases with professional negligence and breach of trust allegations.

Strengths:

"Nicole has been really excellent to deal with. She's very pragmatic and down to earth and available, even though she is highly busy."

"Nicole is our first choice for a barrister. She's truly amazing."

"Nicole's very good with clients. She brings a calm reassurance to the table."

Marcus Staff Marcus Staff is particularly active in the Caribbean jurisdictions, having appeared in the Cayman Islands and the BVI. He is frequently instructed in contentious trust disputes, handling such issues as the removal of trustees and tax-related matters. He has also been involved in matters relating to investment funds and civil fraud.

Strengths:

"Marcus is a dark horse. He's very calm and composed, and impressive with his ability to closely analyse matters and present them persuasively."

"My experience of working with Marcus has been first class. He's a calm and collected individual,

but has an incredibly steely side to him. He leaves no stone unturned – he wants to know it all inside and out."

Daniel Warents Daniel Warents is highly regarded for his expertise in handling chancery and commercial cases. He is instructed on a range of issues including fraud, company wind-ups and trust matters. He is called to the BVI Bar and has extensive experience in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the Isle of Man.

Strengths:

"Daniel's an absolutely brilliant barrister. He's astonishingly good and incredibly quick."

Serle Court

Serle Court is highly renowned for its extensive expertise in offshore trust matters, and has comprehensive knowledge of an ensemble of jurisdictions including the Channel Islands, the BVI and the Cayman Islands. The set offers further expertise in Asian jurisdictions. Its barristers are frequently instructed by firms from across the globe. "The set has real strength in depth and at all levels can provide incredibly intelligent and capable barristers who provide a consistently excellent standard of advice," states a source. Members continue to act in some of the most substantial cases in offshore jurisdictions, including *Wong v Grand View PTC* before Bermuda's Supreme Court and both *Ivanishvili v Credit Suisse* disputes in the Singapore High Court and Bermudian Supreme Court. An instructing solicitor says: "Serle Court is the best in the field," possessing "excellent silks and juniors."

Client service:

"I never have to chase the clerks and they're always very positive. Amber Feltwell, junior practice manager, in particular, is doing a great job."

"Serle Court has a very strong clerking team. They are really great and were always renowned for their service. They are incredibly friendly and if there is an issue you can pick up the phone and chat to them to help get it sorted."

"Dan Wheeler, practice director, is great at getting things done. We can phone him up with an urgent issue, and he moves things around and gets things done. He's excellent at matching barristers to clients as well. A standout clerk for me."

SILKS

Jonathan Adkin KC Jonathan Adkin KC is highly regarded in the area of contentious trust work, with additional experience in civil fraud, insolvency and partnership matters. His expertise is sought after for non-charitable purpose trust and company matters, including shareholder disputes. He is called to the Bar in Gibraltar, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is very clever and has an impressive ability to distil highly complex legal issues into simple concepts."

"Jonathan's brilliant, particularly on his feet."

Dakis Hagen KC Dakis Hagen KC has a strong reputation for handling international trust, fraud and asset-tracing matters. He regularly appears in Bermuda and Jersey, as well as the Caribbean jurisdictions. Hagen is highly experienced in regulatory proceedings and is noted for his skill

in handling trustee applications and jurisdiction challenges.

Strengths:

"Dakis has a massive offshore presence. You always want to see him on your side. He has a very easy manner, and is a very established name in the field."

"Dakis is extraordinarily fantastic. He ticks every box; he is marvellous with clients and he gets the balance right between being a lead barrister and when to show due deference to local advocates."

"Dakis will never let you down."

Elizabeth Jones KC Elizabeth Jones KC excels in complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation and has in-depth expertise in company and commercial law generally. Her areas of expertise include financial services, contentious trust matters and civil fraud cases. She regularly advises on disputes in the Channel Islands and is also called to the Bar of the BVI. She has been engaged in significant proceedings in Bermuda and the Bahamas. Elizabeth is head of chambers at Serle Court.

Strengths:

"Elizabeth has a mastery of both strategy and detail. She's able to both zoom into the details of documents and zoom out to consider the wider strategy implications as well."

"Elizabeth is an incredibly impressive barrister doing high-value work."

"One barrister who I think stands out head and shoulders above the rest is Elizabeth Jones KC. She takes no prisoners. If you find yourself in trouble, she's the one you want in your corner."

Philip Jones KC Philip Jones KC advises on the whole range of offshore matters, including investment fund litigation, trust disputes, fraud and tax avoidance. His clients include high net worth families and company directors. He has been called to the Bar of the BVI, the Cayman Islands and the Isle of Man.

Strengths:

"Philip is one of the best there is for offshore work."

Philip Marshall KC Philip Marshall KC demonstrates strong credentials in asset recovery and civil fraud cases, and has additional strength in restructuring and insolvency disputes. His clients include international banks and high-profile directors. Marshall has appeared or advised in courts in jurisdictions including the Channel Islands, Hong Kong, Bermuda and the BVI.

Strengths:

"A bright mind and a persuasive advocate, who's clearly at the top of his field."

"Philip Marshall KC is a phenomenal advocate. He has courage in his convictions and is a really good cross-examiner. He's very very powerful in submissions."

Richard Wilson KC Richard Wilson KC enjoys a strong reputation in traditional and commercial chancery litigation, and has particular expertise in trusts, probate and partnership disputes. His practice also encompasses private international law. Although particularly noted for his presence in the Channel Islands, he has also appeared for clients in Gibraltar, the Cayman Islands and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"Clients love Richard. He's adept at adapting his

style to suit clients, which I think is a real skill. He has an incredible CV, which is easy to sell to clients. He's a very practical thinker and persuasive in court."

"Richard Wilson KC is outstanding. He's very analytical and has excellent judgement. He displays very good communication skills with co-counsel and clients."

"Richard's a fantastic advocate – a true silk on his feet."

John Machell KC John Machell KC has a wide range of offshore expertise, regularly handling major trusts cases as well as general commercial disputes. He has significant experience acting for appellants. He is frequently sought out by clients in Jersey and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"John presents material attractively. He has a splendid practice mixing partnership and trust law. A relatively young silk, but a star in the making."

"John is very knowledgeable, fearsomely intelligent, but has a client-friendly manner that allows him to present his views in a way that is well received and easy to understand by the client team."

"John has complete command and mastery of the subject matter; he's incredibly reassuring to have on your team. He's a real heavyweight in a difficult case. He's a consummate professional, great with clients, and provides superb advice."

Giles Richardson KC Giles Richardson KC is a key player in contentious international trusts cases, who has acted for both trust companies and personal trustees in places as far-flung as the Channel Islands, the BVI and St Kitts & Nevis. He specialises in real estate-focused trust funds and regularly acts for fund liquidators.

Strengths:

"Giles is easy to work with and a real team player. He has a great strategic mind."

"Giles matches his intellect with good commerciality; he's everything you'd want in a barrister."

"Giles is an absolute pleasure to work with. He's brilliant with clients and a brilliant advocate. He's a well-deserved silk."

Dan McCourt Fritz KC Dan McCourt Fritz KC advises clients on complex, high-value trust matters, civil fraud-related disputes, and commercial litigation. He represents parties in high courts across the gamut of traditional offshore jurisdictions, including the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, and the BVI.

Strengths:

"Dan is definitely someone to watch in the space."
"Dan has a very good reputation in the market."

JUNIORS

Thomas Fletcher Thomas Fletcher is a junior who specialises in trust disputes, including breach of trust, gross negligence and trustee removal. He has been instructed in commercial and trust litigation in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. He also provides advice on non-contentious trust administration issues. He has experience in contentious probate proceedings.

Emma Hargreaves Emma Hargreaves is frequently instructed by top solicitors in complex offshore trust disputes. She has acted in several

high-profile cases, both as sole counsel and led by notable silks across the Channel Islands, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"Emma is wise beyond her years. Her standout feature is her ability to process vast quantities of information in short period of times and produce high-quality work. Her written work is of a very high standard."

"Emma is a silk in junior's clothing."

"Emma is very clever and always a pleasure to work with."

Nicholas Harrison Nicholas Harrison has experience of practising in Bermuda, the Bahamas, the BVI, Jersey and the Isle of Man, among other jurisdictions. He has had notable roles in several high-value, cross-jurisdictional disputes. His work in this area predominantly focuses on alleged fraudulent misappropriation and breach of trust litigation.

Strengths:

"Nicholas is an exceptional tactician on complex international litigation."

"Nicholas is a tremendous lawyer and has amazing stamina."

Ruth Jordan Ruth Jordan offers noteworthy expertise in a range of offshore commercial work, including investment disputes and litigation arising out of environmental proceedings. She is particularly adept at handling litigation in the Bahamas.

Strengths:

"Ruth is an extremely personable and approachable barrister. She's easy to get on with."

Matthew Morrison Matthew Morrison acts in a range of offshore cases, including fraud, trusts and liquidation disputes. He regularly appears before courts in the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas.

Strengths:

"He understands the offshore jurisdiction and is able to cut through complicated problems to provide clear, pragmatic and sensible advice."

"Matthew's user-friendly, super bright and a very cool head in even the most heated of situations."

Stephanie Thompson Stephanie Thompson is recognised for her burgeoning international trust litigation practice. She is called to the Bar in the BVI and New Zealand, and has experience assisting on several high-profile cases heard in the Bermudian Supreme Court, the Bahamas and the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

"Stephanie is extremely responsive and works tirelessly to help the team reach its shared goals. She displays astonishing resilience under extreme pressure."

"Stephanie is amazing. She is hugely hard-working and someone who turns over all the stones to make sure everything gets covered. She's a delight to work with, and has a very bright future ahead of her."

"She is very diligent and completely on top of the law and details. Her offshore knowledge is vast and impressive."

Wilberforce Chambers

Wilberforce Chambers offers significant strength and depth in all the major offshore jurisdictions,

including those in the Channel Islands, the Caribbean and Asia. Market commentators regard it as a "top class" set, "boasting some of the top names of the offshore Bar." Members of the set are instructed to act in matters such as trust litigation, high-value commercial disputes, fraud claims and insolvency matters. Its barristers continue to appear in a number of high-profile cases, such as *Halabi v Equity Trust* (Jersey). The Privy Council handed down a landmark decision regarding the insolvent trust, which will have a significant impact on the wider industry. A particular fan of the set remarked: "I love Wilberforce Chambers. It is by far and away the easiest set to deal with." They continue: "I have no doubt that in the field, it stands out against the other chambers."

Client service:

"The clerks at Wilberforce are fantastic. They're very helpful, quick to come back to us on queries, and overall provide a fantastic service."

"They are the best clerks of any set I have worked with. They are brilliant."

"Nick Luckman, practice director, and his team have been available to us day and night and weekends. They are highly responsive whenever needed."

"The clerks are very accommodating to offshore needs."

SILKS

Brian Green KC Brian Green KC is a market leader in chancery work who is regularly instructed by solicitors due to his ability to handle the most complex and high-profile litigation. He has a wide-ranging practice, but proves particularly adept at cases concerning trusts and pensions. He has handled matters in Bermuda, Hong Kong and Jersey.

Strengths:

"The crème de la crème of barristers in the trusts dispute world."

Robert Ham KC Robert Ham KC is a very highly regarded practitioner who receives effusive praise for his outstanding efforts in private client work, tax law and pensions. He acts in cases in Guernsey, the Caribbean and the Isle of Man, among other jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"Robert is a quiet, yet effective advocate who keeps things simple, but produces bold submissions."

"Robert is hugely experienced."

Jonathan Hilliard KC Jonathan Hilliard KC has an excellent reputation for trusts and commercial litigation work. His practice has led him to act in the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, the Channel Islands and the BVI, among other jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"Jonathan's mind works at an unbelievable pace and his analytical ability is incredible. He's a pleasure to work with, and an enormous support when he's in court."

"Jonathan is the most capable and thorough advocate I've ever dealt with. His agility to assimilate information is extraordinary. He has a fantastic ear for what the court needs in order to persuade it to do what you want."

"A superbly clever man; he's a go-to for large, complicated matters."

Thomas Lowe KC Thomas Lowe KC has a wealth of experience of appearing in the Cayman Islands and the BVI, acting in a wide range of private client disputes and contentious trust matters. He has a particular forte in handling litigation following the collapse of investment structures, and regularly acts in disputes between fund managers. Lowe is frequently called upon by commercial clients including banks and insurance companies. He also provides expertise in matters relating to fraud and insolvency.

Strengths:

"Tom has quite a following in Cayman – he is well respected by the judiciary and practitioners alike."
"Truly exceptional – Thomas is the best."

"Thomas is extremely good on his feet and highly familiar with the Bench in Cayman."

Gilead Cooper KC Gilead Cooper KC has a great standing in offshore litigation and has noted ability in trusts, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and professional negligence disputes. He also handles property disputes and art law. He has appeared in court proceedings in the BVI, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Strengths:

"Gilead is one of the leading lights of the international trust Bar. He's very clever, an excellent advocate, and very hard-working. You definitely want to have him on your team."

"Gilead is very thoughtful, responsive and good fun to work with."

"Gilead is very efficient in the way that he works; he cuts straight through to the detail."

Michael Furness KC Michael Furness KC is an impressive silk who is especially knowledgeable in trusts and tax disputes, as well as contentious and non-contentious pension scheme work. His practice regularly leads him to appear in Bermudian trust cases, and he has experience acting in Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal. He also provides counsel on professional negligence claims.

Strengths:

"Michael's intellectually very strong and he has a very relaxed manner that belies the thinking that goes on underneath. He's a pleasure to work with."

Terence Mowschenson KC Terence Mowschenson KC is a popular and much-admired chancery silk who has undertaken a range of banking, finance, company and insolvency cases worldwide. His practice also encompasses joint ventures and partnerships. He has appeared in a wide range of jurisdictions, including Gibraltar, the Isle of Man, the Cayman Islands and the BVI. He has additional expertise in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

Strengths:

"Terence is very good – he's very experienced, easy to work with and sensible. You know you can trust his judgement."

"Terence is our first choice for complex trusts matters."

Clare Stanley KC Clare Stanley KC is noted for her commercial and company law practice, encompassing the likes of insolvency and fraud matters. She has further expertise in handling trust dispute cases. She is well versed in the intricacies of acting in a number of offshore jurisdictions, including the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"Clare is on top of all the detail and very robust."

"Clare is extremely level-headed – unruffled in the darkest of storms. She is the most responsive and committed silk I've ever instructed, and her ability to work seamlessly with solicitors really stands out."

"Clare has always impressed me. She's extremely hard-working and has a calmness about her. Her advice is extremely clear and there's very little room for doubt. She's a pleasure to work with."

John Wardell KC John Wardell KC has a strong commercial and company law practice and a broad range of expertise, including in fraud and breach of fiduciary duty cases. He is admitted to the Bar in the BVI and has further experience in the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"An outstanding advocate and a real bulldog in the courtroom."

"John is a ruthless commercial barrister. He is really, really good on his feet – deceptively so."

"John has been involved in some of the most high-profile disputes in Cayman and is very much sought after. He brings his considerable insight and experience and always works towards reaching the best solution for his clients."

Andrew Mold KC Andrew Mold KC adroitly handles a diverse range of traditional and commercial chancery matters, demonstrating considerable strength in cases concerning trusts, professional liability and company law. His practice has led him to litigate or advise on matters in the Cayman Islands, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Bermuda and Singapore. He is experienced in intra-family disputes including high-value divorce proceedings.

Strengths:

"Andrew is an excellent advocate and produces high-quality written work. He is extremely responsive and thoroughly engaged with the case from start to finish."

Nikki Singla KC Nikki Singla KC is a highly regarded performer with experience appearing for clients in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Mauritius, Dubai and the Channel Islands. Solicitors turn to him for advice on a wide range of commercial and business cases, and admire him for his specialist trusts expertise. His clients include high net worth families and trustees. He regularly handles shareholder disputes, negligence and joint venture ownership disputes, among others.

Strengths:

"Nikki has one of the sharpest legal analytical minds that I have ever worked with, he can take a very complex problem and distil it into something simple and compelling."

"Nikki Singla KC is a master of facts and excels in his advocacy in commercial litigation."

"Nikki is responsive, intelligent and has good judgement."

JUNIORS

Graeme Halkerston Graeme Halkerston is very well acquainted with the offshore market, having worked for several years as a partner in a leading firm in the Cayman Islands. The bulk of his work is BVI or Cayman Islands-based. He maintains a diverse and dynamic commercial litigation practice and has strengths in banking and financial disputes, restructuring proceedings and cross-

border fraud.

Strengths:

"Graeme is technically brilliant, responsive, and a fearless advocate."

"My go-to barrister for really complex matters. He has this fantastic ability to unpick and understand everything very fast, and has an encyclopedic knowledge of all the latest updates."

"Graeme is the first choice for complex corporate disputes, especially those involving unfair prejudice claims."

Anna Littler Anna Littler has a strong practice in the offshore world. She regularly undertakes trusts litigation, including in Bermuda. She is well equipped to handle a range of issues trusts and trustees may encounter.

Strengths:

"Anna is hard-working, technically brilliant, and provides hands-on support to leading counsel and instructing attorneys."

"Anna's output is incredibly high-quality. She has the technical elements down, but she's also very practical. She's very considered and very considerate, which is key when matters are running high on emotions."

Tom Roscoe Tom Roscoe is recognised as a prominent junior in the offshore trusts and commercial disputes space. He has ample experience appearing unled in courts across the Caribbean, notably in the BVI. He has additional exposure to matters in Gibraltar and the DIFC.

Strengths:

"Tom is really great with clients. He's very personable, approachable, and able to get legal information across in a very client-friendly way. His work is of a very high standard. All in all, an excellent junior."

"Tom is user-friendly, very knowledgeable about DIFC law, commercially minded, and handles himself well at hearings."

"Tom takes a sporting attitude towards litigation and relishes a good fight, whilst at the same time being easy to work with. Clients quickly trust him, and he never fails to deliver a top-quality service."

Band 2

Essex Court Chambers

Essex Court Chambers offers substantial expertise in a variety of offshore commercial disputes including fraud, shareholder actions, contentious liquidations and complex civil fraud matters. Its "phenomenally brainy" barristers act in some of the most high-profile and high-value offshore disputes, including such matters as Barclays Bank v Saad Investment Company and Cowan v Equis Special. Clients praise the chambers' ability to handle "large quantities of commercial information and to drill down to targeted strategic advice." Members have experience in several key offshore jurisdictions, including the Caribbean, the Channel Islands, Singapore and Dubai, and further jurisdictions, such as Belize.

Client service:

"The clerking team is efficient and responsive."

"The clerks are great. They're really helpful and are really good to work with. They're also very good in terms of understanding different fee

regimes in the jurisdictions.”
Joe Ferrigno is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Paul McGrath KC Paul McGrath KC often appears in, or advises on, high-value commercial claims and is also highly adept at international arbitration. His instructions frequently include substantial fraud cases with cross-border regulatory implications. His offshore practice includes work in the Cayman Islands, the BVI and Dubai.

Strengths:

“Paul rolls up his sleeves, goes in the ring and wins. He’s very good for hard-hitting fraud work.”
“Paul is a very well-known high-powered silk. His analytical ingenuity and confidence are very helpful for difficult and legally complex cases.”

“Paul makes you quake in your boots when you see him on the other side.”

Richard Millett KC Richard Millett KC boasts an excellent track record in commercial litigation and arbitration matters, and is good at financial services and banking work. He is admitted to the Bars of the BVI and Anguilla, and is also called ad hoc to the Bars of the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Nevis, the Isle of Man and the Bahamas. Millett has significant experience acting in breach of trust disputes.

Strengths:

“Richard is very smart, very diligent, and writes really well.”

Joe Smouha KC Joe Smouha KC has a wealth of experience in international commercial litigation. His offshore portfolio includes cases in the BVI and the Cayman Islands. Smouha is an expert in fraud, money laundering, and joint venture ownership disputes, to name but a few.

Strengths:

“Joe is an excellent commercial all-rounder, and one of the best I’ve seen at leading big teams. He’s a great team player and leader.”

“Joe is strategically brilliant. He’s at the top of his game.”

Stephen Houseman KC Stephen Houseman KC’s offshore practice sees him acting in commercial law matters arising from shareholder disputes to winding-up proceedings. He is also held in high regard for his ability to handle large-scale asset tracing and fraud cases. He operates across several jurisdictions, including Singapore, Dubai and the Caribbean.

Strengths:

“Stephen’s a brilliant strategist, who never loses his cool. He makes the exceptionally difficult art of advocacy look easy. When it comes to multi-jurisdictional battles, Stephen’s your man.”

James Willan KC James Willan KC has been called to the Bar of the BVI, and is also admitted in the DIFC, the Isle of Man and the Cayman Islands. Willan is particularly adept at unfair prejudice claims. He frequently acts in other commercial disputes such as fraud matters.

Strengths:

“James’ ability to grasp issues quickly is impressive, coupled with his outstanding level of knowledge and strong advocacy.”

“James is one of the best junior silks at the Bar. He’s exceptional; always someone that’s fantastic.”

JUNIORS

Ciaran Keller Ciaran Keller has been called to the Bar of the BVI and is a noted presence in other offshore jurisdictions. He is an expert in cases involving breach of trust, insolvency and freezing order proceedings, and has a strong client roster that includes a number of international financial corporations.

Strengths:

“Ciaran is an excellent advocate and a joy to work with.”

“Ciaran Keller is an outstanding defence barrister. He’s a dogged fighter for his clients, very smart, unbelievably efficient, and super responsive. He’s all in all a super impressive performer.”

Maitland Chambers

Maitland Chambers is well respected for its broad offshore practice, and has significant capability in the Caribbean, the Channel Islands and East Asia. Members have particular expertise in trust matters, contentious liquidations and general commercial litigation. Clients include trustees, financial institutions and other corporate entities. Members of the set have appeared in significant matters this year including the high-profile *Broad Idea v Convoy*, *Ivanishvili v Credit Suisse Life (Bermuda)*, and *Wang v Floreat*. An instructing solicitor praises the set for being “capable and practical,” and “very much attuned to the commercial realities” of their matter.

Client service:

“The clerks are excellent. Robert Penson, deputy senior clerk, in particular, is really responsive and always available and willing to help.”

“Danny Wilkinson is a very good clerk. He’s someone who is genuinely easy to get along.”

“The clerks at Maitland are absolutely brilliant getting us all through complex processes in foreign jurisdictions which require a lot of paperwork. They really make a big difference.”

SILKS

David Mumford KC David Mumford KC is often instructed in matters relating to civil fraud and breach of trust cases, among other complex disputes regarding offshore assets. He has experience working in the BVI, Jersey and Singapore.

Strengths:

“David is calm, cool and collected under pressure. He’s very cerebral and very easy to work with.”

“David is an incredibly thorough advocate and a formidable opponent. He has terrific and underrated skill and he wears his knowledge lightly.”

“David is a fantastic barrister; he really adds value by putting the work in. He’s very very intelligent – it’s clear that all his written opinions and advice are very carefully considered, balanced and explained.”

Matthew Collings KC Matthew Collings KC regularly appears for clients in both initial and appellate proceedings across the BVI, the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong. He is skilled in a diverse array of company, insolvency and company litigation matters. He provides additional strength in civil fraud matters.

Strengths:

“Matthew is very capable, with a practical, no-non-

sense approach. Excellent advocacy, aligned with skilled and subtle negotiation skills.”

Richard Morgan KC Richard Morgan KC is instructed to handle commercial law matters. He has noted experience acting within the BVI. He frequently appears in disputes related to fraud and has an in-depth knowledge of freezing orders.

Strengths:

“Richard provides clear and concise advice and strategy. He’s a very strong advocate and my first choice for complex matters.”

“Richard’s absolutely outstanding.”

“Richard is highly knowledgeable about BVI injunctions. He’s definitely a good person to have on board.”

Christopher Parker KC Christopher Parker KC regularly handles insolvency and company litigation, including shareholder disputes and breach of fiduciary duty claims. His other strengths include trust litigation and asset recovery. He has been called to the BVI Bar, and also has experience of court proceedings in Hong Kong, Bermuda, Dubai, the Cayman Islands and the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

“Christopher is unbelievable. His command of the subject matter, his directness, and ability to assimilate information and provide proactive advice is first rate.”

South Square

South Square offers great capability across a range of areas, with particular strength in offshore insolvency matters as well as trusts, fraud and general commercial disputes. Members are frequently instructed across the range of both traditional and emerging offshore jurisdictions. A commentator comments that “South Square is seen as a leader for offshore matters, and is called upon for many of the complex cases which arise.” Barristers at the set are acting in some of the highest-profile matters this year including the *Abraaj Group* liquidation matter, the *Luckin Coffee* restructuring, and the proposed restructuring of *Evergrande*. One instructing solicitor comments: “The set has a great depth and breadth of expertise, particularly in respect of cross-border restructuring and insolvency matters.”

Client service:

“Dylan Playfoot, senior clerk, is constantly juggling requests, but is always available and willing to help. He’s very attentive and the clerking team is top-notch.”

“The best clerking team in the business.”

“South Square is not at the top of the tree by accident. This game is a team sport and the clerks definitely do a lot of heavy lifting. Will Mackinlay, the chambers director, is friendly, professional, very polished, and sensible. Dylan Playfoot is a great man, and very highly regarded in the jurisdictions.”

SILKS

David Allison KC David Allison KC is a seasoned litigator with considerable strength in company and insolvency law, who often handles high-value claims with multi-jurisdictional implications. His thriving offshore practice has seen him handle cases in Dubai, Guernsey, the Cayman Islands, the BVI and Hong Kong. He frequently appears in liq-

liquidation and restructuring cases, and is instructed on behalf of international corporations as well as private individuals.

Strengths:

“David’s great strength is being able to break down complex, challenging areas of the law into digestible advice and strategy that can be implemented in cases, allowing us to develop a strategy around those issues.”

“David is truly one of the best leading counsel we have instructed. He is fantastic on his feet, easy to deal with in person and very commercial. Judges trust him and he never puts a foot wrong in court.”

“David is absolutely brilliant. His key strength is his rapport with judges. They just love him and hang on his every word.”

Tom Smith KC Tom Smith KC is a commercial litigation expert with experience of investment funds disputes and liquidation matters involving a number of offshore jurisdictions. He regularly appears in the Middle East, BVI and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

“Tom is one of the best in the business and a pleasure to work with.”

“Tom’s knowledge of the matter at hand is not limited to the hearing at hand, but across the whole case, allowing him to provide commercial ideas and suggestions which someone with a lesser knowledge may not be able to do.”

“Tom is my go-to silk at the London Bar. He is simply exceptional.”

David Alexander KC David Alexander KC is an impressive silk with a broad offshore practice who handles company, restructuring, trusts and general commercial work. He has been involved in major insolvency and shareholder litigation. His practice takes him to the Caribbean, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. He regularly acts on behalf of liquidators and other financial institutions.

Strengths:

“David’s a client favourite and a team player.”

“David has a phenomenal presence in court. He boils things down to very simple points and positions, and he makes very forceful arguments in a way that you can’t help but agree with.”

“David has a very, very good bedside manner. He’s very approachable for clients and legal team alike.”

Richard Fisher KC Richard Fisher KC boasts an impressive commercial disputes and insolvency practice in the offshore arena. He advises clients on complex issues, including novel digital asset-related disputes and proceeds of crime recovery proceedings. He has experience leading in significantly high-profile global disputes. He is called to the Bar in the BVI and frequently appears before courts in the Cayman Islands. His expertise extends to the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

“Richard is a top-drawer barrister – he’s fantastic.”

“Richard is our go-to for complex insolvency matters, he is just brilliant and incredibly knowledgeable and charming in court.”

“Richard has been my go-to silk for complex matters. He is super intelligent, but also down to earth and great to work with as part of a team. He is an excellent advocate and great on tactics.”

Barry Isaacs KC Barry Isaacs KC has been

instructed in cases in a range of offshore jurisdictions, including the Cayman Islands. He is experienced in banking litigation, as well as insolvency cases and corporate disputes.

Strengths:

“Barry is fantastic when it comes to things involving complex valuations and financial things, I don’t think you can find anyone better. He never gets flustered; an absolute dream to work with.”

Felicity Toubé KC Felicity Toubé KC is frequently instructed by highly regarded offshore firms to advise and represent them in complex insolvency matters. She is particularly active in the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

“Felicity is one of the smartest people I have come across, and she has this ability to focus that intelligence in bringing the best results for her clients.”

“She has a fantastic knack for selecting the best points.”

“Felicity is responsive and good to work with. She inspires confidence and has gravitas, which is appreciated by clients.”

“Clients love Felicity. She’s at the top of her game in the field of insolvency, particularly where it intersects with arbitration. She is at the forefront of developing this area of law.”

JUNIORS

Adam Al-Attar Adam Al-Attar is very well regarded for his handling of insolvency and contested restructuring matters. He is frequently instructed by clients in the Middle East, the Cayman Islands and Asia.

Strengths:

“Adam has an authoritative, calm and unruffled manner. He can jump into the most complex and knotty insolvency cases.”

“Adam is brilliant. You expect to see him on all of the large global restructuring/ insolvencies. He’s great on his feet.”

“Adam is conscious of client care, really very easy to deal with, and a very smart guy with a lot of confidence in the restructuring space.”

Marcus Haywood Marcus Haywood offers extensive skill in cross-border commercial litigation and is particularly adept at insolvency and restructuring. He has been called to the Bar of the Cayman Islands and also regularly handles disputes in Gibraltar and the BVI.

Strengths:

“Marcus is an extremely bright lawyer, with a sense of calm. He is very commercial and understanding of client needs. He is an absolute pleasure to work with.”

“I have been tremendously impressed with Marcus. He’s brilliant at providing great support on difficult matters.”

4 Stone Buildings

4 Stone Buildings is a highly regarded set able to offer particular expertise in the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the Channel Islands, while sustaining praiseworthy capability in the DIFC and the Far East. Members of chambers are frequently instructed to act in a variety of matters including trusts, liquidations and shareholder action fund disputes. This year the set has represented Kathryn Ma Wai Fong, as executrix

of the estate of Datuk Wong Kie Nai, in significantly high-profile multi-jurisdictional proceedings brought by family members. The barristers “have a good grasp and ability to keep it simple, yet effective,” states an interviewee. A second commentator notes that the set “has specialised expertise where complex financial issues are at play.”

Client service:

“Senior clerk David Goddard is exceptional. Ben Lashmar, first junior clerk, and Ryan Tunkel, second junior clerk, are also very good.”

“Ben Lashmar and Ryan Tunkel are patient and accommodating with ever-changing schedules.”

“The clerking at 4 Stone Buildings has been excellent across the board. They’re very easy to work with and very responsive.”

SILKS

Jonathan Crow KC Jonathan Crow KC is a formidable offshore advocate with an outstanding track record in heavyweight commercial, company and public law cases. The broad geographic spread of his work takes him to Hong Kong, the Channel Islands and several Caribbean jurisdictions. He is sought after for his knowledge of trusts disputes, as well as investment fund and property cases, and he also frequently appears before the Privy Council.

Strengths:

“Jonathan is a top-class act. He’s easy to work with and will roll up his sleeves.”

“Jonathan is a superb barrister; market-leading for sure. Everyone wants to be him.”

“Jonathan’s the real deal. A true star in the offshore world.”

“Jonathan’s such a nice man. He’s so smooth on his feet and incredibly persuasive. He’s a really really good advocate.”

John Brisby KC John Brisby KC has a busy commercial practice that sees him tackle work in Gibraltar, the Isle of Man, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, among other jurisdictions. He has attained a fine reputation for his excellent courtroom advocacy and has acted in cases relating to the collapses of Enron, Barings, Maxwell and Barlow Clowes. His primary expertise is in fraud, insolvency and company law, including shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

“John brings so much experience and respect to any case. You get something useful or important from every conversation you have with him.”

“John is a real bruiser, he performs best in a tough fight and definitely has the ear of the court, he is not shy about anything.”

“John is a super effective advocate and cross-examiner.”

Sharif Shivji KC Sharif Shivji KC delivers standout performances in financial services litigation and has a highly international practice that sees him work in places such as Dubai, the BVI and Trinidad & Tobago. He is well known for his private client work including high-value divorce agreements, where he advises on trust-related issues, among others.

Strengths:

“Sharif is an excellent advocate and is highly detail-oriented. He has the precision of a surgeon,

with phenomenal mastery over his time when pleading.”
“Sharif is an astute advocate.”

3 Verulam Buildings

3 Verulam Buildings offers noteworthy expertise across a range of offshore work including trusts, insolvency, civil fraud, restructuring and commercial cases. Its barristers are experienced in appearing in high-value disputes, and members are frequently called before the courts in the Caribbean, the Channel Islands, Dubai and Hong Kong. The set has appeared in high-profile cases this year, including in *Abraaj Investment Management v KPMG Lower Gulf* and *NMC Healthcare v Dubai Islamic Bank and Noor Bank*. One source comments: “3VB is a very strong chambers with good bench strength.” Another peer views the set as being “the best across the board.”

Client service:

“Stuart Pullum, senior practice manager, is impressive and always on top of what is going on.”
“Lucy Burrows, deputy senior practice manager, has also been a real pleasure to work with. She’s very professional, sensible, and responsible; everything you want in a practice manager.”
“3 Verulam Buildings provides excellent friendly service. Stephen Penson, senior practice manager, stands out this year.”

SILKS

Ewan McQuater KC Ewan McQuater KC has a strong commercial chancery practice and is noted for his strength in banking disputes. McQuater frequently acts for BVI liquidators and has substantial experience of handling high-profile cases.

Strengths:

“Ewan McQuater is a go-to silk for heavyweight cases. He is hugely experienced in complex trial cases; very strategic and strong in court, including cross-examination.”

“Ewan is a sophisticated, understated advocate. He’s totally reliable and never makes a mistake. Everyone has confidence in what he does.”

“Ewan is a real heavyweight – someone you want with you in the toughest of fights. His gravitas and tenacity really helps. It’s easy to see why he is a leader in the offshore field.”

Matthew Hardwick KC Matthew Hardwick KC is a seasoned commercial litigator with extensive experience in the BVI. He is called upon for his expertise in commercial fraud and insolvency litigation. Hardwick regularly receives instructions from liquidators and creditors in insolvency procedural disputes.

Strengths:

“Matthew is one of the best leading barristers in the market. He’s incredibly diligent, really well prepared, and wonderful with clients.”

“Matthew is incredibly impressive. He absorbs large amounts of information in a phenomenal way. He’s like a machine.”

“Matthew is at the top of my list for silks. He’s exceptionally bright and well liked by the BVI judges. He finds the right points and is very approachable in court.”

David Quest KC David Quest KC devotes a large part of his work to international arbitration matters and offshore litigation, and has particular

expertise in Cayman Islands proceedings. His broad commercial practice encompasses fraud, finance, insurance and professional negligence disputes, and he also handles government investigations. He has particular expertise in the banking sector.

Strengths:

“David Quest is incredibly nice, charming, experienced, and fearsomely intelligent.”

“David is down to earth, knowledgeable, works well in a team, and is excellent on his feet.”

“There is nothing about offshore banking that David doesn’t know. And if there is, it’s not worth knowing.”

Tom Montagu-Smith KC Tom Montagu-Smith KC is well regarded for his prowess in Dubai and the DIFC. He routinely receives instructions from banks and governments in multi-jurisdictional fraud, recovery and insolvency proceedings.

Strengths:

“Tom is the number-one go-to advocate in the DIFC.”

“He is a standout advocate, and the go-to person for complex commercial or jurisdictional disputes.”

Band 3

Brick Court Chambers

Brick Court Chambers offers a broad range of international commercial expertise, with notable prowess in the fields of shareholder disputes and appraisal rights matters. It’s “intellectually powerful” members practice across the gamut of traditional offshore jurisdictions, most notably in the BVI and the Cayman Islands. Certain members offer additional expertise in offshore locales further afield, such as Mauritius and Hong Kong. The bench is frequently called to act in many high-profile commercial disputes. In the past year, the barristers have appeared in the *Jardine Strategic Holdings Bermudian appraisal dispute* and *Tethyan v Islamic Republic of Pakistan*. A source states that the chambers is “first-class, with a high-powered bench of KCs.”

Client service:

“The clerks are responsiveness and helpful.”

“The set has a superb clerking team.”

“The service level one would expect from a high-quality set.”

Paul Dennison and Tony Burgess are joint senior clerks.

SILKS

Vernon Flynn KC Vernon Flynn KC of Brick Court Chambers is a strong commercial silk who is well versed in big-ticket offshore matters across the Caribbean, Dubai and the Seychelles. He is called upon for his expertise in breach of trust allegations, and is noted for his skill in handling freezing orders and enforcement actions.

Strengths:

“Vernon is a fighter, who will argue the client’s corner tenaciously and with huge energy.”

“Vernon is a senior name for the biggest and most difficult cases; he is an excellent choice because he commands a courtroom.”

“Vernon tends to have the ear of the court. He’s

always extremely well prepared.”

Mark Howard KC Mark Howard KC of Brick Court Chambers is a respected commercial silk with a wealth of knowledge in banking, fraud, insurance and energy litigation. He has acted in several prominent cases in the courts of the BVI, and has also appeared in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

Strengths:

“Mark deservedly continues to be recognised as a star of the Bar.”

“Mark is a super silk in offshore company disputes. He ensures that all his opponent’s arguments are rebutted without losing the Bench.”

Simon Salzedo KC Simon Salzedo KC is an impressive silk at the commercial Bar, boasting a diverse practice. He has notable expertise advising commercial clients on Cayman Island litigation, though his practice extends to the Channel Islands, Bermuda, Trinidad & Tobago, and Hong Kong. He has made a name for himself as one of the leading barristers advising on S238 company appraisal litigation.

Strengths:

“Simon’s a genius – he’s incredible on the law. His grasp of technical accounting terms is second to none. He’s also a fantastic advocate – he doesn’t grandstand.”

“Simon is fantastic. He’s very good on financial valuation matters and is very client-friendly.”

“Simon’s one of the absolute standouts at the Bar – he’s brilliant in all aspects. He’s a deep thinker and clear in his advocacy.”

Erskine Chambers

Members of Erskine Chambers frequently appear before courts in the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the DIFC, Hong Kong and the Channel Islands. Its practitioners regularly act in shareholder disputes, civil fraud, banking matters and insolvencies. Members continue to represent clients, including administrators, companies and directors, in prominent cases such as *Credorax v Israeli VC Partners*, the *Jardine Strategic Holdings appraisal dispute*, and the *Sinovac Biotech company control dispute*. One interviewee says that Erskine Chambers is their “go-to for complex commercial matters.” In particular, they praise the set’s “responsiveness” and ability to provide “clever and practical advice.” Another source states members provide “excellent, meticulous legal and strategic reasoning” in addition to “clear and concise written work.”

Client service:

“Excellent service, including picking up the phone out of hours. Michael Shillingford, deputy senior clerk, stands out for me.”

“The clerks are extremely accommodating and deal with a range of last-minute availability requests and quite complicated logistics given various time zones involved in matters. Their approach is consistently friendly, cooperative and helpful.”

“Alex Calder, senior practice manager, is excellent. Alex is responsive to our needs and proactive in planning for hearings, which is very helpful.”

“The Erskine Chambers clerks are extremely responsive. They are friendly and always willing to assist.”

"The quality of clerking at Erskine is impressive. Michael Shillingford, in particular."

SILKS

David Chivers KC David Chivers KC boasts a strong following in the Caribbean, having been called to the Bar of the BVI and ad hoc to the Bars of the Cayman Islands and Bermuda. His practice comprises a great deal of corporate and company litigation, and he regularly acts in restructuring and insolvency cases. He also demonstrates expertise in trusts disputes.

Strengths:

"David is stellar. I've been blown away by him."

"David is a smooth and utterly persuasive advocate."

"David is just phenomenally thoughtful. He has great judgement. If you offer him a complicated question, he'll pause for a couple of seconds, then provide a really concise simple answer that makes you go 'Ha! Why didn't I think of that?'"

Michael Todd KC Michael Todd KC has vast expertise in company law disputes. He handles matters in the BVI, Bermuda and Hong Kong, and has notable skill in dealing with cases concerning contentious takeovers and corporate restructuring. He has recently been instructed in significant shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

"Michael is phenomenal and a team player. He has a brilliant legal mind and is reliable, skilled and extremely intelligent. He is first-class and is our go-to KC on large liquidations."

"He has masses of common sense, based on a huge amount of experience."

"Michael is a great company lawyer. He knows the offshore market very well indeed."

JUNIORS

Andrew Blake Andrew Blake is recognised for his thriving offshore commercial, corporate, and restructuring/insolvency practice. He has an impressive résumé, appearing in several high-profile global cases. He is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and has experience appearing as sole counsel before the BVI court.

Strengths:

"Andrew is absolutely great to work with. He is highly skilled in discussing high-level and complex matters while also being willing to assist with the legwork."

"Andrew is excellent to work with, drafts brilliantly, is always responsive to queries, always meets deadlines well in advance, and has an incredibly sharp and nuanced view of legal issues."

New Square Chambers

New Square Chambers is sought after for its work in a variety of offshore matters such as contentious insolvencies, fraud, general commercial disputes, trusts litigation and asset tracing claims. Members are regularly seen in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Caribbean and have appeared in significant matters recently including the Montpelier Services high-profile liquidation case.

Client service:

"We can always count on Michelle Greene, senior

clerk, and her team to respond quickly and go the extra mile; they fully understand the commercial needs of our clients."

"The clerks are always reliable, quick to respond and friendly in their approach."

"The clerks provide a good service and are always available."

SILKS

Nicholas Le Poidevin KC Nicholas Le Poidevin KC is considered one of the standout names at the offshore Bar. He has outstanding capabilities in contentious trust, estate and probate work. Cases with a financial services element are a particular strength. He has been active in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and throughout the Caribbean, and has experience handling trust disputes in Bermuda.

Strengths:

"Nicholas is a fabulous resource in relation to trust matters. He literally wrote the book."

"If you want a barrister for sound and imaginative legal arguments, Nicholas is excellent."

"Nicholas is very wise and experienced, has terrific drafting skills and has a nice persuasive advocacy style."

Robin Hollington KC Robin Hollington KC's offshore practice encompasses work in jurisdictions across the western Atlantic, and he has made appearances in the BVI, the Cayman Islands and New York, while also acting in Hong Kong and Singapore. He has a wealth of knowledge of company and insolvency litigation, and is often sought out for his expertise in shareholder disputes. He often appears in arbitration proceedings.

JUNIORS

Lynton Tucker Lynton Tucker is a respected and seasoned litigator with a wealth of experience in trust law, who has an offshore practice encompassing work across the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands, the BVI and Hong Kong. He is also instructed in company law disputes and has a wealth of regulatory experience.

Strengths:

"Lynton is one of the best offshore barristers and trust specialists, who is able to dissect the most complex and challenging of legal cases. His advocacy is succinct, nuanced and persuasive."

"Lynton Tucker's unrivalled reputation in offshore trusts is fully deserved; he is able to deal with the most complex of legal questions in an efficient and client-friendly manner."

"He's a cerebral trusts lawyer."

Mark Hubbard Mark Hubbard has a wide-ranging offshore practice and displays considerable skill handling trusts, company, civil fraud and insolvency litigation. He frequently acts for private individuals in estate disputes. The Bahamas, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are jurisdictions he has particular experience of practising in.

Strengths:

"Mark is a really good and really smart traditional trusts lawyer."

"Mark is smooth on his feet."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Stephen Atherton KC (Twenty Essex) Stephen Atherton KC of Twenty Essex is a towering figure in insolvency, civil fraud and company litigation, with a wide-ranging offshore practice that takes in work in Singapore, the Caribbean and the Channel Islands. He is also frequently called upon to advise on insolvency matters in Hong Kong. His clients include offshore funds and minority investors. He is regularly called upon to handle the most contentious proceedings.

Strengths:

"For Cayman work, Stephen is definitely one of the top silks that solicitors instruct. He understands how things work on the island – he makes an effort to understand the differences between local and English law."

"Stephen is a real details man. He gets stuck in in a way that not all silks do."

"Stephen is a consummate advocate."

Andrew Ayres KC (Twenty Essex) Andrew Ayres KC of Twenty Essex assists clients with a broad range of commercial matters, including multi-jurisdiction insolvency litigation and partnership disputes. He's praised by clients for his approachable, yet powerful, style of advocacy. He appears regularly in the BVI and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"Andrew absolutely elicits confidence in the team. There's never a moment where you feel that something has got away from him. He's a very persuasive advocate. Very calm and softly spoken, but incredibly engaging."

"Technically excellent and highly persuasive, Andrew is a true master on his feet. He's very astute and in tune with the commercial realities of a case."

"Andrew's a silky smooth advocate. He's really good for pushing forceful points in an elegant manner."

Richard Boulton KC (One Essex Court) Richard Boulton KC of One Essex Court is a highly sought-after silk for his expertise in commercial litigation in the Cayman Islands. He commands a strong practice handling shareholders' dispute cases, particularly in regard to Section 238 merger matters.

Strengths:

"Richard is user-friendly, hands-on, receptive to ideas, and a great team player, while still retaining the ability to assume control and make big calls when required. His cross-examination of testifying experts is truly forensic."

"He is a pleasure to work with and a team player." "Richard Boulton is highly intelligence, vastly knowledgeable in the area, and a formidable advocate."

Paul Chaisty KC (Kings Chambers) Paul Chaisty KC of Kings Chambers is praised by clients for his advocacy skills and multi-jurisdiction capabilities, earning him a reputation for excellence in the offshore community. His practice encompasses a broad array of commercial chancery disputes. He is called to the Bar in the BVI and the Bahamas, with notable experience appearing before courts in the Cayman Islands and Singapore.

Strengths:

"Paul is a good trial advocate; a real bulldog. You

want him when cross-examining witnesses.”

“Paul’s an incredibly experienced multi-jurisdictional litigator. He’s available, bright, and pragmatic. He provides tremendous direction and is also a very good team player.”

“Paul has a no-nonsense approach that clients love: he is a very clear communicator and gets the job done with a minimum of fuss. He is also a very accomplished advocate: his cross-examination skills are excellent and he shines in hard-fought interlocutory skirmishes such as freezing injunctions and receiverships.”

Graham Chapman KC (4 New Square Chambers) Graham Chapman KC of 4 New Square Chambers has a broad commercial practice which encompasses audit negligence, investment funds and trust work. He is active in the Isle of Man, the BVI and Guernsey, and has been called to the Bar of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. He also appears in Far East jurisdictions including Hong Kong.

Strengths:

“Graham is very user-friendly and a very good advocate. He’s a great barrister of this generation.”

“Graham’s such a nice person. He’s just so easy to work with and you feel so safe. He’s accessible and his submissions are brilliant.”

“Graham is calm, thoughtful, composed, methodical and insightful.”

Piers Feltham (Radcliffe Chambers) Piers Feltham of Radcliffe Chambers offers clients market-leading trusts and estates expertise in an offshore context. He has a notable specialism in the area of estoppels. His practice spans the traditional offshore jurisdictions, namely the Caribbean and the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

“Piers is always reliable and a joy to work with.”

Justin Fenwick KC (4 New Square Chambers) Justin Fenwick KC of 4 New Square Chambers is an excellent advocate for cases concerning professional negligence, who has additional capabilities in civil fraud and commercial litigation generally. His practice is heavily weighted towards offshore litigation, and he has experience in both Caribbean and Far Eastern jurisdictions. He frequently represents professional service providers and handles instructions flowing from Europe and China.

Strengths:

“Justin is a very authoritative advocate. He’s able to get on top of very complex factual issues quickly. For litigation across multiple jurisdictions, he’s adept at handling and putting together a global strategy.”

Marcus Flavin (Radcliffe Chambers) Marcus Flavin of Radcliffe Chambers represents multi-jurisdictional contentious trust proceedings for private clients. His traditional chancery practice in trusts and estates sees him handling matters in areas including Jersey, Bermuda, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Strengths:

“Marcus is our first port of call for anything trust or tax-related.”

“Marcus is super bright and very fair to be against.”

Nico Leslie (Fountain Court Chambers) Nico

Leslie of Fountain Court Chambers has acted for clients in several high-profile pieces of multi-jurisdictional litigation. Nico’s practice covers a broad range of areas, including professional negligence, insolvency litigation, and commercial disputes including fraud cases. His practice covers the Caribbean, Hong Kong, the Middle East, and Gibraltar.

Strengths:

“Nico Leslie is an exceptional junior barrister who understands the complexity and nuance of commercial litigation.”

“Nico is brilliant. He’s in high demand, but juggles cases well.”

“Nico is a standout name.”

Robert Levy KC (Three Stone) Robert Levy KC of No5 Barristers’ Chambers is a leading silk for complex, high-value insolvency claims, particularly within the Caribbean jurisdictions. He has been called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean in the BVI, and the Bars of Anguilla and St Vincent, and he is also admitted ad hoc in the Cayman Islands. Levy is frequently involved in shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

“Robert is a real presence in court, and highly respected by the judges. He has the breadth of experience and knowledge that you want in a senior silk. You can throw everything at him and he’ll deal with it. He’s an excellent heavyweight silk.”

“Robert is absolutely dogged and extremely detailed in his preparation.”

Josh Lewison (Radcliffe Chambers) Josh Lewison of Radcliffe Chambers is highly regarded for his skills in trusts and insolvency matters. He is also well equipped to handle cases in the Channel Islands and BVI.

Strengths:

“Josh has a calm, considered style and is adept in understanding the emotions in a case. The way he drafts is very sensitive to client needs.”

“Josh Lewison is a real star – he has the ability to digest complex information and provide easy to understand advice on relatively discrete issues in a case. Above all, he is an absolute pleasure to deal with.”

“Josh is extremely reliable and always a pleasure to work with.”

David Lord KC (Three Stone) David Lord KC of Three Stone is an eminent silk with an excellent profile in corporate insolvency cases, who has handled landmark litigation surrounding the collapse of the Fairfield and Weaving funds. He also specialises in offshore hedge fund work. Lord is called to the Bar of the BVI and continues to tackle cases in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Brunei and the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

“David is very smart and a creative advocate.”

Jern-Fei Ng KC (7BR) Jern-Fei Ng KC of 7BR is highly regarded for his broad proficiency in international commercial law and arbitration matters. His practice spans several key offshore jurisdictions, including the Cayman Islands and the BVI, as well as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Strengths:

“Jern-Fei Ng is absolutely first rate. He’s an extraordinary advocate.”

“Jern-Fei is excellent on his feet, incredibly thor-

ough and responsive. He is a team player who’s great to work with; he’s not afraid to get in there with the strategy.”

“Jern-Fei Ng is always brilliant. He’s the sort of chap who can pull out eight different arguments. He has more ideas before breakfast before most lawyers have throughout the course of the day; a brainbox of new points, new ideas.”

Matthew Paton (5 Stone Buildings) Matthew Paton of 5 Stone Buildings is an impressively knowledgeable junior who offers clients near-unparalleled local expertise on private client matters, including trust and probate disputes. He is called to the Bahamas Bar and has experience appearing before courts across the broader Caribbean region.

Strengths:

“Matthew is undoubtedly one of the strongest advocates at the Bahamas Bar. His written submissions are exemplary, his advocacy clear and precise, and he is always well prepared to address difficult questions from the Bench.”

“Matthew’s a growing presence offshore with roots in the Caribbean region.”

“Matthew excels in the offshore arena and having him leading a brief is very reassuring. He is tenacious, extremely hard-working, and able to tackle complex issues whilst providing advice in a user-friendly format.”

Penelope Reed KC (5 Stone Buildings) Penelope Reed KC of 5 Stone Buildings focuses her practice on the representation of private clients in such matters as trusts, estate and inheritance disputes. She has experience acting in such jurisdictions as the Channel Islands and the Far East.

Strengths:

“Penelope is very seasoned and a nice person to have on the other side. She is not bombastic, but logical and thorough so it’s easy to work with her.”

“Penelope is regarded as a pre-eminent name in offshore litigation. She’s brilliant.”

“Penelope is an expert in the world of trust litigation. I find her very calm, helpful and knowledgeable. She’s an ideal person to have on your team for a difficult trust problem.”

Daniel Saoul KC (4 New Square Chambers) Daniel Saoul KC of 4 New Square Chambers is lauded for his impressive commercial practice, covering a broad remit of issues, from multi-jurisdictional commercial fraud proceedings to insolvency disputes. He has notable experience appearing before the BVI courts, including the Supreme Court, having been called to the local Bar in 2009.

Strengths:

“Daniel’s a very good, robust advocate.”

“Daniel’s a very good silk – very smooth. He understands offshore work.”

“Daniel’s fantastic; he’s always switched on. He really cares about his work and is really approachable.”

Simon Taube KC (Ten Old Square) Simon Taube KC of Ten Old Square is a go-to silk for major trusts, estates and tax issues, who handles contentious and non-contentious work. His practice also incorporates charity, professional negligence and property matters. He acts in a number of offshore jurisdictions, including Guernsey and the Cayman Islands, and is particularly noted for his trusts-related fraud work.

Strengths:

"Simon is the leading light of the trust litigation world. He's a real star in the field."

"Simon is very user-friendly. He's comfortable with giving you a view initially and working as a team."

Ben Valentin KC (Fountain Court Chambers) Ben Valentin KC of Fountain Court Chambers is frequently instructed in a wide range of challenging commercial disputes. He regularly handles cases heard in the Cayman Islands, the BVI and the Channel Islands.

Strengths:

"Ben Valentin is my go-to barrister for litigation and liquidation matters."

"Ben is the best silk I have worked with – he's absolutely first-rate. He takes a highly collaborative approach and is courteous with clients, judges and junior team members."

"Ben Valentin gives clear and concise written

advice and is obviously very experienced in cross-border insolvency matters."

Shân Warnock-Smith KC (5 Stone Buildings) Shân Warnock-Smith KC of 5 Stone Buildings is a dominant presence in high-profile offshore litigation who has outstanding credentials in private client and wealth structuring work. She also practises at ICT Chambers in the Cayman Islands, and offers a wealth of experience of acting in Cayman cases and those in wider Caribbean jurisdictions including the BVI. She is especially active in trust disputes.

Strengths:

"Shân is a legal titan; she's at the top of her game. She's extremely knowledgeable and acts like a judge."

"Shân is one of the top barristers in the international trusts Bar. She's a massively successful and bright collaborative lawyer."

"Shân's grasp over a wealth of information is

incredible. She picks up complex pieces of law and presents them in a really impressive way, the speed of which is nothing short of breathtaking."

Robert Weekes KC (Blackstone Chambers) Robert Weekes KC of Blackstone Chambers has built a considerable offshore practice in the BVI and has appeared before the Privy Council and the ECSC Court of Appeal. He focuses his practice on commercial work, with strength in cases relating to joint ventures, fraud and insolvency.

Strengths:

"Robert is a robust advocate and very intellectually able."

"Robert is an exceptional advocate and great with clients – a go-to silk for complex matters and demanding clients."

"He is an absolutely fantastic junior silk for heavy fraud matters."

Private Wealth Tax

Private Wealth: Tax
Leading Sets
Band 1
Pump Court Tax Chambers
Band 2
Devereux
Old Square Tax Chambers
Band 3
Field Court Tax Chambers
5 Stone Buildings
Wilberforce Chambers
direct access (see p.24).
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1**Pump Court Tax Chambers**

Pump Court Tax Chambers remains the pre-eminent set for private client tax work, described by instructing solicitors as the "go-to people." Its members are able to advise on both UK and offshore matters, as well as accepting instructions for contentious work. Recent work includes representing an individual in a dispute against HMRC concerning capital gains tax on a share exchange arrangement, successfully arguing that CGT should not apply.

Client service:

"The clerks are professional, sensible and helpful."

"The clerking team provide a very courteous and efficient service."

"They provide very efficient support in managing both the exchange of documentation and the organisation of meetings."

Mark Rushton is the set's director of clerking and John Poyser and Bruno Antoniotti are its team

Private Wealth: Tax
Leading Silks
Star individuals
Massey William Pump Court Tax Chambers
Prosser Kevin Pump Court Tax Chambers
Band 1
Baker Philip Field Court Tax Chambers
Cullen Felicity Devereux
Davey Jonathan Wilberforce Chambers
Ghosh Julian One Essex Court (ORL) ◇
Hardy Amanda 5 Stone Buildings
Kessler James Old Square Tax Chambers
Vallat Richard Pump Court Tax Chambers A
Band 2
Ewart David Pump Court Tax Chambers
Green Brian Wilberforce Chambers
Mullan Rory Old Square Tax Chambers A
Nathan Aparna Devereux
Nawbatt Akash Devereux
Rivett James Pump Court Tax Chambers
Venables Robert Old Square Tax Chambers
Way Patrick Field Court Tax Chambers
Yates David Pump Court Tax Chambers
Band 3
Bremner Jonathan One Essex Court (ORL) ◇
McCarthy Hui Ling 11 New Square (ORL) ◇
Shaw Nicola Gray's Inn Tax Chambers (ORL) ◇
Sykes Laurent Gray's Inn Tax Chambers (ORL) ◇
Wilson Elizabeth Pump Court Tax Chambers

leaders.

SILKS

William Massey KC William Massey KC is a noted expert on inheritance tax, particularly Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief matters.

Private Wealth: Tax
Leading Juniors
Star individuals
Chamberlain Emma Pump Court Tax Chambers A
Band 1
Afzal Imran Field Court Tax Chambers
Lemos Marika Devereux
Band 2
Akin Barrie Devereux
Brown Harriet Old Square Tax Chambers
Poots Laura Pump Court Tax Chambers A
Band 3
Birkbeck Ross Old Square Tax Chambers
Bradley Charles Pump Court Tax Chambers
Chandler Sam 5 Stone Buildings
Conolly Oliver Pump Court Tax Chambers A
Elliott Ben Pump Court Tax Chambers
Hughes Ruth 5 Stone Buildings
Marre Oliver 5 Stone Buildings
Murray Rebecca Devereux
Schwarz Jonathan S Temple Tax Chambers (ORL) ◇
Soares Patrick Field Court Tax Chambers
Stone Christopher Devereux
Vaines Peter Field Court Tax Chambers
Waldegrave Edward 1 Crown Office Row (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Ashley Mary Old Square Tax Chambers

Strengths:

"He is thorough, clear and looks at all angles. Judges, opponents and juniors like him."

"He is the best silk for inheritance tax issues."

"William has a wealth of experience and technical knowledge."

Kevin Prosser KC Kevin Prosser KC often acts on the most highly complex and high-value matters across the full scope of private client tax work. He

appears in income tax and employee benefit trust cases in the appellate courts, and also has experience in double taxation matters.

Strengths:

"In terms of litigation, Kevin is the best at the Tax Bar. He is frighteningly intelligent and good at picking up the key points of a case."

"Kevin Prosser is incredibly pleasant, responsive and a lovely chap to work with. He is an absolute star who does all three areas of tax to a high standard."

"He has lightning-fast reactions and quick-wittedness, and a strong understanding of commercial as well as legal issues."

Richard Vallat KC Richard Vallat KC practises in all areas of private client tax work, with a particular emphasis on offshore trusts, tax planning and cross-border and domicile issues. He is regularly sought after by high net worth individuals.

Strengths:

"Richard has the ability to see the wood from the trees with no difficulty."

"Richard is a great guy with very good judgement. He is really competent and does a lot of litigation and Revenue work."

"He is very clever and clear-thinking."

David Ewart KC David Ewart KC is regarded for his work in both contentious and non-contentious matters, and instructed by both taxpayers and the Revenue. He is sought after for inheritance tax work and other highly complex issues.

Strengths:

"David has great intellect and a very persuasive advocacy style, and it's very difficult to disagree with the points he makes."

"He is extremely clever and one of the most experienced advocates at the Tax Bar."

"David takes a no-nonsense approach to the problem, focusing upon the risk areas."

James Rivett KC James Rivett KC is a personable and impressive advocate who is in high demand. He has particular expertise in the often arcane world of variation of trust, and he is also an expert in heritage property matters for landed estates.

Strengths:

"James has a real breadth of experience and expertise, particularly in private client tax matters. He is also very good to work with, very approachable and always on the end of a phone, plus his judgement is first-rate."

"James is a great barrister and one of my go-tos for tax matters."

"James is one of the cleverest members of the Tax Bar, and very charming in person."

David Yates KC David Yates KC is known for his detailed approach and is regularly instructed both by taxpayers and by HMRC.

Strengths:

"He has practical insight into how HMRC approaches things as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of statute and case law."

"David has always given excellent technical and commercial advice and is happy to make himself available."

Elizabeth Wilson KC Elizabeth Wilson KC has a broad and successful private client tax practice. She is noted for her work for HMRC but also frequently represents taxpayers. Wilson has particular experience in Agricultural Property Relief

and Business Property Relief cases, offshore trusts, partnerships and non-domiciliary tax planning.

Strengths:

"She is very efficient and hard-working."

JUNIORS

Emma Chamberlain Emma Chamberlain is one of the best-known and most admired tax counsel at the Bar, known for her enormous intellectual ability on complex private client tax matters matched with strong client care skills.

Strengths:

"Emma is highly knowledgeable, extremely clear, strategically wise and very responsive – an absolute pleasure to work with."

"With Emma on your side you can navigate any complex trust and tax situation step by step. Emma is always approachable, down to earth, patient and kind enough not to make you feel you've asked a daft question, even if you might have."

Laura Poots Laura Poots is well known for advising high net worth clients on tax matters. She has particular expertise in offshore trust and family partnership structuring and domicile matters.

Strengths:

"Laura is incredibly responsive and very commercial in her approach."

Charles Bradley Charles Bradley avidly represents high net worth individuals facing significant tax issues in appellate courts as well as first instance tribunals and is particularly recognised for being experienced in dealing with the HMRC.

Strengths:

"He offers pragmatic and concise opinions, and the clients understand him."

"He was very technical, able and understood what mattered on what we put forward."

"He knows what clients would understand and is very realistic about client expectations."

Oliver Conolly Oliver Conolly is well known for advising clients on all areas of tax, including contentious and non-contentious matters.

Strengths:

"Oliver is approachable and has a lot of experience, particularly on the inheritance tax side. He has a good grasp of points and a good technical approach to dealing with HMRC."

Ben Elliott Ben Elliott is instructed as sole counsel by both taxpayers and by HMRC in leading cases, and has an extensive private client tax litigation and advisory practice. He appeared in the Supreme Court in Sheiling Properties Ltd, the leading case on penalties for non-payment of accelerated payment notices.

Strengths:

"Ben is very good indeed, particularly given his level of call. He has a wealth of experience and excellent judgement."

Band 2

Devereux

Devereux is recognised for its "excellent strength in depth at both silk and junior levels." Members here represent both high net worth individuals

and HMRC, and handle a range of matters such as residence and domicile, gifts and deeds of variation, and tax-related professional negligence claims. One solicitor notes: "They have the technical expertise in spades but also the more modern approach valued both by the Revenue and by clients." Tenants at the set recently represented HMRC in the First-tier Tribunal against venture capitalist Jeremy Collier, concerning application of the rules on domicile.

Client service:

"The clerks are very good – easy to talk to, responsive in offering availability and willing to suggest other sets where they have not got capacity."

"The clerks are always helpful and have a good sense of humour."

Glenn Billenness is the director of clerking.

SILKS

Felicity Cullen KC Felicity Cullen KC is a highly respected silk whose broad-ranging tax practice includes advising on indirect, personal and corporate tax matters. She is equally comfortable advising business and private individuals.

Strengths:

"Felicity is my first choice for all complex tax issues – absolutely superb and very user-friendly."

"Felicity is exceptional. The perfect balance of commercial awareness and technical ability."

Aparna Nathan KC Aparna Nathan KC has built on an exceptional practice as a junior to become a well-respected tax silk. She is regularly trusted by both taxpayers and the Revenue with litigation and complex advisory matters, and is an expert in offshore tax structures.

Strengths:

"Aparna is highly regarded for litigation and technically very sound."

"Private client tax is really her sweet spot: she's one of the few individuals who genuinely works for both Revenue and taxpayer and has a very nice mix of contentious and advisory work."

"She has a really good practice and is extremely knowledgeable of private client tax matters."

"Aparna Nathan KC's technical knowledge and good judgement in complex matters are superlative; she is also a delight to work with."

Akash Nawbatt KC Akash Nawbatt KC is a well-liked tax silk with in-depth experience representing both taxpayers and HMRC. He is noted for his exceptional strength in cross-border work, and is an expert on questions of residence and domicile.

Strengths:

"Akash is a very experienced litigator. He is extremely thorough, a very tactical trial lawyer and really does his homework."

JUNIORS

Marika Lemos Marika Lemos is a highly rated junior with a strong reputation for handling complex private client tax work. She regularly advises on onshore and offshore trusts, UK and cross-border estate planning, foreign domicile and residence issues, tax immunity and pension tax.

Strengths:

"Marika is a very competent junior. She is incredibly thorough, rigorous and right on the money."

"Marika Lemos is head and shoulders the finest

senior junior at the Tax Bar: she is a delight to work with and always puts in extra work to make sure her advice is impeccable, however busy she is."

Barrie Akin Barrie Akin is a former chartered accountant and tax partner with a real depth of experience in private client issues. He is particularly noted for cross-border and offshore matters. His private client tax work covers inheritance tax planning, residence and domicile issues, and offshore trusts.

Strengths:

"Barrie does a lot of really great work and is someone I would turn to for difficult issues. He is simply outstanding."

"Barrie is very calm and assuring. He provides technical advice that gets a client where they need to go."

Rebecca Murray Rebecca Murray is a former chartered tax adviser in a large accountancy firm and also an alumna of JPMorgan Chase, who has a wealth of experience of advising on private client tax matters. She has published a well-received textbook titled 'Tax Avoidance'.

Strengths:

"Rebecca has outstanding technical knowledge and judgement, is very good at creative problem solving and is a pleasure to work with."

"Rebecca is a formidable opponent. She is very hard-working and impressive."

"Rebecca Murray is very personable with the clients and understands the commercial reality of situations. She's able to grasp complex topics and present them in an understandable way."

Christopher Stone Christopher Stone regularly handles complex and high-value tax litigation and advisory work. He is noted for his commercial approach and is sought after by corporates as well as high net worth individuals.

Strengths:

"Chris is an exceptional advisory and litigation lawyer."

"Chris's advocacy skills are particularly good – he is able to put forward arguments in a way that is easily understood and compelling. He is able to think on his feet and answer questions put to him by the judge in a considered manner."

Old Square Tax Chambers

Old Square Tax Chambers boasts counsel with a "high level of technical expertise." Its members assist both domestic and international clients with domicile and residency issues, inheritance tax planning and trusts planning. Recent cases for the set include HMRC v Fisher No 2 in the Supreme Court concerning tax avoidance provisions in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and the Income Tax Act 2007.

Client service:

"The clerks are very good – they're very responsive and always get back to you."

Senior clerk Cliff Holland is "excellent and well supported by the junior clerks. They are always willing to go the extra mile."

SILKS

James Kessler KC James Kessler KC is a highly regarded silk with a particular depth of experience in offshore disputes and the taxation of for-

eign domiciliaries. He is an exceptional choice of counsel for any cross-border or conflict of laws matter.

Strengths:

"James Kessler is a brilliant man, a pleasure to work with, and without question the standout practitioner in relation to UK-resident foreign domiciliaries."

"James has been fantastic: he's reassuring to speak to and gets things very quickly in consultation; he really gets down in the details."

Rory Mullan KC Rory Mullan KC handles UK and offshore tax matters for private clients, including planning and disputes. He is especially well known among sources for his expertise in UK-EU tax issues.

Strengths:

"Rory Mullan is very impressive in consultations. He is very good at bringing new perspectives – he is thoughtful and innovative."

"Rory is happy with a collaborative approach to advising clients, which is always appreciated."

Robert Venables KC Robert Venables KC is a barrister with a strong advisory practice and equally extensive litigation experience before English courts, foreign courts and the Privy Council. He is a former chair of the Revenue Bar Association and the author of numerous books on taxation. He is particularly strong on IHT planning and offshore tax issues.

Strengths:

"Robert is excellent and highly intellectual."

"Robert is the top and who you want in this space. He is very experienced and is a brilliant advocate."

JUNIORS

Harriet Brown Harriet Brown has a growing reputation for her work on a wide array of private client tax matters, and is noted for her technical understanding of complex and high-value matters. She is sought out for both domestic and offshore work.

Strengths:

"Harriet is knowledgeable and efficient – she is able to identify the key points quickly and to focus conversations in the right area."

Ross Birkbeck Ross Birkbeck handles all areas of tax law and has particular expertise in private client matters.

Strengths:

"Ross is an excellent modern barrister. His advice is always commercial, timely and user-friendly. He is excellent in every way."

"Ross's legal drafting and advocacy are always of exceptionally high standard, and his amazing intellect means he can turn complex documents around very quickly and think on his feet immediately when questioned by judges on even the trickiest issues."

Mary Ashley Mary Ashley has a broad tax practice that includes both advisory work as well as litigation. She has particular expertise in inheritance tax and domicile issues.

Strengths:

"Mary is knowledgeable on really technical tax issues. She is also very practical and easy to work with."

Band 3

Field Court Tax Chambers

Field Court Tax Chambers' members act for tax authorities and affluent individuals, and handle a wide variety of domestic and international cases relating to residence and domicile, trusts and other matters. Recently, members have been instructed in *Candy v HMRC* concerning the time limits for paying stamp duty in light of Section 44(9) of the Finance Act 2003.

Client service:

"Stephanie Talbot is efficient and deals with requests in an outstanding manner."

"The clerking team are always very swift to respond."

"The clerks are most definitely responsive and spirited."

Marie Burke is the set's practice manager and Stephanie Talbot is assistant practice manager.

SILKS

Philip Baker KC Philip Baker KC is noted for his exceptional depth of expertise in international and cross-border tax matters, and has a particular strength in double taxation treaties.

Strengths:

"Philip marries technical ability with commercial awareness and practical advice."

"He's the best of the best regarding international tax."

Patrick Way KC Patrick Way KC is highly sought after by high net worth private individuals for the most high-value and complex tax matters. He is also frequently instructed by HMRC and has a particular strength in advisory matters.

Strengths:

"He's very senior and very experienced. He's someone I could just pick up the phone to and he was always willing to provide advice. He's very good with the clients. He's got the client care skills."

"Patrick Way KC quickly gets to the heart of the issue in complex matters. His first-rate advice is concise and to the point and he's a real pleasure to work with."

JUNIORS

Imran Afzal Imran Afzal is in demand from both HMRC and taxpayers for the most high-profile and complex matters, and is a particularly fine choice of counsel for tax scheme litigation and questions of residence and domicile. He is well known among private client tax specialists for his work on the 'Icebreaker' partnership scheme litigation, where he acted on behalf of the Revenue.

Strengths:

"Imran is consistently strong in technical areas."

"He has a very knowledgeable and thorough mind. No detail is left unturned."

"Imran is incredibly astute and is constantly mitigating risk to improve the prospects of success."

Patrick Soares Patrick Soares is a deeply respected junior whose tax practice encompasses property, VAT and offshore matters. He is an exceptional choice of counsel for trusts taxation work.

Strengths:

"Patrick is the wise master of experience who

dissects a problem neatly so the issues are easily understood and well articulated.”

Peter Vaines Peter Vaines is well known for advising high net worth clients on a range of tax matters. He has particular experience handling residence and domicile issues.

Strengths:

“Peter is always very personable and is good in front of clients.”

“He is clearly very knowledgeable, with an excellent grasp of all the issues and the ability to see and comment on ancillary issues that could arise.”

5 Stone Buildings

5 Stone Buildings is a set highly regarded for its expertise in private client matters. Members handle both contentious and non-contentious cases for HMRC and wealthy individuals, and advise on a wide range of matters such as the Inheritance Tax Act and onshore and offshore trusts. One instructing solicitor comments: “It is clearly a set with an impressive range of expertise.” Another adds: “The quality of their work is consistently excellent.”

Client service:

“Senior clerk Paul Jennings and the team were good and responsive.”

“The clerks are very knowledgeable.”

SILKS

Amanda Hardy KC Amanda Hardy KC is a highly respected tax silk with a strong litigation and advisory practice. Her private client work focuses on offshore trusts, domicile issues and pension tax.

Strengths:

“Amanda is user-friendly, technically outstanding and gives advice in the context of the real world.”

“Amanda is always very responsive, gives very credible opinions, professionally knows her stuff and is easy to deal with.”

JUNIORS

Sam Chandler Sam Chandler is experienced in tax litigation and regularly appears before the tax tribunals and appeals courts at all levels. Chandler also advises on tax and trusts matters.

Strengths:

“Sam is a very impressive junior. He is really good on detail and has clear knowledge, but is also very able to apply that knowledge.”

“Sam is quite commercial and practical in his approach, and good at cutting through problems and finding solutions that work for the client.”

Ruth Hughes Ruth Hughes is a well-established junior who assists clients with contentious tax disputes, including customs work.

Strengths:

“She gets the bit between her teeth in terms of the technical law and provides very relevant, practical advice.”

Oliver Marre Oliver Marre assists clients with complex contentious and non-contentious tax matters. His work includes advising on inheritance

tax planning and trusts, and he also tackles tax issues arising from high-value divorce proceedings.

Strengths:

“Oliver has great judgement and pursues cases tactically. He has really good knowledge on tax law.”

“Oliver always provides thoughtful and thorough advice.”

Wilberforce Chambers

Wilberforce Chambers is widely known as one of London’s top chancery sets, regularly involved in the largest litigation matters in the UK and offshore. It also has a high-end tax practice for private client matters. Members have recently represented HMRC in its dispute with Jamie Ritblat and others over the taxation of his property investment firm and other assets, including an employee benefit trust.

Client service:

“The clerks are always committed to clients and keeping them up to date throughout the process.”

“The team are always committed to clients and keeping them up to date throughout the process.”

“They were very proactive in ensuring tight timescales were met around a busy period.”

“Stewart Cameron was particularly responsive and a pleasure to work with.”

Nicholas Luckman is the set’s practice director.

SILKS

Jonathan Davey KC Jonathan Davey KC is a highly respected silk who is trusted with complex work by both HMRC and private clients. He is noted for his work on high-value trusts. Davey is particularly well known for his recent work in high-profile film scheme litigation.

Strengths:

“Jonathan’s knowledge is second to none, and he has the ability to work over complex areas of law and present them in support of a client’s case in the most simple and clear manner. He can also think on his feet within the court arena and appears at all times to be confident and in control.”

Brian Green KC Brian Green KC is a well-known chancery silk whose private client tax practice is much respected. He is an exceptional choice of counsel for taxation of trusts matters.

Strengths:

“Brian is an absolute superstar. He is extremely user-friendly.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jonathan Bremner KC (One Essex Court) Jonathan Bremner KC has a strong private client tax practice, acting for HMRC and for taxpayers. He is particularly strong on employment tax matters and tax scheme litigation.

Strengths:

“Jonathan is very experienced. He’s a smooth,

unflappable advocate and a formidable opponent.”

“He has a fantastic eye for detail and for evidence and is very approachable.”

Julian Ghosh KC (One Essex Court) Julian Ghosh KC is qualified to practise in both England and Scotland, and has expertise in European taxation issues. He acts for HMRC and for taxpayers in a range of personal tax matters, and has particular expertise in Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief from inheritance tax.

Strengths:

“Julian is reassuringly clever and experienced.”

“Julian’s incredible knowledge and understanding of tax law and also HMRC’s approach make him an invaluable member of the team when advice is required on complex matters.”

Hui Ling McCarthy KC (11 New Square) Hui Ling McCarthy KC is a well-regarded silk with a strong litigation and advisory practice. Her practice focuses on domestic tax matters.

Strengths:

“She is outstanding at litigation and is strong intellectually.”

“Hui Ling McCarthy is always incredibly impressive. She is extremely intelligent and grasps issues very quickly.”

Jonathan Schwarz (Temple Tax Chambers) Jonathan Schwarz is known for handling international and cross-border tax disputes. His expertise includes tax treaties, double tax relief, EU tax law, residence and domicile. He is also qualified as a South African advocate and a Canadian barrister.

Strengths:

“He has an extremely rigorous approach and can translate it into practical and clear advice to clients.”

“He is very technical, very in-depth and very clear in his advice.”

Nicola Shaw KC (Gray’s Inn Tax Chambers) Nicola Shaw KC is an expert in residence and domicile matters. She has acted in a number of high-profile cases involving the transfer of assets abroad legislation, the settlements code and principal private residence relief.

Strengths:

“Nicola is fantastic. She is technically very strong, very client-friendly and a proper thinker. She makes it easy for me and my team to work with her.”

Laurent Sykes KC (Gray’s Inn Tax Chambers) Laurent Sykes KC represents high net worth individuals and corporations in tax disputes. Sykes also has a strong tax advisory practice.

Strengths:

“He is very practical and pragmatic and does a great job of simplifying complex points.”

Edward Waldegrave (1 Crown Office Row) Edward Waldegrave has a busy litigation and advisory practice representing taxpayers and HMRC before the Tax Tribunals and other courts.

Strengths:

“Edward is very thorough, gives clear advice and goes into a lot of detail.”

Private Wealth Trusts

Private Wealth: Trusts
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Steinfeld Alan <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Leading Silks
Band 1
Angus Tracey <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Brownbill David <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Cooper Gilead <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Dumont Thomas <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
Green Brian <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
Ham KC Robert <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Hilliard Jonathan <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Le Poidevin Nicholas <i>New Square Chambers</i>
Learmonth Alexander <i>New Square Chambers</i>
Legge Henry <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Moeran Fenner <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Mold Andrew <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Pearce Robert <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
Reed Penelope <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>
Singla Nikki <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Stanley Clare <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Talbot Rice Elspeth <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Taube Simon <i>Ten Old Square</i>
Warnock-Smith Shân <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Wilson Richard <i>Serle Court</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Ashdown Michael <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Bedworth Georgia <i>Ten Old Square</i>
Briggs Aidan <i>New Square Chambers</i>
Child Andrew J <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Dew Richard <i>Ten Old Square</i>
Feltham Piers <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
Fletcher Thomas <i>Serle Court</i>
Galley Helen <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Hargreaves Emma <i>Serle Court</i>
Henderson William <i>Serle Court</i>
Holden Andrew <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Holland Jordan <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Hubbard Mark <i>New Square Chambers</i>
MacDougald James <i>Ten Old Square</i>
Meadway Susannah <i>Ten Old Square</i>
Paton Matthew <i>5 Stone Buildings</i>
Roscoe Tom <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Sherwin Timothy <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Staff Marcus <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
Steadman Joseph <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
Tucker Lynton <i>New Square Chambers</i>
Weale James <i>Serle Court</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Ranked Lawyers

Tracey Angus KC (5 Stone Buildings) Tracey Angus KC is a trusted and respected silk with an enviable trusts practice. She is a particularly fine choice of counsel for matrimonial trusts work and is frequently instructed both domestically and overseas.

Strengths:

"Simply the best, she's unbelievably thorough and

hard-working, highly commercial and just a fantastic advocate. Tracey is the silk you definitely want on your side and not on the other side."

"If you want a fighter, Tracey is the one to have on your side."

"Tracey is just amazing. Her attention to detail is frightening. She's so on top of all the details in the case. She got an incredible result for the client due to her preparation and the strength of her advocacy."

Michael Ashdown (Wilberforce Chambers) Michael Ashdown has known expertise handling chancery matters including trusts and estates. He is experienced in dealing with offshore instructions, such as in Jersey, Guernsey and the BVI, and appears regularly in the High Court and the County Court.

Strengths:

"He turns works around quickly and is a good team player."

"Michael is an outstanding performer. His knowledge of the law is second to none, his client skills are excellent and he is highly responsive. He is everything that an instructing solicitor could want in a barrister."

Georgia Bedworth (Ten Old Square) Georgia Bedworth focuses on contentious and non-contentious trusts and estate matters. She is frequently instructed in cases involving multimillion-pound trusts and has also acted in a number of variation of trust applications. Her related expertise in property matters informs her trust advice.

Strengths:

"Extremely thorough and meticulous in how she prepares her cases. Georgia has a strong reputation with judges for this work and so is trusted by them, which makes it easier to get applications through."

"Very pleasant and someone whose written advice is second to none. She does really complex cases and can communicate issues relating to them in an easy to understand manner."

"She provides excellent, practical and cost-efficient advice in a timely manner."

Aidan Briggs (New Square Chambers) Aidan Briggs is a specialist in trusts, estates and property disputes who has been engaged in matters that span multiple jurisdictions. He also sits as a Deputy District Judge in civil matters.

Strengths:

"Aidan is not only very bright but also very good with clients."

"Aidan is extremely clever, responsive and articulate. He is also excellent with clients, very personable, and his advice to them is succinct and comprehensible."

"He inspired confidence in his client. Aidan was both very good at the written work and at cross-examination."

David Brownbill KC (XXIV Old Buildings) David Brownbill KC is noted for his strong track record in private client litigation and has specific expertise in trust law. He is the editor of leading textbook 'International Trust Laws' and is often instructed in high-profile offshore disputes. His expertise also extends to trust issues in the con-

text of investment funds.

Strengths:

"David is very well known and experienced in the field. He's as knowledgeable as anyone in the international trust field, and a good advocate."

Andrew Child (Wilberforce Chambers) Andrew Child is a highly experienced junior with a broad knowledge of domestic and offshore trusts law. He regularly acts for personal representatives, trustees and beneficiaries in breach of trust claims. Child has in-depth expertise in trust matters with a fraud element.

Gilead Cooper KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Gilead Cooper KC has been instructed in some of the most important and high-profile trusts cases of recent years. He has an increasingly international practice and acts for many significant clients in this area. Cooper is admitted to the BVI Bar and frequently appears in the courts of the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Strengths:

"Very intelligent and good at seeing where things could end up. He is very good at assessing situations and a great cross-examiner."

"Gilead is one of the leading lights in this area and has an encyclopedic knowledge of the law. He's also highly responsive, which matters a lot when things are moving quickly."

"An excellent advocate who is very clever and very hard-working. Gilead has a different way of looking at things; he thinks outside the box."

Richard Dew (Ten Old Square) Richard Dew is acknowledged for his strength in handling complex trusts and probate matters. His expertise includes variation of trust issues and he also has significant experience of trusts litigation. He provides in-depth advice on tax issues connected to trusts.

Strengths:

"Very approachable and responsive, he fights his corner well but takes a good commercial approach and always sets the expectations of the client at the correct level."

"Hugely hands-on and someone who manages the team well. He's excellent with clients and good at conveying difficult information to them. Having him in your corner is a real advantage."

"A formidable barrister who is bright, thorough and personable."

Thomas Dumont KC (Radcliffe Chambers) Thomas Dumont KC has appeared in a number of important trusts cases on behalf of prominent individuals and charitable organisations. He is noted for his longstanding experience and the strength of his advocacy. His expertise also includes professional negligence issues when they overlap with trusts law.

Strengths:

"A delight to work with, Thomas is calm, measured and charming. Excellent on both the legal issues and factual detail, he's a master of complex trust structures who is utterly unflappable."

Piers Feltham (Radcliffe Chambers) Piers Feltham is noted for his expertise relating to all aspects of domestic and offshore trusts. He is especially knowledgeable about custodian trust-

teeships and is further recognised for his drafting skills in relation to large trust instruments.

Strengths:

“Deserves high praise for his strategic and technical ability. He has been fully across the detail of all his cases for many years now and is a pivotal part of the team.”

“Piers has so much experience and is very good on his feet. He is great with clients and nothing is too much trouble for him from a client service point of view.”

“Able to deal with complex technical issues and a pleasure to work with. He’s excellent.”

Thomas Fletcher (Serle Court) Thomas Fletcher is a specialist in trusts and estate matters, both domestic and offshore. The vast majority of his work is contentious, but he further has experience of drafting a range of trusts instruments and associated documents. He is also a frequent contributor to various leading trusts textbooks.

Strengths:

“Thomas is very talented and clever. He’s able to see into the future and identify what traps lie ahead. Thorough, clever and very popular, we’d go straight to him for any kind of difficult technical stuff.”

“I think he’s fabulous. He knows everything there is to know about trust law.”

Helen Galley (XXIV Old Buildings) Helen Galley is an experienced trusts and private client senior junior with a wide-ranging caseload including contentious and non-contentious work, both onshore and offshore. She is a member of the Property and Chancery Bar Associations.

Strengths:

“Helen is a safe pair of hands who is calm and assured. She’s good with clients and can be relied upon to fight her client’s corner in court.”

Brian Green KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Brian Green KC is lauded as one of the foremost trusts barristers. He handles a broad range of both domestic and international cases, and is particularly recognised for his offshore expertise and his handling of disputes involving the variation of trusts. His recent advisory work has centred on trusts in the Bahamas, the Cook Islands, Gibraltar and New Zealand.

Strengths:

“A most persuasive advocate who is creative and never misses a trick. Seemingly always available to speak, he lives, eats and sleeps his professional life – it is everything to him. He is a force of nature and completely on top of things.”

“Brian is fiendishly intelligent and very charismatic. He is one of these people that lives the law. He gives incredibly good client service and has cutting-edge legal knowledge.”

“Brian is dynamic, very hands-on and incredible in court. He’s also accessible and tremendous to work with. Clients love him.”

Dakis Hagen KC (Serle Court) Dakis Hagen KC is an exceptionally well-known trusts practitioner who is frequently sought after for his work on trusts within divorces and estate management. He is often instructed in the most high-profile litigation matters.

Strengths:

“Dakis is incredibly smart and a pleasure to work with.”

“He is an eminent offshore silk.”

“Dakis is extraordinarily fantastic. He ticks every box and is marvellous with clients.”

Robert Ham KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Robert Ham KC offers significant expertise in trusts law as part of his broad private client law practice. He handles both contentious and non-contentious mandates in the UK and abroad. Ham is particularly adept dealing with offshore disputes for wealthy families and trust companies.

Strengths:

“He is phenomenally brilliant, very practical and fantastic to deal with.”

Emma Hargreaves (Serle Court) Emma Hargreaves is a rising star in the trusts field who has built a strong reputation for her work for a variety of clients, including trustees and beneficiaries.

Strengths:

“Emma is a walking encyclopedia of offshore and English trust law and practice.”

“Emma is able to produce long and complex documents in an astonishingly short amount of time, all of which are of high quality. She communicates her written arguments very clearly and, rather than focusing solely on the legal position, she highlights the practical consequences of any proposed move where necessary.”

“She is very clever and always a pleasure to work with.”

William Henderson (Serle Court) William Henderson is a very experienced trusts practitioner who acts for a range of high net worth clients both domestically and in the offshore jurisdictions. He deals with both contentious and non-contentious issues and is also an expert on trust-related professional negligence claims.

Strengths:

“William combines litigation strategy with a completely sound knowledge of trusts law. Not willing to cut corners, he’s always focused and able to keep large legal teams in check.”

“William is someone who rolls up his sleeves and gets into the detail of a case.”

“He offers a first-class service and has massive experience of, and insight into, some rare corners of chancery work.”

Jonathan Hilliard KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Jonathan Hilliard KC has appeared in many confidential and high-value trusts and divorce cases in the UK courts and in offshore jurisdictions. He also regularly acts for trustees in professional negligence and breach of trust claims. His expertise includes in-depth knowledge of trusts that hold complex corporate structures.

Strengths:

“Jonathan is excellent. He is very responsive, incredibly clever and able to think outside the box.”

“What stands out is his ability to get into the detail on very big cases very quickly.”

“He’s got real expertise and an incredible ability to get on top of matters extremely quickly. He retains it all in his head and can give great insight into how to play the case strategically. Jonathan has also got a lot of experience in offshore courts and how they operate.”

Andrew Holden (XXIV Old Buildings) Andrew Holden appears in a wide variety of both domestic and international trusts matters, acting both as

a litigator and in an advisory capacity. He is an expert in trust structuring and trust protectors. Holden is particularly adept at handling large offshore disputes and often acts in high-profile, multibillion-dollar disputes in key jurisdictions.

Jordan Holland (5 Stone Buildings) Jordan Holland has in-depth expertise in both onshore and offshore trust matters. He often acts for professional trustees as well as beneficiaries and protectors in a range of high-value disputes. His experience includes disputes concerning the validity of trusts, breach of trusts and ancillary applications.

Strengths:

“Excellent and a real team player. Jordan puts clients at ease with his real can-do attitude. He thinks outside the box when handling complex issues.”

“He has high emotional intelligence, gives accurate written work and clients adore him. Jordan is a fantastic advocate who is not afraid to take on the big players.”

“He is very approachable and easy for clients to talk to.”

Mark Hubbard (New Square Chambers) Mark Hubbard is frequently instructed in complex and high-value trusts disputes, many of which are offshore or involve multiple jurisdictions. He is adept at advisory as well as litigation work. His clients include professional trustees as well as individuals and families.

Elizabeth Jones KC (Serle Court) Elizabeth Jones KC has a wide-ranging chancery practice, which involves an increasing focus on complex trust and probate matters. She is particularly well known for her offshore expertise and is able to deal with high-value and multi-jurisdictional disputes. Her expertise extends to contentious trusts which involve elements of fraud or asset tracing.

Strengths:

“She was very commanding and took charge of the courtroom – everyone listened to her.”

“An incredibly strong advocate.”

“She takes no prisoners. She’s the one you want in your corner.”

Nicholas Le Poidevin KC (New Square Chambers) Nicholas Le Poidevin KC is a much-trusted silk known for his expertise in Channel Islands matters. His trusts work is a strong element of his wider traditional chancery practice, and he is frequently instructed in both contentious and non-contentious work.

Alexander Learmonth KC (New Square Chambers) Alexander Learmonth KC is recognised as a major presence at the Bar for his experience in trusts and succession matters. His practice encompasses significant offshore work and he often acts for trustees, beneficiaries and charities in high-value disputes.

Strengths:

“Very clever, down to earth and personable. Alexander provides excellent advice.”

“Alexander is stellar and a much-in-demand figure, which is a reflection of the quality of his work. He can come up with great ideas and is brilliant on his feet. I can’t praise him highly enough – he’s brilliant with clients and judges.”

Henry Legge KC (5 Stone Buildings) Henry Legge KC is instructed in large trust disputes,

both onshore and offshore. He has also advised extensively on non-contentious matters, including those concerning the interpretation and variation of trust structures. Legge is an expert in commercial trusts, securitisation structures and private trusts. His expertise also encompasses complex tax issues which arise in trust matters.

Strengths:

"Henry is hugely intelligent, with excellent judgement and the ability to cut straight through the most complex of issues. He is also a highly impressive advocate who inspires confidence in clients and solicitors."

James MacDougald (Ten Old Square) James MacDougald provides comprehensive trust advice to various clients and has specific expertise in estate administration and variations of trust. He has also acquired significant offshore expertise and has acted for parties in several key jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"An excellent junior who is responsive, very bright and totally dependable. He can turn his hand to anything and is always willing to roll up his sleeves. James also has a very good understanding of the solicitor position with regard to clients."

"James has an incisive mind and provides practical advice."

"James is fantastically smart and a pleasure to work with."

Susannah Meadway (Ten Old Square) Susannah Meadway has a strong track record in the field of trusts, estates and associated tax. She handles a plethora of work for large landed estates, including a number of ducal estates. Meadway also advises trustees on the continuation and smooth running of trusts. Her expertise also encompasses in-depth knowledge of the extension of perpetuity and accumulation periods.

Strengths:

"She was very quick to respond and just gave really good, practical advice. She really met my expectations."

"Susannah's attention to detail and knowledge of trust law is second to none. She also has an incredible ability to distil complex tax and trust concepts into an easily digestible and understandable format."

Fenner Moeran KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Fenner Moeran KC is known for handling sensitive trusts disputes involving complex family situations. He often acts for large financial institutions and has developed a substantial offshore disputes practice.

Andrew Mold KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Andrew Mold KC has particular expertise in breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty claims. He is also known for his skill with regard to the treatment of trust assets in high-value divorce cases. His experience extends to offshore disputes and he is also admitted to the Cayman Islands Bar.

Strengths:

"Andrew is an excellent advocate who produces high-quality written work. He is extremely responsive and thoroughly engaged with the case from start to finish."

"Andrew ticks all the boxes in terms of ability and brains, and is very good at handling clients."

"Andrew is a real pleasure to work with. His client

skills are great and his ability to work with a team of solicitors impressive. He listens to us all and allows us a voice."

Matthew Paton (5 Stone Buildings) Matthew Paton is instructed in onshore and offshore jurisdictions and acts in both contentious and non-contentious trust and probate matters. He has significant expertise in matters involving validity of deeds, removal of trustees and liability issues.

Strengths:

"Matthew has a wealth of offshore experience in trusts. He is able to draw on this to provide comprehensive advice and straightforward solutions to inherently complex, and often multi-jurisdictional, trust matters."

"Matthew has an excellent grasp of all of the issues surrounding trusts, both in an advisory and a litigious capacity. His written advice is diligent, thorough and precise. A go-to barrister for all trust-related issues."

Robert Pearce KC (Radcliffe Chambers) Robert Pearce KC provides impressive advice on complex trust matters including those relating to variations and taxation issues. He is recognised for his involvement in high-profile litigation and is also noted for his drafting and trusts planning work.

Strengths:

"Robert is a very clever silk who is able to calmly persuade judges with his compelling submissions."

"One of the most respected advocates in this area. Robert is adept at dealing sensitively with clients and handling their extremely thorny legal issues. He's also a consummate performer in court."

"He is unrivalled in terms of his expertise."

Penelope Reed KC (5 Stone Buildings) Penelope Reed KC is an exceptionally eminent silk with a formidable depth of experience in trusts and inheritance matters. She is noted for her work on high-profile cases and particularly for her trial advocacy. Her practice also includes acting as a mediator in major trust disputes.

Strengths:

"Penelope is amazing to work alongside and a genuinely lovely person to deal with. She shows how you can be both incredibly skilled and also a courteous person."

"Penny combines expertise at a very high level with excellent client service. She is very user-friendly and really puts the clients at ease."

Giles Richardson KC (Serle Court) Giles Richardson KC handles a wide range of trusts litigation and advisory work. He has been engaged in particularly significant trusts matters in a variety of courts both in the UK and overseas. Sources recognise his extensive experience in locations such as Jersey, Guernsey and the BVI.

Strengths:

"The complete package; he is superb, exceptionally hard-working and a great black-letter lawyer who provides exceptional strategic and tactical insight. He is also an exceptional draftsman."

"Giles is easy to work with and a real team player. He has a great strategic mind."

"Giles is outstanding; his level of input is to an exceptionally high standard as he has intuitive knowledge and great understanding of the law."

Tom Roscoe (Wilberforce Chambers) Tom Roscoe

has a strong chancery practice which includes advising on contentious trusts, wills and estates. He takes national and international instructions, and in particular has disputes experience in the Cayman Islands, the BVI and Guernsey.

Strengths:

"A fantastic barrister who is very nice and fun as well."

"He's easy to work with."

Tim Sherwin (XXIV Old Buildings) Tim Sherwin has a strong chancery practice which includes taking instructions in contentious trusts and estates matters, as well as handling company and insolvency disputes. He also advises in respect of non-contentious trust matters.

Nikki Singla KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Nikki Singla KC has a wealth of experience in handling commercial and trusts matters, and is regularly seen in the Chancery Division and the Commercial Court. He is also experienced in handling international matters, with prior cases in Mauritius, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

"Nikki is very knowledgeable and has a nice style about him. You can have a very healthy dialogue and debate with him."

"Nikki is a master of facts and excels in his advocacy."

"Nikki is responsive, intelligent and a man of good judgement."

Marcus Staff (XXIV Old Buildings) Marcus Staff is a former head of the set's Geneva office. A man with long experience of handling trusts-related work, he counts a number of key solicitors firms among those that instruct him. He demonstrated his credentials in the trusts sphere by appearing in *Schmidt v Rosewood Trustees*, the leading trusts case heard in the Privy Council in the last 20 years.

Strengths:

"Marcus will get on top of the detail of a case. He wants to know it inside and out and leave no stone unturned. Everything he does is done with great skill."

Clare Stanley KC (Wilberforce Chambers) Clare Stanley KC boasts a strong reputation in handling matters including trusts and probate, commercial litigation and professional negligence cases. She is experienced in contentious trusts litigation between beneficiaries and trustees, international trusts litigation and trust arbitration.

Strengths:

"One of the great performers in this area, she is just the most responsive and committed silk I've worked with. Her ability to work seamlessly with solicitors really stands out."

"Very responsive and gets to the point quickly. She answers questions in a way that we can take away and use."

"Clare is very practical and down to earth, which leads to a good working relationship with clients, who have confidence in her. She is helpful, easy to deal with, and someone who focuses on what is important. I have also been very impressed with her written work, which is presented in a clear, concise and persuasive manner."

Joseph Steadman (Wilberforce Chambers) Joseph Steadman, regularly instructed in the High Court, has a strong chancery practice that spans

commercial matters as well as trusts and estates. He is experienced in handling onshore and offshore trust cases, and has particular expertise in advising in relation to tax considerations.

Strengths:

“Joseph is a superb junior who’s incredibly hard-working and a good team player. He breaks down complicated situations into manageable chunks.”
“Joe was excellent – he was on top of the facts, responsive and very collaborative. A great person to have on your team.”

“Joseph is excellent with clients, as he explains and unpacks complicated legal issues in a way that is both informative and very reassuring.”

Alan Steinfeld KC (XXIV Old Buildings) Alan Steinfeld KC is active across a wide array of practice areas and has a substantial focus on trust law. He is experienced in offshore as well as domestic trusts disputes, and is recognised for his familiarity with international arbitrations in connection with contentious trust matters.

Strengths:

“An elder statesman figure with great opinions, who is fiendishly bright.”

“Despite being one of the most established and senior KCs at the Bar his accessibility, enthusiasm and willingness to roll up his sleeves is no different from a four years’ call junior. He’s always willing to get on the phone, knock heads together and muse about tactics and difficult points.”

Elsbeth Talbot Rice KC (XXIV Old Buildings) Elsbeth Talbot Rice KC is a widely admired barrister with a very strong track record in trusts litigation. She is frequently instructed by many leading solicitors in this field and often acts in very significant and high-value disputes, both onshore and offshore. Peers recognise her as a leading silk who deals with the most high-profile cases in the trusts world.

Strengths:

“Elsbeth is a great all-round advocate who works well in large teams. She’s a force to be reckoned with and very direct and forthcoming in her views.”

Simon Taube KC (Ten Old Square) Simon Taube KC is a highly respected barrister able to skillfully handle domestic and cross-border trusts disputes. He is well versed in trust taxation and

cases relating to fiduciary duties. Taube has significant experience of acting in key offshore locations, including the BVI, the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Strengths:

“An utterly brilliant silk with a mind that always impresses. His opinion will always give you comfort as you know you can rely on it. A real joy to work with, he’s empathetic to both client and solicitor needs.”

“Very experienced, he’s excellent at giving clear, simple and client-friendly advice. He’s extremely quick and responsive and a most elegant draftsman.”

“Very user-friendly and a team player.”

Lynton Tucker (New Square Chambers) Lynton Tucker is lauded for his extensive experience and knowledge of trusts law on both a domestic and offshore basis. He is also one of the editors of the textbook ‘Lewin on Trusts’. Market observers recognise his in-depth expertise in key overseas jurisdictions, including the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Strengths:

“Lynton is brilliant at dealing with highly complex trust cases and can tackle very difficult legal issues, explaining them coherently to lay clients.”

“His unrivalled reputation in trusts is fully deserved. Lynton is able to deal with the most complex of legal questions in an efficient and client-friendly manner.”

“He has a brain the size of a planet. Lynton was constructive and creative, and I doubt there are many things that Lynton doesn’t know.”

Shân Warnock-Smith KC (5 Stone Buildings) Shân Warnock-Smith KC is an expert on private client issues, including all aspects of trusts and succession work. She is exceptionally well known for her work offshore and overseas and is an excellent choice for work in the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

“She is a legal titan at the top of her game and extremely knowledgeable.”

“She blew me away with her ability to digest vast amounts of information.”

“Incredibly successful and one of the top people for international trusts. She is always a huge

pleasure to deal with and someone who gets things done. She is a bright and massively successful, collaborative lawyer.”

James Weale (Serle Court) James Weale is an experienced junior who acts in major trusts disputes both in the domestic courts and in multiple offshore jurisdictions. He further handles significant commercial disputes.

Strengths:

“James works very quickly and is able to juggle multiple complex matters at once. In particular, his drafting is very persuasive and clear.”

“A very impressive senior junior who is very bright and responsive. He has the technical aspects of a case spot on and I like his drafting.”

“James is a really outstanding junior who is a complete pleasure to work with and very collegial. A very powerful advocate, he’s forceful, and very resourceful in developing legal arguments and submissions. He has a great command and mastery of words.”

Richard Wilson KC (Serle Court) Richard Wilson KC handles a large volume of domestic and offshore trusts litigation and has been involved in a number of significant breach of trust disputes. His caseload includes a number of substantial disputes in the Bahamas, Guernsey, Jersey, the Cayman Islands and Gibraltar. He has significant knowledge of private international law issues relating to trusts.

Strengths:

“Richard is involved with some of the most significant trust matters in the courts at the moment. He is a natural on his feet, who is always determined to get the result his clients want.”

“Richard is good at adapting his style to suit particular clients, which is a real skill. He is also incredible at listening and taking on board the views of instructing solicitors, which can be hard for counsel to do.”

“Richard is outstanding – he’s very analytical and has excellent judgement. A barrister with very good communication skills, he explains complex legal issues in a way which is readily understandable, making him a great person to work with.”

Restructuring/Insolvency

Restructuring/Insolvency	Restructuring/Insolvency	Restructuring/Insolvency
Leading Sets	Leading Silks	
Band 1	Star individuals	Davies Stephen <i>Enterprise Chambers</i>
South Square	Smith Tom <i>South Square</i>	Davis Glen <i>South Square</i>
Band 2	Band 1	Fisher Richard <i>South Square</i>
Erskine Chambers	Allison David <i>South Square</i>	Gibbon Michael <i>Maitland Chambers</i>
Maitland Chambers	Arden Peter <i>Erskine Chambers</i>	Hill Richard <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>
4 Stone Buildings	Atherton Stephen <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Isaacs Barry <i>South Square</i>
Band 3	Bayfield Daniel <i>South Square</i>	Leahy Blair <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Enterprise Chambers	Chivers David <i>Erskine Chambers</i>	Lightman Daniel <i>Serle Court</i>
Radcliffe Chambers	Crow Jonathan <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Moverley Smith Stephen <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
3 Verulam Buildings	Phillips Mark <i>South Square</i>	Parker Christopher R <i>Maitland Chambers</i>
Wilberforce Chambers	Toube Felicity <i>South Square</i>	Pascoe Martin <i>South Square</i>
Band 4	Band 2	Thompson Andrew <i>Erskine Chambers</i>
Twenty Essex	Addy Catherine <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	Band 5
XXIV Old Buildings	Agnello Raquel <i>Erskine Chambers</i>	Ashworth Lance <i>Serle Court</i>
Serle Court	Arnold Mark <i>South Square</i>	Bailey James <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
9 Stone Buildings	Beltrami Adrian <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Beswetherick Tony <i>Twenty Essex</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Gledhill Andreas <i>Blackstone Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇	Boardman Christopher <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Hilliard Lexa <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>	Davenport Simon <i>4 Pump Court (ORL)</i> ◇
	Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>	Hardwick Matthew <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
Band 1	Shekerdemian Marcia <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>	Hutton Louise <i>Essex Court Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
	Band 3	Jory Hugh <i>4 New Square Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
	Alexander David <i>South Square</i>	Mohyuddin David <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
	Bompas George <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Morgan James <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
	de Mestre Andrew <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	Pickering James <i>Enterprise Chambers</i>
	Goldring Jeremy <i>South Square</i>	Riley Jamie <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>
	Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>	Robins Stephen <i>South Square</i>
	McQuater Ewan <i>3 Verulam Buildings</i>	Shivji Sharif A. <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>
	Potts James <i>Erskine Chambers</i>	Stanley Clare <i>Wilberforce Chambers</i>
	Shaw Peter <i>9 Stone Buildings</i>	Steinfeld Alan <i>XXIV Old Buildings</i>
	Stubbs Rebecca <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	Weaver Matthew <i>Radcliffe Chambers</i>
	Band 4	Wolfson David <i>One Essex Court (ORL)</i> ◇
	Brisby John <i>4 Stone Buildings</i>	New Silks
	Collings Matthew <i>Maitland Chambers</i>	den Besten Ruth <i>Essex Court Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
	Curl Joseph <i>9 Stone Buildings</i>	

South Square

South Square is widely lauded as “the pre-eminent insolvency set.” Chambers houses a deep bench of experienced barristers at both senior and junior levels, and remains the top choice for the most complex and high-profile cases arising in the UK and further afield. Members are instructed in the full gamut of cases and offer significant expertise in complex restructurings, where they are recognised as “the leading barristers for schemes of arrangement” and have recently advised in relation to Veon Holdings. The team is also well regarded for its adroit handling of the administration and liquidation of major corporations, and several of the set’s tenants have been involved in the most high-profile cases of recent years, including the administration of Bulb Energy.

Client service:

“Senior clerk Dylan Playfoot and others are always contactable and extremely helpful.”

“They are very responsive, very service delivery focused and able to manage a high workload.”

“The set has very responsive and user-friendly clerks.”

SILKS

Tom Smith KC Tom Smith KC is a popular silk with an impressive caseload including substantial domestic and international matters. He stands out for his work on schemes of arrangement, and is considered particularly noteworthy for his responsiveness and efficiency on cases. He is also experienced in the handling of offshore fund liquidations.

Strengths:

“Tom is a fantastic advocate – super-bright and user-friendly. He is a go-to for any company voluntary arrangement work and on many schemes and restructuring plans.”

“He is exceptional and at the top of his game.”

“Tom provides really creative insights and adds something extra over and above being just a bar-

risters.”

“Tom is an absolute superstar. He’s good on his feet and great in terms of coming up with strategy and getting into the details.”

David Allison KC David Allison KC is an excellent silk who acts on behalf of a range of clients on both domestic and offshore matters. He regularly advises on formal insolvency cases and frequently appears in courts in the British Virgin Islands, New York, Dubai, the Cayman Islands and Guernsey concerning high-value and high-profile disputes.

Strengths:

“His insights are great, and he’s at his best when he’s preparing for and in the courtroom.”

“David Allison is absolutely outstanding. He is incredibly smart, thoughtful and responsive. His advocacy skills are exceptional and he is a top pick for all restructuring and insolvency matters.”

“David is an impressive and authoritative advocate who inspires confidence in court. A very safe pair of hands for the largest and most complex contested cases.”

Daniel Bayfield KC Daniel Bayfield KC attracts commendations for his strong knowledge of insolvency law and skilled handling of scheme work. His wide-ranging practice also encompasses banking, company and commercial litigation.

Strengths:

“Daniel is helpful, thoughtful and commercial.”

“He is as good as it gets on company-side scheme representations.”

“Daniel has superb technical knowledge, having worked on many highly complex, novel cases.”

Mark Phillips KC Mark Phillips KC is a respected silk offering deep expertise across the full spectrum of insolvency law. He excels in areas such as schemes of arrangement and multi-jurisdictional disputes.

Strengths:

“He has really seen it all and is able to marshal his experience to be devastating in court.”

“A strong advocate who is adept in his craft.”

Felicity Toube KC Felicity Toube KC combines her vast experience and expertise in contentious insolvency cases, particularly those involving fraud, with an excellent courtroom presence. She frequently turns her hand to offshore disputes and is well recognised for her strength in international proceedings.

Strengths:

“She is tenacious advocate who is willing to take on the difficult points.”

“She is at top of her game in insolvency, particularly where insolvency meets arbitration.”

“She’s very definitive in her advice: she gets to the nub of the issue quickly and is very solutions-oriented.”

Restructuring/Insolvency	
Leading Juniors	
Star individuals	Rogers Kate Radcliffe Chambers
Al-Attar Adam South Square	Thornley Hannah South Square
Band 1	Band 5
Briggs John South Square	Abraham Matthew South Square
Stonefrost Hilary South Square	Amey Robert South Square
Tamlyn Lloyd South Square	Buckley Christopher Radcliffe Chambers
Band 2	Carmichael Sri Wilberforce Chambers
Gunaratna Kavan Enterprise Chambers	Clarke Sarah Gatehouse Chambers (ORL) ◇
Haywood Marcus South Square	Couser James Three Stone (ORL) ◇
Kyriakides Tina Radcliffe Chambers	Davies James Enterprise Chambers
McCulloch Niall Enterprise Chambers	Dixon Madeline Enterprise Chambers
Nersessian Tiran 4 Stone Buildings	Doran Catherine Radcliffe Chambers
Page Rebecca Maitland Chambers	Earle Rachael Wilberforce Chambers
Robinson Thomas Wilberforce Chambers	Foskett Rosanna Maitland Chambers
Band 3	Friedman Bobby Wilberforce Chambers
Cooke Charlotte South Square	Gupta Amit Enterprise Chambers
Eaton Turner David New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇	Harrison Christopher 4 Stone Buildings
Goodison Adam South Square	Hyams Oliver South Square
Griffiths Ben Erskine Chambers	Johnson Simon Enterprise Chambers
Groves Hugo Enterprise Chambers	Julian Faith 9 Stone Buildings
Kalfon Olivier Maitland Chambers	Lilly Donald 4 Stone Buildings
Lewis Daniel Wilberforce Chambers	Longstaff Katie Radcliffe Chambers
Peters Georgina South Square	Markham Anna 4 Stone Buildings
Willson William South Square	McGowan Giselle 9 Stone Buildings
Band 4	Meech Jennifer Serle Court
Adair Stuart XXIV Old Buildings	Miall Hugh XXIV Old Buildings
Arumugam Raj 5 Stone Buildings (ORL) ◇	Powers Jessica New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
Brown Rory 9 Stone Buildings	Riddiford Alexander Essex Court Chambers (ORL) ◇
Comiskey Reuben Radcliffe Chambers	Shepherd Tom 4 New Square Chambers (ORL) ◇
Deacock Adam Radcliffe Chambers	Start Angharad 3 Verulam Buildings
Hallett Katherine Three Stone (ORL) ◇	Titmuss Jonathan Gatehouse Chambers (ORL) ◇
Head Peter Blackstone Chambers (ORL) ◇	Zelin Geoffrey Enterprise Chambers
Hinks Philip 3 Verulam Buildings	Up-and-coming individuals
Johnson Clara South Square	Day William 3 Verulam Buildings
McCambley Dawn Radcliffe Chambers	Innes Mairi Enterprise Chambers
Page Rowena Maitland Chambers	Lupi Edoardo South Square
Perkins Ryan South Square	New Silks
Phillips Henry South Square	Shaw Benjamin Erskine Chambers
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Mark Arnold KC Mark Arnold KC focuses his practice on restructuring and insolvency cases both in the UK and further afield. He places particular emphasis on clients in the financial services sector as part of his wider practice. He also has considerable experience handling restructurings in the oil and gas, telecommunications and shipping sectors.

Strengths:

“He knows his stuff extremely well and is very user-friendly.”

David Alexander KC David Alexander KC stands out for his provision of expert counsel to clients in major litigation proceedings, both at home and further afield. He has a wealth of experience appearing in the UK courts at all levels, in addition to frequently appearing in courts in the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Jersey and Gibraltar. He also has a substantial company, banking and finance, and contentious trusts practice.

Strengths:

“He provides sound advice and is good to work with.”

“He has a very good bedside manner – he’s very approachable for the clients and legal team.”

Jeremy Goldring KC Jeremy Goldring KC has substantive experience in commercial litigation, restructuring and insolvency, and company law. He has a sterling reputation for his adroit handling of offshore matters, and is frequently called to the Bar in the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands. He regularly appears before UK courts at all levels, with experience in the Supreme Court and Commercial Court.

Strengths:

“He has a great style and knows his stuff.”

Glen Davis KC Glen Davis KC attracts instructions from a diverse range of clients and offers specialist insight into commercial issues involving an insolvency aspect, particularly in the financial services sector. His diverse client base includes regulators, creditors and liquidators. He is routinely called upon to assist with fund collapses and international shipping insolvencies. He is also an accredited mediator, sitting on the INSOL panel of specialist insolvency mediators.

Strengths:

“He’s very approachable and will take the client through things in good detail.”

“He knows his insolvency law inside and out.”

Richard Fisher KC Richard Fisher KC is an accom-

plished silk active on behalf of an impressive client base including major banks and hedge funds. He is held in high esteem by market sources for his persuasive advocacy, and is noted for his expertise in the use of schemes of arrangement and voluntary arrangements in significant international restructurings.

Strengths:

“Richard is an excellent advocate. He is robust, clear and quick on his feet.”

“He is an impressive operator, across all the detail but with a constant eye on strategy.”

“He is a go-to on the complex insolvency matters. He is just brilliant and incredibly knowledgeable and charming in court.”

Barry Isaacs KC Barry Isaacs KC is highly recommended for his insight into reconstruction and insolvency law, and for his complementary expertise in the areas of company and commercial litigation, and banking and finance. His broad practice consists of both domestic and international work. He frequently advises on cases in New Zealand and New York in addition to offshore jurisdictions such as Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Strengths:

“He is very much a go-to in challenging cases.”

“He is an outstanding advocate – very thorough and user-friendly.”

“He has great attention to detail and a good manner with clients. He can present core arguments clearly and concisely in court.”

Martin Pascoe KC Martin Pascoe KC is frequently sought out to handle complex insolvency disputes. Commentators draw particular attention to his adroit handling of international deals. He has experience representing clients in cases concerning fraudulent trading, CMBS securitisations and pension fund deficits.

Strengths:

“He digs down to find a way out of a situation and produces some very good work.”

Stephen Robins KC Stephen Robins KC is a well-regarded barrister who regularly appears before the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal in high-profile cases. His broad client base includes winding-up boards, administrators, and Chapter 11 and foreign trustees. His broad expertise also encompasses banking and finance, civil fraud and commercial dispute resolution.

Strengths:

“His insolvency knowledge is spectacular.”

“He is really good across the board in terms of general advice, written products, formulating how to pursue an argument and looking at a case in the wider perspective.”

“He is the perfect balance of technically on point yet also commercial. He understands the client’s needs and helps to achieve them.”

JUNIORS

Adam Al-Attar Adam Al-Attar is a standout junior exhibiting great strength in bank and fund insolvencies. He regularly attracts instructions in headline cases and demonstrates notable skill in contested restructurings. He also has considerable experience in cases concerning trusts law, and banking and financial services.

Strengths:

"Adam is a very strong advocate and an excellent member of bigger transaction teams."

"He is very user-friendly and responsive. His drafting and analysis is also excellent."

"He is a fantastic senior junior: super-smart, diligent and with a great manner."

"His drafting and analysis is excellent."

John Briggs John Briggs undertakes a diverse array of instructions, given his impressively broad expertise. He regularly handles insolvency cases concerning debtors, pensions, partnerships and professional negligence claims. He has a fine track record in both corporate and personal insolvency cases on a domestic and international scale.

Strengths:

"He is a really fine advocate."

Hilary Stonefrost Hilary Stonefrost excels in matters involving schemes of arrangement as part of her wide-ranging practice, which encompasses both domestic and international insolvencies.

Strengths:

"She is a very compelling advocate."

"She isn't flustered by anything; she's very sensible and on top of what's going on."

Lloyd Tamlyn Lloyd Tamlyn divides his practice between corporate and personal insolvency cases. He routinely takes instructions from a diverse range of clients, including both private individuals and large organisations. His work is often international, and he has been called to the Bar in several offshore jurisdictions. He has particular experience advising on financial services-related insolvencies and insurance matters.

Strengths:

"He would be a first choice for higher-value or complex cases."

"He has a brilliant work ethic and attention to detail."

Marcus Haywood Marcus Haywood is well respected in the restructuring and insolvency field, and he regularly features in high-profile cases in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. He exhibits pronounced capability in both domestic cases and sophisticated international liquidations.

Strengths:

"Marcus is brilliant in providing great support on difficult matters."

"Marcus is an extremely bright lawyer with a sense of calm. He is very commercial and understanding of client needs."

Charlotte Cooke Charlotte Cooke is a respected insolvency barrister who routinely receives instructions in major disputes which often contain an offshore element. She is singled out as a junior who is well equipped to handle sophisticated cases on behalf of both private individuals and large corporations. She frequently appears before the courts at all levels, up to and including the Supreme Court, and has experience acting unled in the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"She's across all the details, super efficient, has great insights and is a pleasure to work with."

"Charlotte is a subtle operator; she is calm and methodical in her approach."

Adam Goodison Adam Goodison is a well-established practitioner who frequently acts in restructuring and business disputes on behalf

of an impressive range of clients. He is habitually instructed by state governments and office holders in addition to corporations and trustees.

Strengths:

"He is an all-round superstar."

Georgina Peters Georgina Peters receives extensive praise for her restructuring and insolvency practice. She has expertise in litigation arising out of the collapse of major banks and financial services companies. She also offers expertise in schemes of arrangement concerning foreign companies.

Strengths:

"She is very user-friendly, smart and thoughtful."

William Willson William Willson is a well-regarded junior with a broad restructuring and insolvency practice. He is experienced in the handling of complex schemes of arrangement, CVAs and trials of liquidator claims, and frequently appears as sole counsel in proceedings before the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"He is very well regarded in complex fraud and insolvency matters."

"He is exceptional – very hard-working, intelligent and a good team player."

"William Willson has obvious star quality."

Clara Johnson Clara Johnson is a junior with a flourishing practice who is well acquainted with the full gamut of insolvency cases. She regularly handles instructions on behalf of office holders, directors, bankrupts and creditors, among others. Her corporate insolvency expertise encompasses cases concerning wrongful trading claims, misfeasance and breach of fiduciary duty. She is experienced in the handling of cases that involve obtaining injunctive relief, freezing orders and orders for disclosure. She is also adept at handling suspension of discharge issues in personal insolvency cases.

Strengths:

"Clara is clever and technical, with great client-handling skills."

"She is very good on her feet, has really good delivery in court and is quick to see the angles of opportunity."

"She's very good at cutting through the noise to get to the finer detail."

Ryan Perkins Ryan Perkins has a growing reputation in the restructuring and insolvency field. He is regularly instructed in corporate insolvencies as well as commercial trials, and has been involved in several high-profile administrations and liquidations. His broader expertise encompasses banking, general commercial litigation, company law and contentious trusts matters.

Strengths:

"Ryan is an absolute rising star in the insolvency and restructuring world."

"He knows the scheme and restructuring plan case law inside out and thinks outside the box."

"He is phenomenally clever and has the quality of good judgement."

"He has encyclopedic knowledge of case law but is also very commercial."

Henry Phillips Henry Phillips is a respected junior experienced in the handling of both domestic and cross-border insolvency and restructuring matters. He has particular expertise in advi-

sory work concerning IVAs and CVAs, as well as cases involving complex schemes of arrangement. Recently, Phillips has advised on a number of high-profile administrations and liquidations including energy companies and large retailers.

Strengths:

"Henry is a really able junior whose oral and written work is strong."

"He is incredibly efficient at cutting through complex, novel areas of law."

Hannah Thornley Hannah Thornley is a litigation expert who receives instructions from a broad range of clients, among whom she is able to count the Secretary of State. She is highly commended for her technical aptitude and pragmatic approach.

Strengths:

"She is a very impressive advocate."

Matthew Abraham Matthew Abraham is a junior barrister noted for his expert handling of complex and high-profile restructurings and bankruptcies. He has experience acting for a range of clients in proceedings relating to both corporate and personal insolvencies.

Strengths:

"Matthew is very easy to work with and is highly responsive."

"He provides sound advice and is good to work with."

"He is very impressive on his feet."

Robert Amey Robert Amey impresses for his practice encompassing personal and corporate insolvency proceedings. He is often instructed in matters relating to household names and cross-jurisdictional issues.

Strengths:

"He is able to provide actionable, practical advice in relation to the transaction at hand."

"The quality of his intellect, analysis and extensive knowledge of insolvency law across many jurisdictions is hugely impressive."

Oliver Hyams Oliver Hyams is a commercial barrister with noted expertise in fraud and insolvency. Hyams is frequently instructed by insurers, lenders and officeholders in relation to breach of duty and wrongful trading.

Strengths:

"His dedication and enthusiasm when working on complex matters is second to none."

"Oliver is really bright and on the ball."

Edoardo Lupi Edoardo Lupi is an up-and-coming junior with an impressive restructuring and insolvency practice. He is known for his work in domestic and cross-border proceedings.

Strengths:

"Edoardo is a very promising junior."

"He is very knowledgeable on everything to do with insolvency, and his written work is excellent."

"He is a real rising star in the field."

Band 2

Erskine Chambers

Erskine Chambers is highly regarded for its broad expertise spanning the full range of insolvency and restructuring matters. Drawing on the set's recognised strengths in banking and finance, the set is noted as "advising on the most complex and

high-value matters.” It is considered a top choice in the market for complex cases arising out of the collapse of financial institutions, and members are regularly instructed to act on behalf of bondholders and security holders in high-value disputes. Additional areas of expertise for the team include retail CVAs, international corporate restructurings and cross-border insolvencies, including those involving difficult jurisdictional issues. The set’s tenants are frequently instructed in the most high-profile cases in the market, and have experience appearing before the Court of Appeal, the Privy Council and the Supreme Court. In the past year members have continued to advise on high-profile CVAs including the challenge against the New Look CVA and the successful challenge of Re Regis UK. Members also advised Signal Credit on its claim to challenge the USD1 billion restructuring of the Galapagos Group.

Client service:

“The clerking team is brilliant. Alex Calder is a pleasure to deal with.”

“They have a can-do approach and adopt a flexible attitude.”

“The clerks are very responsive and are also particularly understanding when it comes to the uncertainty over dates for hearings.”

The clerking team is led by senior clerk Phil Reeves.

SILKS

Peter Arden KC Peter Arden KC is a prominent insolvency silk who excels in international insolvency matters. He is highly popular with a range of clients, notably those in the financial sector. He is noted for his handling of cases involving sophisticated company law issues, such as corporate governance and capital maintenance. He is also adept at handling matters involving issues relating to complex financial instruments and securities.

Strengths:

“He is a very technical, excellent lawyer.”

David Chivers KC David Chivers KC remains an esteemed practitioner who offers expert counsel and representation to clients across a range of areas, with an emphasis on company law and commercial restructuring and insolvency. He has vast experience handling complex matters at both the domestic and international levels. He has represented clients at all levels of the court system, and is no stranger to the Privy Council and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“His commercial awareness is unparalleled.”

“David is an excellent all-round insolvency lawyer, both in court and on paper.”

“David’s intelligence and brilliant advocacy are clear, but it is his approachability which is his key strength.”

Raquel Agnello KC Raquel Agnello KC is a distinguished silk who receives widespread commendation for her sharp mind and commercial sense. She has a particularly strong reputation in the areas of personal and corporate insolvency and pensions. She has a wealth of experience representing clients at all levels of the UK court system.

Strengths:

“Raquel is certainly a go-to silk for ‘bet the com-

pany’-type cases, a decision made easier because she is a complete joy to work with.”

“She is very knowledgeable, ultra client-friendly, practical and commercial.”

James Potts KC James Potts KC is a highly respected dispute resolution specialist who focuses his practice on insolvency and company law. His busy caseload features both contentious and non-contentious work, and he is particularly well versed in the area of misfeasance claims. He is also regularly instructed in administrations, winding-up petitions and voluntary arrangements. He has a fine track record in overseas litigation while regularly appearing in domestic courts.

Strengths:

“He is always very responsive, with very clear and helpful advice.”

Andrew Thompson KC Andrew Thompson KC is recognised for his expertise in director misfeasance and contentious insolvency matters. He has experience appearing in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“Andrew is a brilliant advocate on his feet. His advocacy is so smooth and he presents everything in a crystal-clear way.”

“He is a delight in terms of his user-friendliness. He treats all members of the team, from trainee up to partner, with the utmost courtesy.”

“He is a go-to for anything director’s duty.”

JUNIORS

Ben Griffiths Ben Griffiths has a broad insolvency practice featuring both litigious and advisory work. He specialises in corporate insolvency and, in recent years, has appeared in some of the highest-profile cases in the market. He regularly appears in the High Court, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Privy Council.

Strengths:

“He is a calm and level-headed barrister.”

“Ben has an excellent knowledge of company and insolvency.”

“He has judgement and a succinct way of getting to the heart of technical issues.”

Benjamin Shaw KC Benjamin Shaw KC is held in high regard for his corporate insolvency and restructuring expertise, with additional strengths in company law and general commercial litigation matters. He is regularly instructed in high-profile and large-scale insolvencies, with experience handling both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Strengths:

“He is easy to work with and provides sound advice.”

Maitland Chambers

Maitland Chambers is recognised as “one of the leading sets for restructuring and insolvency work,” housing a strong bench of barristers experienced in a wide range of restructuring and insolvency matters. Members are regularly instructed in major domestic and cross-border corporate insolvencies, liquidations and administrations, and act for a diverse client base including both secured and unsecured creditors, insolvency practitioners and corporations. The set also offers considerable expertise in personal insolvency

matters, and members are routinely instructed to represent insolvent individuals. Over the past year, members of chambers have continued to act in high-profile restructuring and insolvency proceedings, including Lehman Brothers and London Capital & Finance.

Client service:

“Senior clerk John Wiggs is great. He is very approachable, very effective, very responsive and good with budgets.”

“Robert Penson is the perfect clerk – really nice, so organised and responsive. He goes above and beyond.”

“All of the clerks are extremely responsive and user-friendly.”

SILKS

Catherine Addy KC Catherine Addy KC enjoys a number of prestigious appointments, including as a deputy Insolvency and Companies Court judge. She exhibits skill across the full range of insolvency matters, and has been regularly instructed by government departments including HMRC, the Attorney General and the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Strengths:

“Catherine is superb. What she doesn’t know about insolvency law isn’t worth knowing.”

“She is absolutely delightful and enjoys an excellent reputation in the market.”

“She thinks strategically about how to approach a case and has an assured and confident manner as an advocate.”

Rebecca Stubbs KC Rebecca Stubbs KC appears in high-profile matters, regularly representing clients in the Supreme Court and before the Privy Council. She is recognised for her broad-based experience and expertise in the field.

Strengths:

“She’s a great team player as well as an excellent leader.”

“She really gets on top of the detail, and delivers clear and compelling advice on the most challenging of points.”

Matthew Collings KC Matthew Collings KC is a highly proficient practitioner who demonstrates great skill in offshore insolvency matters. He routinely handles cases that are complex, high-value and high-profile. He has significant trial and appellate experience.

Strengths:

“He is a very fine and nimble-footed barrister.”

Michael Gibbon KC Michael Gibbon KC draws on his prior experience as a financier to inform his highly regarded insolvency practice. He is well known for his adept representation of stakeholders in commercial insolvency cases, while his key clients, HMRC and BIS, continue to benefit from his expertise. His broad practice encompasses both non-contentious and contentious matters.

Strengths:

“The safest of safe pair of hands.”

“He’s very responsive, user-friendly, technically very strong and an effective advocate.”

Christopher Parker KC Christopher Parker KC is a commercial chancery silk with a strong following for contentious work in the insolvency and fraud arenas. Commentators note his technical excel-

lence and down-to-earth approach. His additional expertise in company law includes cases concerning breach of fiduciary duty and shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

"His command of the subject matter, his directness and his ability to assimilate information and provide proactive advice are first rate."

JUNIORS

Rebecca Page Rebecca Page regularly handles major cases in the High Court and Court of Appeal. She boasts experience in cross-border insolvencies in the British Virgin Islands. She is experienced in the handling of negligence claims both for and against insolvency practitioners.

Strengths:

"She is a strong junior with a very calm and measured advocacy style."

"She is thorough and excellent to work with."

"Rebecca has a fantastic ability to be all over the detail while also being able to step back and offer a strategic overview."

Olivier Kalfon Olivier Kalfon offers a broad practice with notable strength in the areas of insolvency, banking and finance, and dispute resolution. He is able to draw on his merchant banking background to provide expert technical advice concerning financial litigation. Sources hail his skilled advocacy and composure in cases.

Strengths:

"He's excellent on the papers and giving oral advice. He is also excellent in front of a judge."

Rowena Page Rowena Page is a talented junior who is regularly instructed in matters in the High Court and county courts. She has experience acting for office holders on a range of corporate and personal insolvency matters.

Strengths:

"She quickly gets to grip with a case and thinks of all angles."

"She is good on her feet."

Rosanna Foskett Rosanna Foskett is a noted junior with experience in both corporate and personal insolvency matters, including administration and breach of duty. She often advises on insolvency matters with civil fraud and international asset recovery aspects.

Strengths:

"Rosanna can deliver appropriately practical advice at a level that's technically complex but broken down to understandable concepts."

"She's really practical, pragmatic and client-friendly."

"Rosanna is a great advocate, really good on paper and on her feet."

4 Stone Buildings

4 Stone Buildings is highly regarded as a "heavyweight go-to insolvency set, particularly for complex matters." The set houses a strong bench of experienced barristers who have considerable experience appearing in high-profile disputes. The set's appearance in *Byers v Saudi National Bank*, heard at the Supreme Court, is a standout example. Drawing on the set's established strength in company law, members are also well regarded for their adroit handling of non-contentious restructurings and complex directors'

disqualification cases, as well as prominence in the market for their "strength of knowledge of personal insolvency matters." The set is routinely instructed to act for and advise the government on an array of insolvency-related matters, and several of its junior members are on the Attorney General's A Panels.

Client service:

"4 Stone Buildings always provides excellent service. First junior clerk Ben Lashmar is helpful, proactive and experienced."

"Ryan Tunkel, second junior clerk, is brilliant. He's measured but his client service is really at the forefront."

"The clerks are very responsive: invariably quick to respond to emails and keen to assist with any queries or questions."

David Goddard is the set's senior clerk.

SILKS

Jonathan Crow KC Jonathan Crow KC manages a busy caseload, splitting his time evenly between commercial and public law litigation. He frequently appears in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and ECtHR. His impressive roster of clients includes public authorities in addition to private clients.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is one of the best advocates at the Bar."

"Jonathan has done some of the biggest cases of our time; he is a legendary figure."

"He is calm and assured, a polished advocate."

George Bompas KC George Bompas KC is a leading insolvency practitioner who is recognised for his expert handling of major, sophisticated insolvency disputes alongside his significant experience in ADR proceedings. He is regularly called upon to assist with international matters and multimillion-pound claims. He is frequently instructed in overseas cases in Hong Kong, Singapore, Trinidad, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

Strengths:

"He has a stellar reputation at the Bar."

"George is hugely experienced and very commercial."

Andrew de Mestre KC Andrew de Mestre KC has considerable experience across the full gamut of restructuring and insolvency law. He regularly acts on behalf of an array of clients, including bondholders, issuers and corporate trustees, and routinely appears as sole counsel in high-profile cases. He is particularly well regarded for his expertise in litigation arising from securitisation transactions and other bond issues.

Strengths:

"His exceptional and wide knowledge of legal concepts means that he is able to anticipate arguments that may arise and provide accurate and good strategic advice from the outset."

"Andrew is very responsive, has an excellent client manner and delivers his advice with enough clarity for lay clients to be able to understand it."

"He is top-drawer: very user-friendly and phenomenally bright."

John Brisby KC John Brisby KC has substantial experience advising on big-ticket litigation. He has appeared before the courts of the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Bermuda, among others. He also

sits as a deputy High Court judge.

Strengths:

"He is such an effective cross-examiner."

Richard Hill KC Richard Hill KC is highly sought after by an array of clients for his extensive expertise in complex insolvency disputes and for his specialist insight into various forms of ADR. His established restructuring and insolvency practice is further complemented by deep knowledge across civil fraud, commercial and company law. He is frequently instructed by bondholders and bond trustees, and is noted as an authority in contentious restructurings.

Strengths:

"Richard is a trusted adviser with a vast breadth of knowledge in respect of insolvency matters."

"He is a relentless advocate who presents cases succinctly and effectively."

Sharif Shivji KC Sharif Shivji KC is highly sought after for his expertise in insolvency disputes and wider commercial capabilities. He is particularly adept at handling matters arising from the collapse of financial institutions, and his broad experience covers both domestic and offshore insolvencies.

Strengths:

"He is very smart and switched on. We can rely on Sharif's advice to get good results."

"He is incredibly bright, and his background in banking gives him the edge in cases."

JUNIORS

Tiran Nersessian Tiran Nersessian habitually attracts instructions from both private clients and government officials owing to his strong track record in this area. His flourishing practice regularly sees him appearing as sole counsel in cases up to the Court of Appeal. His experience encompasses both corporate and personal insolvency litigation. He is particularly adept at handling cases concerning directors' disqualification and high-value contractual claims.

Strengths:

"He is very impressive, methodical, diligent and hard-working."

"He quickly gets to the heart of the matter and is an extremely practical barrister, providing advice which is proportionate to the case."

"He is a very sound, capable and experienced lawyer."

Christopher Harrison Christopher Harrison has developed a highly regarded insolvency practice which is complemented by his wider strength in chancery commercial matters. He features regularly in high-profile cross-border cases and complex shareholder disputes. He is known for his expertise in obtaining freezing injunctions and also practises as a barrister in the Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands.

Strengths:

"He is a very bright barrister, and for someone so technical, he is also very commercial and well liked by clients."

"Christopher has a lot of gravitas, is very bright and has a great feeling for what is going to change a judge's mind."

"He is a very thorough and measured advocate."

Donald Lilly Donald Lilly is an impressive performer in insolvency proceedings, particularly

those regarding the estates of well-known individuals. He is experienced in working on behalf of trustees, administrators and governments, often appearing without a leader.

Strengths:

"He is a strong advocate, both on paper and on his feet."

"Donald is very approachable and is really good in front of clients."

Anna Markham Anna Markham is regularly instructed in significant insolvency and company law matters. She has a strong reputation for her skill and style as an advocate, and has appeared both for and against government departments in a range of insolvency-related disputes. Her areas of expertise include public winding-up petitions and disqualification proceedings.

Strengths:

"She is a great advocate."

Band 3

Enterprise Chambers

Enterprise Chambers is a highly regarded set for restructuring and insolvency matters, and is regularly instructed to appear in complex cross-border disputes. The set houses a strong bench of barristers at both senior and junior levels who are noted for their "excellent range of experience across all manner of insolvency matters." Areas of expertise for the team include directors' misfeasance and disqualification claims, challenges to office holders' remuneration, corporate insolvencies and HMRC winding-up proceedings. Members act for a wide range of clients including administrators, liquidators, financial institutions and insolvency practitioners. The set has recently advised a class of sub-postmasters regarding the Post Office Horizon scandal, in particular advising successfully on strategy to prevent insolvency officers taking compensation for fees and expenses. Members of chambers also continue to act for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme regarding winding-up proceedings in the High Court against foreign-registered companies involved in a multimillion-pound fraud.

Client service:

"Senior clerk Michael Ireland is very professional and commercial."

"They provide excellent and friendly clerking."

"The clerks are very personable and willing to go the extra mile."

SILKS

Stephen Davies KC Stephen Davies KC is a highly experienced silk fielding considerable expertise in a wide range of restructuring and insolvency matters. He is adept at acting for a wide range of stakeholders in insolvency litigation and is regularly instructed in high-profile and complex cases.

Strengths:

"He is fantastic in both written and oral submissions on technical insolvency disputes."

James Pickering KC James Pickering KC is a highly sought-after practitioner at the insolvency Bar who regularly handles high-profile, multimillion-pound disputes. His areas of expertise include guarantee claims and fraud trials, along-

side proceedings arising out of cryptocurrency debt. He acts for a diverse portfolio of clients that include administrators, liquidators and lenders.

Strengths:

"He is very effective in getting both the moral and the legal narrative of cases across to judges."

"He is very good at advocacy and very much a silk that you would want to go out for a beer with as well."

JUNIORS

Kavan Gunaratna Kavan Gunaratna advises primarily on insolvency matters with a commercial or property slant. His broad practice also encompasses chancery and commercial matters. He is well liked by clients, who applaud his intelligence and top-quality advocacy. He is a popular choice for local government bodies and counts major banks and lenders among his clients.

Strengths:

"He has a very smooth advocacy style that is so persuasive."

"He is just a brilliant lawyer in every way, a rising star the insolvency Bar."

"The go-to expert on property-related insolvency matters."

Niall McCulloch Niall McCulloch concentrates his practice on company insolvency. He regularly handles both domestic and international matters, appearing in domestic courts such as the Court of Appeal and the High Court, as well as in the British Virgin Islands. He regularly acts for liquidators in actions brought against directors.

Strengths:

"Incredibly bright and commercially astute, he is impressive on his feet and absolutely willing to fight tooth and nail for the client."

"Niall has a great strategic mind and is first choice for a hard-fought claim against directors."

"He has a very calming presence in court which tends to endear him well with the judge."

Hugo Groves Hugo Groves handles a mixed caseload featuring both company and insolvency litigation. His recent instructions include claims against directors and shareholder disputes. He is also adept at handling freezing order applications and claims based on failed tax avoidance schemes. He draws on his expertise as a qualified New York attorney in cases with a cross-border element involving the USA.

Strengths:

"He is focused, user-friendly and knowledgeable."

James Davies James Davies is particularly adept at handling cross-border insolvency issues. With expertise spanning both corporate and personal insolvency, Davies has notable experience in bankruptcy and winding-up petitions as well as in applications to remove office holders.

Strengths:

"He is absolutely fantastic; his written work is excellent."

"James Davies is excellent at getting to grips with complex matters and presenting them in a straightforward way."

Madeline Dixon Madeline Dixon is a talented commercial chancery barrister who is regularly instructed in both corporate and personal insolvency proceedings. She has experience acting for insolvency office holders and private individuals,

and is well versed in winding-up petitions, disputed bankruptcies and cases involving allegations of misfeasance.

Strengths:

"She is precise, clear and technical in her written work."

"Her advocacy skills are superb to watch, and her approach with solicitor and client is impeccable."

"She has keen attention to detail and raises technical legal points but also advises in a commercial context."

Amit Gupta Amit Gupta regularly acts on officer misfeasance case, often involving some aspects of fraud. He is instructed on behalf of a broad client base of liquidators, administrators and companies.

Strengths:

"Amit is an excellent advocate who delivers his point in a clear and concise way."

Simon Johnson Simon Johnson is a well-regarded junior experienced in the handling of both corporate and personal insolvencies. He acts for a broad range of clients, including creditors, debtors and insolvency office holders, and is regularly called upon to defend challenges to office holder appointments.

Strengths:

"His ability to assimilate complex details is incredible."

"He is a really measured and delightful advocate. He never gets flustered and puts his arguments across well."

Geoffrey Zelin Geoffrey Zelin remains a popular choice for big-ticket insolvency cases, accepting instructions from a broad client base including liquidators, receivers and administrators. His corporate insolvency expertise includes cases concerning asset recovery claims, professional negligence claims and retrospective administration orders.

Strengths:

"He is incisive and perceptive."

Mairi Innes Mairi Innes is an up-and-coming junior with commercial and insolvency litigation expertise. Both led and unled, she is often instructed by trustees in bankruptcy in related insolvency proceedings. She also has experience in winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"Mairi is a very safe pair of hands indeed. She cuts to the chase very well."

"She is absolutely on top of the details and excellent at preparing skeleton arguments."

Radcliffe Chambers

Radcliffe Chambers is lauded as "a one-stop shop for insolvency matters," offering expertise spanning a wide range of restructuring and insolvency matters, including both corporate and personal insolvencies. The set houses a strong bench of barristers with experience in the handling of liquidations and administrations, as well as CVAs and directors' disqualification matters. The team is regularly instructed in both domestic and multi-jurisdictional disputes, and its broad client base includes government bodies, financial institutions, major corporations and private individuals. Recent instructions include acting for the petitioner in a winding-up petition against Swindon

Town Football Club.

Client service:

"Lee Wright, deputy head of clerking, is one of the best clerks there is. He's quick at getting back to you and very good with fee negotiations as well as putting in place the right person for the job."

"The clerks at Radcliffe are amazing – always prompt to respond and to try and find a solution."

"The clerks are helpful, responsive and have a commercial approach to billing. There is always someone on hand to help."

John Clark is the head of clerking.

SILKS

Christopher Boardman KC Christopher Boardman KC undertakes the full scope of insolvency work, acting in both contentious and non-contentious cases. He is regularly instructed in both corporate and personal insolvencies. He is highly effective on cross-border matters and brings to bear his experience as an international derivatives trader when advising on technical financial cases.

Strengths:

"He is a good litigator and very effective on his feet. We use him for our most difficult cases."

"Christopher is an excellent advocate with a commanding presence."

"He is really on top of the case law and also has a very good manner before judges."

"He is excellent for strategy and has excellent judgement as well as being a fantastic advocate who is able to determine the key issues at an early stage."

David Mohyuddin KC David Mohyuddin KC has a notable insolvency practice complemented by wider company, commercial and chancery capabilities. He is popular with clients for his work on contentious cases, frequently advising on disputes surrounding liquidations and allegations of fraud arising from insolvency. He is also noted for his expertise in asset recovery.

Strengths:

"David clearly communicates complex legal issues in an easily digestible way and has no trouble with quickly getting to grips with difficult legal problems."

"He's thoughtful, concise and very thorough."

James Morgan KC James Morgan KC is an experienced silk with recognised expertise in the insolvency field. He has significant experience appearing before the High Court in complex proceedings, and displays strength in the handling of misfeasance claims and administrations.

Strengths:

"James has consistently demonstrated an extremely knowledgeable yet commercial approach."

"He is extremely strong in his analytical ability and presentation in court. He provides a great deal of assurance that he can deep dive and turn around an opinion with tight deadlines."

"He is a fantastic barrister and our favourite choice on complex matters."

Matthew Weaver KC Matthew Weaver KC is highly regarded for his broad insolvency expertise. His practice spans the gamut of contentious and non-contentious corporate and personal insolvency matters, and he is regularly instructed to act on behalf of creditors, administrators, liq-

uidators and trustees in bankruptcy, among other parties.

Strengths:

"Matthew knows the law inside and out; he can deliver solutions and answers that are often not thought about."

"Matthew is very bright, good on his feet and quickly grasps the commercial points as well as the legal points."

"He is polished in his delivery and written opinions and exceptional on his feet."

JUNIORS

Tina Kyriakides Tina Kyriakides is rated highly in the insolvency space, where she is noted for her pragmatism and flair in court. Her insolvency expertise is wide-ranging, including administration, voluntary arrangements and directors' disqualification proceedings. She has considerable experience representing clients in both corporate and personal insolvency cases. She also sits as a deputy Insolvency and Companies Court judge.

Strengths:

"She is approachable and fiercely intelligent, has very good attention to detail and has a wealth of knowledge."

"Her ability to pick up and condense the important issues in a very short period of time was impressive."

"She is an excellent advocate."

Reuben Comiskey Reuben Comiskey is an able junior with a strong grounding in commercial chancery matters. He is well placed to advise on both corporate and personal insolvency cases, and also offers significant expertise in fraud-related matters. He is particularly adept at handling misfeasance claims.

Strengths:

"He is always very dependable in understanding the nuance of the legal argument."

"Reuben is our go-to counsel on complex matters. He is intelligent and very strong technically."

"He is a very thorough, strong advocate."

Adam Deacock Adam Deacock handles the full spectrum of insolvency work. He regularly appears in court and offers expert counsel to a diverse range of clients in an advisory capacity. His areas of expertise include technical restructurings and litigation concerning high-value misfeasance and fraud. He is also well regarded for his expertise in pre-emptive remedies.

Strengths:

"He is very client-friendly and great on his feet."

"He is a very good advocate with a good eye for detail. He strives to clear up any uncertainty and has a very nice style in front of the judges."

Dawn McCambley Dawn McCambley enjoys a strong reputation in the insolvency arena, given her evident expertise in areas such as misfeasance, wrongful trading and transaction avoidance. She is notably strong in matters centring on fraud.

Strengths:

"Superb in her client handling and thorough in her approach."

"She is commercial and provides practical advice."

Kate Rogers Kate Rogers offers expertise in both corporate and personal insolvencies, and is regularly instructed in cases involving allegations of

misfeasance, wrongful trading and transactions at an undervalue. She has significant experience appearing before the High Court in contested winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"Kate is an outstanding barrister in all areas. Not only is her knowledge second to none, but she is also approachable and understanding."

"Her advocacy and written work are detailed, clear and comprehensive."

"Kate is a fantastic advocate who stays calm under pressure and is a force of nature in the courtroom."

Christopher Buckley Christopher Buckley is noted for his expert handling of both corporate and personal insolvencies. He is frequently instructed in contested administration applications, directors' disqualification proceedings and bankruptcy restriction orders. He has experience acting on behalf of a wide range of parties, including insolvent companies and individuals, creditors and insolvency office holders.

Strengths:

"His detailed knowledge of insolvency and real estate is rare in the market."

"He is very good – knowledgeable and always on top of the material."

"Christopher is really thoughtful, clever and calm."

Catherine Doran Catherine Doran garners a strong reputation for her corporate and personal insolvency practice and has particular expertise in directors' disqualification claims. She has a broad range of clients, with experience acting for administrators, directors and corporates.

Strengths:

"She is intelligent, very technical and has the ability to pick up on complex matters."

"Catherine is always a pleasure to work with. She is responsive, commercial and very experienced."

"She is an excellent advocate."

Katie Longstaff Katie Longstaff is a well-regarded junior with a broad corporate and personal insolvency practice. She fields particular expertise in cross-border matters and has significant experience acting as sole counsel for insolvency office holders, companies and individuals in the High Court.

Strengths:

"She is quick to pick up on complex matters and has excellent attention to detail."

"She can handle complex matters and provides useful, practical advice which our clients appreciate."

"She is my go-to insolvency barrister. Her technical ability is just second to none."

3 Verulam Buildings

3 Verulam Buildings is noted as having "very strong expertise across the set in banking and insolvency litigation." The set is well regarded for its handling of contentious commercial insolvencies, and its tenants are regularly called upon to act for insolvency practitioners in high-value, cross-border recovery actions. 3VB's representation of Lehman Brothers Holdings in ongoing disputes about the distribution of surpluses within the Lehman estate is one such example. Members were also instructed by Dubai Islamic Bank and Noor Bank to defend their interests in litigation

arising out of the collapse of NMC Healthcare.

Client service:

Stephen Penson and Stuart Pullum, joint senior practice managers, “provide a very smooth pleasant and professional experience. When there is a problem, they will find a solution.” “The clerking team are approachable and always willing to help.”

SILKS

Adrian Beltrami KC Adrian Beltrami KC acts for insolvency clients as part of his broader commercial practice, which also encompasses banking, financial services and fraud. He is known for his expertise in handling domestic work, while he is equally adept at handling multi-jurisdictional concerns.

Strengths:

“Adrian is a real superstar. He has great judgement and great court presence.”

“He is extremely bright and also an excellent advocate.”

Ewan McQuater KC Ewan McQuater KC is a renowned barrister who is regularly instructed in big-ticket insolvency cases. His broader areas of associated expertise include commercial dispute resolution and civil fraud, among others. He is adept at handling matters with an offshore slant, regularly appearing in courts in the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and the Isle of Man.

Strengths:

“Ewan is a go-to silk for heavyweight cases, hugely experienced in complex trial cases, very strategic and strong in court – including in cross-examination.”

“Once he is in full flow, he is the most amazing advocate to sit and listen to.”

Matthew Hardwick KC Matthew Hardwick KC is roundly praised by market commentators for his strength in court and his client service. He habitually appears in both contentious cases and non-contentious insolvency matters for a diverse range of clients. He is a go-to for offshore insolvencies and has noted experience handling disputes in the British Virgin Islands.

Strengths:

“Matthew is an incredibly strong advocate.”

“He is super responsive, extremely hard-working, very flexible and always finds time for us.”

“He is off the chart in terms of the detail he goes into; he is very thorough.”

Jamie Riley KC Jamie Riley KC is especially well regarded in the area of corporate insolvency. He is equally adept at handling domestic and offshore cases, and has featured in a number of significant matters. He is regularly instructed by international investment funds and leading banks, predominantly appearing in the High Court.

Strengths:

“He can convey complex messages in a clear, concise and compelling way and he is a great trial lawyer.”

JUNIORS

Philip Hinks Philip Hinks is an esteemed barrister with a broad-ranging practice. He regularly handles high-value, major insolvency disputes, demonstrating particular skill in matters con-

taining a fraud element. His insolvency practice is complemented by his broader expertise in financial services matters.

Strengths:

“He is pragmatic, gets to the heart of an issue and is easy to work with.”

Angharad Start Angharad Start is a junior who is recognised for her high-quality contribution to a number of high-profile insolvency cases. She demonstrates expertise across the board, regularly acting in matters such as shareholder disputes, wrongful trading litigation and misfeasance claims. She is called on by a diverse client base that includes large corporates, banks and government bodies.

Strengths:

“She is very thorough, commercial and thinks outside the box.”

William Day William Day is an exceptionally well-regarded up-and-coming junior adept at advising on a range of insolvency proceedings. He has been instructed on liquidations, administrations and bankruptcies which often involve unusual and novel issues. Recent instructions have also seen Day appear at all levels up to the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“Clients really like him and he is very sought after to provide an expert opinion.”

“He is just a natural.”

“He is extremely bright and very competent. He is a go-to junior.”

Wilberforce Chambers

Wilberforce Chambers is noted for its impressive work tackling both corporate and personal insolvency matters. Members are frequently called upon to undertake cases arising both in the UK and further afield, and offer significant expertise in the handling of complex multi-jurisdictional disputes. Market commentators note that “the barristers at Wilberforce are highly intelligent and extremely capable” and “have good experience on a range of insolvency matters,” with particular areas of strength for the set spanning administrations, CVAs, restructurings and schemes of arrangement. The team is also regularly instructed in cases involving complex pensions and property elements, owing to the set’s established strengths in these areas. An enviable client list includes creditors, debtors and insolvency office holders. Recent cases of note include defending a former director against wrongful trading and misfeasance claims worth over £160 million in relation to the collapse of BHS.

Client service:

Practice director Nicholas Luckman “is very good at what he does, listens to the solicitor, is responsive and cares about the relationship.”

“They are always communicative in clear, efficient terms and have a ready and commercial approach to an instructing solicitor’s needs.”

“The clerks’ room is brilliant. They are really responsive and friendly.”

SILKS

Lexa Hilliard KC Lexa Hilliard KC is an esteemed practitioner offering an impressive breadth of experience and expertise across all areas of insol-

veny law. She regularly takes instruction at both the domestic and international levels and has been instructed in relation to several offshore disputes in the Caribbean, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Her respected practice focuses predominantly on advisory work.

Strengths:

“She’s very good – approachable and personable as well as being an exceptional barrister.”

“She has a brilliant legal mind relating to cross-border insolvency, and her written analysis is impressive.”

“Lexa is brilliant: clear, concise and reads the court well.”

Marcia Shekerdeman KC Marcia Shekerdeman KC is regularly approached by clients seeking advice on corporate and personal insolvency cases. She has carved out a niche in the area of fraud and asset recovery work, and regularly acts in cross-border cases. She represents a variety of clients including directors, debtors, office holders and lenders.

Strengths:

“She is a fantastic KC who leads from the front and seamlessly handles defensive and offensive litigation.”

“Marcia is our first choice in all contentious matters – a first-rate litigator and always first-rate on tactics and the court system.”

“Marcia is very easy to work with and an expert on insolvency matters.”

James Bailey KC James Bailey KC is a well-regarded silk who has a strong practice encompassing commercial chancery, company and insolvency law. He frequently plays a key role in major, high-profile cases. He is frequently involved in cases concerning misfeasance and wrongful trading claims, and has considerable expertise in handling contentious recovery work.

Strengths:

“He is absolutely outstanding, his advocacy in particular and the way he deals with issues on his feet – he reads the room of the court very well.”

“He’s fantastic; his submissions are very analytical.”

Clare Stanley KC Clare Stanley KC is noted for her broad expertise covering trusts, company, fraud and insolvency. Stanley is often instructed on high-value, offshore insolvency matters across the Cayman Islands, Jersey and Guernsey, with a particular focus on proceedings involving complex offshore structures and asset tracing.

Strengths:

“She’s very responsive and gets to the point very quickly.”

“She’s excellent in court and is always very well prepared.”

JUNIORS

Thomas Robinson Thomas Robinson is well known for his adept representation of clients including the Pensions Regulator and continues to be a popular choice for international insolvency matters. He has experience appearing before the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“He invests himself in all aspects of a case and is on top of all of the points from the get-go.”

“Tom is incredibly bright, always calm and elo-

quent, has a great team ethic and is an absolute fighter.”

“He is absolutely superb.”

Daniel Lewis Daniel Lewis is highly popular in the market for his advocacy style and personable manner. He undertakes wide-ranging insolvency work, with a particular emphasis on claims arising from participation in tax avoidance schemes. He is also well regarded for his handling of professional negligence claims both for and against insolvency office holders. He is noted for his expertise in international insolvency matters.

Strengths:

“He is very responsive, his drafting is excellent, and he is very commercial and very knowledgeable on this area of law.”

“He is an assured advocate, and his advice and knowledge of the insolvency courts fills you with confidence.”

Sri Carmichael Sri Carmichael is regularly instructed in both corporate and personal insolvency matters. She fields considerable expertise in contentious insolvencies and has experience handling complex cases involving claims brought against directors.

Strengths:

“She’s very, very good on her feet and has excellent client-handling skills.”

“She is a great team player, always helpful and knowledgeable in her field of insolvency.”

“Sri is a fantastic junior who continues to perform to a very high standard in all areas of her practice.”

Rachael Earle Rachael Earle garners recognition for her individual and corporate insolvency practice, often bringing and defending claims against insolvency practitioners. She regularly defends office holders from claims of misfeasance or in relation to remuneration challenges.

Strengths:

“Rachael is tenacious, driven and a great advocate.”

“She is an excellent advocate and a go-to on all insolvency matters.”

“She is knowledgeable and determined to go above and beyond for her clients.”

Bobby Friedman Bobby Friedman has a broad commercial chancery practice which encompasses civil fraud, company and insolvency disputes. He is regularly instructed in both domestic and offshore matters, and is called in the British Virgin Islands.

Strengths:

“He had a really easy, charming way about his submissions that kept the focus on the main issue.”

“Bobby works exceptionally well with solicitors and their teams at all levels. All in all, he is a great package of talent and he ticks so many boxes that you would always want him on your side.”

“He has an ability to cut through a case and focus on which stone to pick up and which stone to leave.”

and contentious insolvencies. The set acts for a diverse client base which includes administrators, liquidators, trustees and lenders. Cross-border insolvencies are a key area of strength for the team, and its members have experience appearing before the courts in several offshore jurisdictions such as the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands. The set has continued to attract high-profile, international instructions including advising a consortium of investors into a travel company in the Genting group as well as advising on proceedings relating to the £1 billion bankruptcy of high net worth individual Vijay Mallya.

Client service:

“They are excellent, and always available on direct email or phone.”

Arron Zitver, Christopher Theobald and Anthony Carroll are the practice directors.

SILKS

Stephen Atherton KC Stephen Atherton KC is a highly experienced silk who routinely tackles both domestic and cross-border matters. He excels in cases containing fraud elements and is a familiar face in offshore jurisdictions. He counts trustees, liquidators and administrators among his varied clientele.

Strengths:

“Stephen is simultaneously mind-blowingly clever and incredibly down to earth.”

“Very strong both on and off his feet.”

“The extent of his insolvency knowledge is phenomenal.”

Blair Leahy KC Blair Leahy KC has a practice centred on international and domestic insolvencies. She remains popular among clients for cases involving allegations of fraud and breach of duty. She frequently features in high-profile cases in the Supreme Court and Privy Council, and has appeared as sole counsel in major misfeasance trials.

Strengths:

“We go to her for her commercial judgement.”

“Blair is very much on top of the detail and is also a good leader.”

“She is incredibly intelligent and gives her work a forensic quality.”

Tony Beswetherick KC Tony Beswetherick KC concentrates his busy practice on corporate and personal insolvency cases, demonstrating particular prowess in those containing a fraud element. He counts administrators, liquidators and lenders among his clients.

Strengths:

“He gives clear advice and is well respected in the insolvency field.”

“He is very approachable and user-friendly.”

“He’s very clear and very good at explaining concepts simply.”

XXIV Old Buildings

XXIV Old Buildings offers expertise in both domestic and international insolvency matters, and its members are highly regarded for their handling of cases arising in offshore jurisdictions such as the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Isle of Man. Areas of expertise for the team include complex administrations,

liquidations and both company and individual voluntary arrangements. The set’s barristers are also well versed in directors’ disqualification proceedings and asset tracing and recovery matters. Over the past 12 months, barristers at the set have continued to be instructed on prominent offshore insolvency matters including *Carlyle Capital Corporation Limited (in liquidation) & Others v Conway & Others* concerning a number of alleged breaches including of fiduciary duties in the failure of a hedge fund.

Client service:

“The clerking team are good to work with, very responsive and look after you.”

“The team are very efficient.”

Paul Horsfield is head of clerking.

SILKS

Stephen Moverley Smith KC Stephen Moverley Smith KC attracts major international instructions owing to his deep experience in cross-border matters. He frequently appears in courts in the British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands, as well as the Privy Council. He has a particularly robust reputation in the area of offshore work and trusts.

Strengths:

“He is a top-drawer silk.”

Alan Steinfeld KC Alan Steinfeld KC stands out for his active practice in offshore jurisdictions, notably the British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. He also routinely advises clients in significant domestic litigation.

Strengths:

“He’s an absolute bedrock of legal advice.”

JUNIORS

Stuart Adair Stuart Adair is a popular choice for clients seeking high-quality advice on both contentious and non-contentious matters in the insolvency arena. He is frequently instructed in the most litigious disputes and has expertise in cases concerning claims of misfeasance, fraudulent trading and setting aside prior transactions.

Strengths:

“He is excellent in court, especially in cross-examination. He is always immaculately prepared and able to identify issues others have missed.”

Hugh Miall Hugh Miall is a well-regarded junior with a broad insolvency and restructuring practice spanning both contentious and non-contentious work. He is particularly adept at advising on cross-border matters and foreign insolvencies. He also offers expertise in asset recovery after bankruptcy or liquidation, claims involving antecedent transactions and misfeasance, IVAs and CVAs, and winding-up proceedings.

Strengths:

“He is excellent in written work and on his feet.”

Serle Court

Serle Court is a highly regarded set for insolvency and restructuring matters, and is well positioned to handle cases arising in offshore jurisdictions such as the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean. Members are regularly instructed in both contentious and non-contentious matters, and are well versed in corporate and personal insolvencies. Insolvency litigation involving allegations of fraud is also a key area of

Band 4

Twenty Essex

Twenty Essex is noted as “a very strong set on technical and complex matters,” regularly advising on both complex restructuring schemes

strength for the set, drawing on the set's enviable reputation in civil fraud matters, and its barristers have experience appearing before both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. Recent cases of note include advising individuals on the insolvency aspects in relation to the Post Office IT scandal while also continuing to act for the administrators of Lehman Brothers.

Client service:

"All the clerks I have dealt with are very efficient and helpful."

Nicholas Hockney is the practice director.

SILKS

Philip Jones KC Philip Jones KC is a well-known advocate who is highly praised by market commentators for the breadth of his expertise, encompassing insolvency, fraud and financial services. He remains a particularly popular choice in complex offshore insolvency cases and counts government departments among his diverse clientele. His additional expertise in company law encompasses cases concerning directors' disqualification proceedings and winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"He is a star."

Philip Marshall KC Philip Marshall KC is an impressive silk who routinely receives instructions in offshore cases in addition to complex domestic disputes. He frequently appears as an expert witness in foreign courts concerning English law issues and in arbitrations before the LCIA and ICC. He is highly recommended for his strength in restructuring and insolvency matters, which is buttressed by wider expertise in areas such as company, civil fraud and banking.

Strengths:

"He goes to the heart of the matter and is very thorough."

Daniel Lightman KC Daniel Lightman KC is widely admired for his vast experience and adept representation of all parties in bankruptcy and insolvency cases. He has experience representing litigants in disputes with insolvency office holders and is noted for his expertise advising on cases involving a novel or unusual point of law.

Strengths:

"Daniel always seeks to find solutions and does creative and clever work."

"His skeleton argument was very clear and persuasive."

Lance Ashworth KC Lance Ashworth KC is a respected silk noted for his broad knowledge of restructuring and insolvency matters. He has particular expertise in directors' disqualification cases as well as administrations of failed energy companies.

Strengths:

"He is responsive and navigates difficult issues on behalf of the client but is also mindful of their concerns."

"A very strong advocate who fights your corner."

"He is a strategist who is mindful of the bigger issues and measured and focused in submissions."

JUNIORS

Jennifer Meech Jennifer Meech is a talented

junior with experience appearing both led and unled in a wide range of insolvency disputes. She acts for all manner of clients including banks, corporates and liquidators.

Strengths:

"Jennifer is a very reliable and meticulous junior."

"She is very polished and technically very strong."

9 Stone Buildings

9 Stone Buildings offers expertise in both corporate and personal insolvency matters, and its barristers are highly regarded for their handling of insolvency litigation involving allegations of fraud or professional negligence. The set's barristers also have experience handling directors' misfeasance claims, while cases stemming from trusts or probate matters are also a key area of strength for the team. The set is regularly instructed in both domestic and cross-border claims, and its impressive client roster includes liquidators, creditors and government bodies such as HMRC. Clients note 9 Stone Buildings as a strong set for insolvency matters given its "high number of dependable barristers" and "broad array of expertise." Members have recently been instructed on an IVA challenge in relation to the bankruptcy of high net worth individual Pramod Mittal.

Client service:

"The clerks are excellent and very responsive, which takes a lot of weight off in dealing with cases."

"Alan Austin understands the pressures we are under and provides clarity."

"David Clayton, Jake Price and Alan Austin are all first-rate clerks. They have a very personable manner and deal with all enquiries swiftly and efficiently."

David Clayton is the set's senior clerk.

SILKS

Peter Shaw KC Peter Shaw KC advises on a mixture of corporate and personal insolvency cases, and has a significant focus on matters containing a fraud element. He acts mainly in contentious matters and has a particular expertise in cases concerning directors' misfeasance claims. He is regularly instructed to act for liquidators and HMRC.

Strengths:

"Peter is an excellent advocate who is able to draw the court's attention to key points, often from a complex fact pattern and/or evidence."

"Peter is always a go-to for any heavy insolvency litigation."

"He is bright and approachable, and his advice is clear and easy to understand."

Joseph Curl KC Joseph Curl KC is a well-recognised barrister who is highlighted for his dedicated corporate and personal insolvency practice. He regularly acts on high-value cases on behalf of prominent clients. He is well regarded for his handling of several high-profile insolvency litigation matters, in both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"He has forensic attention to detail and extensive expertise, combined with a highly persuasive and compelling advocacy style."

"He is extremely user-friendly, down to earth,

practical and accessible."

"His advice covers all legal bases but also takes into account commercial realities."

"He is exceptionally bright and a clear and convincing advocate."

JUNIORS

Rory Brown Rory Brown is a noted junior who is well versed in a wide range of insolvency disputes. He comes highly recommended for his handling of insolvencies arising from large-scale frauds and multi-jurisdictional matters.

Strengths:

"His attention to detail is superb while his advocacy skills are also very strong."

"He is a real star – very intelligent, very focused and very determined."

"Rory has very impressive advocacy skills including fantastic cross-examination."

Faith Julian Faith Julian is a well-regarded junior with expertise covering both bankruptcies and corporate insolvencies. She is regularly instructed to act for office holders in misfeasance claims brought against company directors and in high-profile winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"Faith Julian is just brilliant – fantastic on her feet and devilishly bright."

"She is a rising star of the insolvency Bar."

"Faith is very technical, a joy to work with and a barrister that can always be trusted to provide strong advice and get the job done."

Giselle McGowan Giselle McGowan is regularly instructed in personal and corporate insolvency proceedings. Formerly employed as a barrister in HMRC's insolvency and VAT teams, she continues to be a trusted choice by government bodies in director disqualification and insolvency matters as well as advising as junior counsel on the Crown B panel.

Strengths:

"She is tenacious, hard-working and commercially astute."

"Giselle is a great barrister with a very high level of technical knowledge."

"Her advocacy is excellent, presenting complex matters in a clear, concise and persuasive manner."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Raj Arumugam (5 Stone Buildings) Raj Arumugam is noted for his expert handling of complex insolvency litigation and directors' disqualification proceedings. He has experience appearing in fraud-related cases and acts for a wide range of clients, including liquidators and several government departments such as HMRC.

Strengths:

"Raj has an excellent level of expertise in the relevant areas instructed upon and always considers both the legal position and the commercial elements of a case."

"Raj is very clever, pragmatic and available."

"His written work and drafting is very good and he is great on his feet."

Sarah Clarke (Gatehouse Chambers) Sarah Clarke is a well-regarded insolvency junior noted for her expert handling of both corporate and per-

sonal insolvency work. She is regularly instructed to act on behalf of parties including debtors, creditors and insolvency practitioners. She is also noted for her expertise in civil recovery.

Strengths:

"Her ability to distil an often complex factual matrix and provide succinct, commercially astute advice is impressive."

"Sarah Clarke is able to advise clearly and assess litigation risk in a way that helps the client to consider the possible outcomes in a strategic way."

James Couser (Three Stone) James Couser has a well-regarded practice spanning both corporate and personal insolvency. He is adept at advising on matters concerning asset recovery following a liquidation and is well placed to act for and advise directors on disqualification proceedings.

Strengths:

"James is fantastic to work with, a real team player, always giving sound and commercial advice."

"James has the ability to get to the root of the issue quickly."

Simon Davenport KC (4 Pump Court) Simon Davenport KC is regularly called upon to represent company directors, individuals and insolvency practitioners in a wide range of insolvency cases. He is able to marry his expertise in commercial disputes with a strong knowledge of civil fraud.

Strengths:

"His strategic advice is excellent and he quickly builds a rapport with the judges, who are very receptive to his style of advocacy."

"He is a very good advocate and a great cross-examiner."

"He has an excellent, personable manner and provides good, focused advice."

Ruth den Besten KC (Essex Court Chambers) Ruth den Besten KC is a highly regarded barrister with a wide-ranging insolvency practice, supported by her broader expertise in fraud, chancery and commercial matters. She is particularly adept at handling cases involving complex shareholder disputes and related claims brought under the Insolvency Act.

Strengths:

"Ruth is a tremendous all-rounder. She is good on the law and good on the facts, as well as being great with clients and solicitors."

"Very bright and really on top of matters, Ruth is a very safe pair of hands."

David Eaton Turner (New Square Chambers) David Eaton Turner is a well-established junior undertaking significant domestic and cross-border work. He regularly acts on behalf of both private individuals and large corporations. He is frequently instructed in disputes concerning asset recovery, directors' duties and professional negligence.

Strengths:

"David deals with knotty issues in a very concise and erudite way."

"He provides commercial, clear and practical advice."

Andreas Gledhill KC (Blackstone Chambers) Andreas Gledhill KC is a highly regarded silk who

is a regular feature in high-profile, international insolvency matters. He acts for a variety of parties in sophisticated corporate insolvencies and has noted expertise in offshore restructurings.

Strengths:

"Andreas has encyclopedic knowledge of all things insolvency and restructuring."

"He has a brilliant legal mind."

"He is a very smooth advocate."

Katherine Hallett (Three Stone) Katherine Hallett is a well-regarded junior who is noted for her expert handling of a wide range of insolvency matters. She is regularly called upon to act in misfeasance actions brought against insolvency officers, challenges to office holders' remuneration and expenses, and winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"Katherine is very thorough with her analysis and provides sensible, well-reasoned advice to clients."

"She is a very experienced, measured advocate."

"Katherine is a very assured, calm and confident advocate."

Peter Head (Blackstone Chambers) Peter Head represents a variety of parties in corporate and personal insolvency matters, with a particular strength in disputes involving fraud elements.

Strengths:

"Peter goes straight to the key issues and advises in a commercial and practical manner."

"Peter is quick and attentive, and his paperwork is good."

"Peter is user-friendly, commercially astute, strategically excellent and provides great quality in written work."

Louise Hutton KC (Essex Court Chambers) Louise Hutton KC is a well-respected commercial barrister with expertise spanning commercial, fraud and insolvency. She often advises on high-value, cross-border restructuring and insolvency claims in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"Louise is approachable, incredibly bright and will always give her best."

"Louise is one of the top insolvency silks."

Hugh Jory KC (4 New Square Chambers) Hugh Jory KC is a leading silk who is regularly instructed to act in the London courts. He takes on a broad range of contentious corporate and personal insolvency, and has clients including businesses, office holders and high-value individuals. He offers particular expertise representing directors and liquidators in cases concerning director disqualification.

Strengths:

"A good, combative advocate."

"He is very clever and user-friendly."

Jessica Powers (New Square Chambers) Jessica Powers is regularly instructed across both corporate and personal insolvencies. She is often instructed by corporate clients in relation to winding-up petitions.

Strengths:

"She has an incredible analytical ability and she is very persuasive on her feet."

"She is technically very rigorous, very practical at finding solutions and very on top of the law and its applications."

"Jessica is a rising star."

Alexander Riddiford (Essex Court Chambers) Alexander Riddiford is a strong restructuring and insolvency junior with an established reputation in the market. He is regularly called upon to advise on both domestic and cross-border matters, and frequently appears in insolvency litigation before the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"Alexander is particularly adept at cutting through difficult technical points and finding the best way to present a difficult case."

"Alexander is really brilliant."

Tom Shepherd (4 New Square Chambers) Tom Shepherd possesses a wealth of experience advising on multimillion-pound deals, both in the UK and further afield. He offers expertise in both corporate and personal insolvency cases and exhibits particular strength in matters involving a fraud element. His practice also includes expertise defending and acting in claims against insolvency practitioners. He is regularly instructed to act on behalf of HMRC, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and other government departments.

Strengths:

"Tom Shepherd is technically very astute and grasps complex and technical matters with ease, filling the client with confidence in his expertise."

"Tom is super bright, on top of the law and capable of playing a role in major High Court trials."

"He is excellent on his feet – quick-thinking and reactive with an eye on commercial considerations."

Jonathan Titmuss (Gatehouse Chambers) Jonathan Titmuss is regularly instructed to act on behalf of insolvency practitioners, as well as companies, debtors and creditors, in a range of restructuring and insolvency matters. He has experience appearing in cases involving allegations of fraud or misfeasance.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is able to deal with high-value, complex matters effortlessly while possessing the commercial awareness to give a client confidence."

"He is a superb tactician."

"Jonathan brings a sense of calmness and objectivity to even the most vexed and challenging cases."

David Wolfson KC (One Essex Court) David Wolfson KC is a known expert across a broad range of banking and commercial disciplines, including restructuring and insolvency. He has experience in both advisory and trial capacities, acting for a broad range of clients including investors, corporates and individuals.

Strengths:

"David is incredibly commercial, collaborative and great on his feet on court."

"He is very commercial, thoughtful and compelling."

Shipping & Commodities

Shipping & Commodities
Leading Sets
Band 1
Twenty Essex
7 King's Bench Walk
Quadrant Chambers
Band 2
Essex Court Chambers
4 Pump Court
36 Stone
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Twenty Essex

Twenty Essex is a standout set offering impressive expertise in shipping and commodities. The set is renowned for its exceptional shipping litigation practice and represents clients at all levels of court and in arbitration. The chambers exhibits extensive experience in claims stemming from shipbuilding, charter parties and bills of lading. Members are also adept at handling disputes relating to ship arrests, cargo damage and collisions. Work highlights for the year include *Trafigura v Clearlake Shipping*, a case concerning the application for a mandatory injunction, compelling the defendant to provide security to enable the release of a vessel. Clients enjoy working with the set as a result of its unique combination of expertise in energy, environmental and maritime law. The set is noted by interviewees as being "top tier" and "renowned as a leading shipping and commodities set, boasting an impressive contingent of world-class silks and excellent juniors."

Client service:

"The clerks provide an excellent service, saving both the barristers and solicitors a lot of time."

"Chris Theobald and Arron Zitver, practice directors, are absolute top clerks."

"The clerks are problem solvers and very responsive. They find the best candidates for the right cases."

SILKS

Michael Ashcroft KC Michael Ashcroft KC is a distinguished barrister with an enviable reputation for his work across shipping and commodities, especially in disputes relating to superyachts and the petroleum industry. He has represented clients in the Supreme Court and is an expert in construction disputes. He is particularly highlighted for his ability in complex arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Michael is very good, very experienced and user-friendly."

"Michael is an extraordinary intellect. He immediately grasps the most technical legal issues, without losing sight of the overarching commercial goal of the client."

"He is one of the best silks at the Bar, very user-friendly, thoughtful and considered."

Michael Collett KC Michael Collett KC manages an expansive commercial practice encompassing shipping, commodities, energy, insurance, inter-

Shipping & Commodities
Leading Silks
Star individuals
Parsons Luke <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Rainey Simon <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Band 1
Ashcroft Michael <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Berry Steven <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Blackburn Elizabeth <i>36 Stone</i>
Collett Michael <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Croall Simon <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Edey KC Philip <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Gaisman Jonathan <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Hancock Christopher <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Hill Timothy <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Kendrick Dominic <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Kimmins Charles <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Lewis David <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Lord Richard <i>Brick Court Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
MacDonald Eggers Peter <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Matthews Duncan <i>Twenty Essex</i>
O'Sullivan Sean <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Persey Lionel <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Russell John <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Schaff Alistair <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Selvaratnam Vasanti <i>36 Stone</i>
Thomas Robert <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Young Timothy <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Band 2
Allen David <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Coburn Michael <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Cooper Nigel <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Gunning Alexander <i>One Essex Court (ORL) ◇</i>
Healy Siobán <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Hofmeyr Stephen <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Hopkins Philippa <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Jacobs Nigel <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Karia Chirag <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Kenny Julian <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Masters Sara <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Melwani Poonam <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Smith Christopher <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Southern Richard <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Waller Richard <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Band 3
Bailey David <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Blanchard Claire <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Buckingham Stewart <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Byam-Cook Henry <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Davey Michael <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Dunning Graham <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Eaton Nigel <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Goldstone David <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Kenny Stephen <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Kulkarni Yash <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Macey-Dare Thomas <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Nolan Michael <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Smith Chris <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Turner James M <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Vineall Nick <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Band 4
Akka Lawrence <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Brier Jeremy <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Craig Nicholas <i>3 Verulam Buildings (ORL) ◇</i>
Gruder Jeffrey <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Holmes Michael <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Kealey Gavin <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Khurshid Jawdat <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Kimbell John <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Leabeater KC James <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Milnes Simon <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Ng Jern-Fei <i>7BR (ORL) ◇</i>
Passmore John <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Pilbrow Fionn <i>Brick Court Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Riches Philip <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Tozzi Nigel <i>4 Pump Court</i>
Wright Alexander <i>4 Pump Court</i>
New Silks
Casey N G <i>7 King's Bench Walk</i>
Pearce Luke <i>Twenty Essex</i>

national trade and shareholder disputes. Widely regarded as an advocate, he also accepts appointments as an arbitrator. He is experienced in cases relating to charter parties and bills of lading.

Strengths:

"Michael is one of the best KCs in the space."

"He is meticulous and extremely thorough."

"He's exceptionally methodical, really impressive and always gets a grip on the detail."

Philip Edey KC Philip Edey KC is an exceptional advocate with considerable shipping and commodities expertise. His broad practice includes charter party disputes, cargo claims and bill of lading cases. He both litigates disputes and acts as an arbitrator. He has dealt with cases relating to both soft and hard commodities.

Strengths:

"Philip does a lot of high-profile work and is extremely good."

"Philip is a very experienced performer, a tough opponent and a good barrister."

"He is an amazing silk and absolutely top-draw."

Christopher Hancock KC Christopher Hancock KC possesses a wide-ranging practice covering

both shipping and commodities disputes and arbitrations, arising principally out of the offshore energy, mining and construction sectors.

Strengths:

"Christopher is a very strong silk and a leader in the space."

Timothy Hill KC Timothy Hill KC is a highly skilled commercial litigator and arbitrator who has considerable expertise in shipping cases. His broad practice covers disputes relating to such subjects as charter parties, shipbuilding, ship collisions and bills of lading.

Strengths:

"Timothy is a go-to KC, who is efficient, available and accessible."

"Tim is a go-to silk for complex, high-value shipping and commodities disputes."

"He is a great team player and fantastic on his feet."

Charles Kimmins KC Charles Kimmins KC is a respected silk with notable experience concerning charter parties, bills of lading and memoranda of agreement. He is known for his expertise across the full range of shipping and commodities

Shipping & Commodities	
Leading Juniors	
Star individuals	Robinson Jason 7 King's Bench Walk
Phillips Nevil <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Shirley James <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Priday Charles 7 King's Bench Walk	Stevens Andrew 4 Pump Court
Band 1	Stevenson Peter <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Coffer Benjamin <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Stiggelbout Mark <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Hosking Ruth <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Sutherland Jessica 7 King's Bench Walk
Pounds Caroline <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Tan Charlotte <i>Brick Court Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Band 2	Toms Paul <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Aswani Ravi 36 Stone	Toney Rachel 36 Stone
Bird Tom <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Turner Adam 7 King's Bench Walk
Bovensiepen Daniel <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Warrender Nichola <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Caplin Oliver <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Watthey James 4 Pump Court A
Gardner Ben <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Band 4
Healy Sandra 7 King's Bench Walk	Akoni Koye <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Henton Paul <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Barrett Stephanie <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Jones Mark 36 Stone	Board Adam <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>
Jones Susannah <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Davidson Max <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
MacDonald Alexander 7 King's Bench Walk	Du Stephen 7 King's Bench Walk
Mander Marcus 7 King's Bench Walk	Feld Andrew <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Morgan Gemma <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Gale Jocelin 7 King's Bench Walk
Parker Benjamin 7 King's Bench Walk	Hanley Colleen <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Sarll Richard 7 King's Bench Walk	Holroyd Charles 7 King's Bench Walk
Walsh David <i>Essex Court Chambers</i>	Jenns Tim 7 King's Bench Walk
Band 3	Jones Ed 4 Pump Court
Benn Clara 7 King's Bench Walk	Martin Sarah 7 King's Bench Walk
Carless Alex <i>Twenty Essex</i>	McGhee Matthew <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Carruth Andrew <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Nixon Tom <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Corby Tom <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Noakes Rani 4 Pump Court
Davies Josephine <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Parry Angharad <i>Twenty Essex</i>
Debattista Charles 36 Stone	Paruk Saira <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Ellis Henry <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Pearson Andrew 7 King's Bench Walk
Geary Gavin 7 King's Bench Walk	Scrivener Robert 4 Pump Court
Hornoyold-Strickland Francis <i>Monckton (ORL)</i> ◇	Steward Thomas 4 Pump Court
Leung Andrew <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Maxwell Karen <i>Twenty Essex</i>	Hamblen Jamie <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>
Moore Natalie <i>Quadrant Chambers</i>	
A direct access (see p.24).	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

issues. He has acted in a number of oil and gas disputes.

Strengths:

"Charles is pragmatic, knows the law very well and is a pleasure to work with."

"He's an outstanding advocate."

"Charles is a top-drawer shipping silk."

David Lewis KC David Lewis KC operates a strong advocacy and advisory practice. He marshals his shipping and commodities knowledge in international arbitrations and court cases. Dry shipping and commodities are particular areas of focus.

Strengths:

"David is a go-to counsel for most complex disputes. He is commercially minded, approachable and accommodating to the needs of the client."

"David is very good, very bright, easy to work with and a go-to for a lot of work in this space."

"He is very clear in his advice and has the ability to take something very complex and break it down to make it understandable."

Duncan Matthews KC Duncan Matthews KC has an established reputation as a leading silk at the shipping and commodities Bar. His busy practice incorporates a swathe of issues including dry bulk and tanker charter party disputes, the arrest of ships, contracts of affreightment, cargo claims

and civil fraud.

Strengths:

"It is something to behold to see Duncan work, he's brilliant in cross-examination."

"If you have a big case, Duncan is a master of strategy and able to stand up to difficult characters."

Timothy Young KC Timothy Young KC is a highly esteemed barrister who combines marked ability in shipping and commodities matters with specialist expertise in several related areas including international trade and sale of goods. In addition to appearing in court he also handles arbitrations.

Strengths:

"He's always able to think outside the box and come up with thoughts, ideas and strategies."

"He is easy to work with, adaptable and a pleasure to work with."

"Timothy is he really delightful to deal with."

Michael Coburn KC Michael Coburn KC is a highly regarded practitioner commended for his expertise in shipping and commodities matters and his additional capability in international trade. Many of his cases relate to charter party agreements and shipbuilding contracts.

Strengths:

"Michael grasps complex legal issues quickly and

communicates the salient points effectively."

"Michael is highly responsive and takes a proactive and hands-on approach."

"He is a profound thinker with a charming court manner."

Julian Kenny KC Julian Kenny KC is a commercial law specialist with an established reputation for shipping and commodities work. He is experienced in cases regarding marine insurance, derivatives and the international sale of goods.

Strengths:

"Julian is an utterly brilliant lawyer who distils everything into very concise written work."

"Julian is extremely bright, easy to work with and fabulous on his feet."

"He provides sophisticated and creative legal arguments."

Sara Masters KC Sara Masters KC is an experienced barrister with a broad practice covering international trade and sanctions alongside shipping and commodities matters. She is especially well known for her advocacy in anti-suit injunctions and cross-border disputes. She also acts as an arbitrator and mediator.

Strengths:

"Sara is a great lawyer with a flourishing practice."

"Sara is a go-to lawyer for shipping disputes."

"She is quick, gets to the point, saves everyone a lot of time and is hugely experienced."

Henry Byam-Cook KC Henry Byam-Cook KC is a strong silk with a broad commercial disputes practice, spanning such issues as sale contracts, ship finance, charter party disputes, shipbuilding and supply agreements. He deals with both soft and hard commodities. He handles arbitrations as well as litigation.

Strengths:

"Henry is a great lawyer who is always a pleasure to work with."

"His advice is very good, very articulate and his cross-examination is a masterclass."

"He is incredibly helpful, experienced and comfortable in complex legal environments."

Lawrence Akka KC Lawrence Akka KC has strong capabilities in the shipping and commodities space. He has significant experience in demurrage and charter issues among a wide array of other matters. He also sits as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Lawrence is a renowned silk in commercial practice."

"He has a good reputation."

"Lawrence is very knowledgeable and very well known."

Simon Milnes KC Simon Milnes KC has extensive experience working in a wide range of shipping and commodities matters including contracts for specialised vessels and charter party disputes. He has been instructed in LMAA and SCMA arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Simon has a great legal mind and is a strong communicator and strategist."

"Simon is an excellent barrister who is very amicable and user-friendly."

"Simon is very sharp and commercially astute."

Philip Riches KC Philip Riches KC possesses expertise in shipping disputes as well as mining, banking, energy and trade matters. He has dealt

with a wide range of disputes in his time at the Bar, relating to both dry shipping issues and shipbuilding. His instructions originate in countries across the globe including China, Russia and those in South America.

Strengths:

“Philip is very efficient and commercial in the way he works.”

“Philip is an extremely hard-working and thorough silk.”

Luke Pearce KC Luke Pearce KC is commended for his excellent advocacy and arbitration work. He deals with shipping and commodities matters as well as banking and derivatives issues. He regularly appears as sole counsel.

Strengths:

“Luke is an attentive, responsive and excellent barrister who is able to handle complex matters with ease.”

“Luke is a hard-working and very effective operator.”

“His drafting and advocacy skills are excellent and he is a pleasure to deal with.”

JUNIORS

Daniel Bovensiepen Daniel Bovensiepen acts in shipping disputes involving various kinds of vessels including container ships, tankers, superyachts and cruise ships and relating to such matters as collisions, ship sales and shipbuilding. He has further experience of commodities arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Daniel is devastatingly clever, always puts in phenomenal effort on every case and leaves no stone left unturned.”

“He is extremely capable and understands the commercial considerations of the case.”

“Daniel is a strong barrister.”

Oliver Caplin Oliver Caplin is a well-thought-of junior with substantial expertise in dry shipping, trade and commodities disputes. He represents clients in arbitration proceedings as well as in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

“He is brilliant, really patient and can explain the UK system to international clients very well.”

“Oliver is commercially astute, personable and his written submissions are always extremely impressive.”

“Oliver is very clever, extremely efficient and an expert in jurisdictional issues.”

Susannah Jones Susannah Jones is an experienced junior with a forensic grasp of shipping and commodities law. She focuses on energy-related matters, especially those relating to LNG carriers and offshore support vessels. She handles both litigation and arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

“Susannah is really excellent. She is very experienced and delivers spot-on advice quickly.”

“Susannah is a very strong barrister.”

Alex Carless Alex Carless possesses experience of wet and dry shipping cases. He is regularly instructed in charter party disputes, bills of lading and shipbuilding contracts. He has experience acting at all levels of court including the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“His technical detail and the way he understands the information being translated into commercial language is brilliant.”

“He’s very good, responsive and user-friendly.”

“He is very capable, to the point and always there when I reach out to him.”

Thomas Corby Thomas Corby is a strong commercial barrister with noted proficiency in shipping disputes. He is called upon to represent clients in charter party disputes and shipbuilding and cargo claims, and is adept in handling arbitrations in many jurisdictions around the world.

Strengths:

“Tom is very hard-working, very clever and very reliable.”

“He is very user-friendly, incredibly popular with clients, and works really well in a team.”

“Tom is a really strong junior.”

Josephine Davies Josephine Davies is regularly instructed in challenging commodities and shipping disputes. Her practice includes freight agreements, charter parties and bills of lading. Her technical background ensures she is often instructed in cases involving technical and complex scientific elements.

Strengths:

“Josephine is very user-friendly, speaks directly and is very clear and unequivocal in their advice.”

“Josephine is a tenacious advocate and pleasant to deal with.”

“She is excellent and experienced in very impressive cases.”

Karen Maxwell Karen Maxwell is an experienced barrister recognised for her competencies in shipping and shipbuilding arbitrations, where she is particularly noted for her expertise in procedural issues and challenges.

Strengths:

“She has a brilliant mind and can find commercial solutions even in very complex matters.”

“Karen is a very experienced, bright and knowledgeable barrister with a strong commercial acumen.”

“She is very knowledgeable and very user-friendly.”

Andrew Feld Andrew Feld has a broad practice within the field of shipping and commodities. His work covers areas such as marine insurance, energy and natural resources, and financial disputes.

Strengths:

“He does an excellent job and has excellent written skills.”

“Andrew is a very smart and assured barrister.”

“He is phenomenally hard-working, really diligent and good at drafting.”

Colleen Hanley Colleen Hanley has a strong reputation for her international shipping and commodities practice. She advises and appears on behalf of commodities traders and ship owners’ defence clubs on a wide range of issues. She routinely appears before arbitral tribunals and the commercial courts.

Strengths:

“She is approachable and able to explain complex issues in simple terms that the client can understand.”

“Colleen is a fantastic advocate and extremely user-friendly.”

“She is very commercial and always able to provide practical advice.”

Matthew McGhee Matthew McGhee has experience in a range of shipping matters, often appearing as sole counsel. He is regularly instructed in cases involving P&I clubs and charter party disputes as well as fraud cases.

Strengths:

“Matthew has a fantastic skill set, a sharp eye for detail and a commercial, practical approach.”

“Matthew is excellent in both his legal and commercial approach.”

“He is exceptional and adept in his cross-examination.”

Angharad Parry Angharad Parry is a junior with a noteworthy commercial practice. She demonstrates expertise in sale of goods, commodities and shipping matters. She is comfortable appearing in both domestic and international arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Angharad is highly capable, responsive and approachable.”

“She is a really responsive, strong barrister who will always update on the valuable details.”

“She is a good, solid barrister.”

7 King’s Bench Walk

7 King’s Bench Walk is an outstanding chambers that offers first-rate expertise in shipping and commodities. Members of 7 King’s Bench Walk have appeared at all levels of court in many recent, high-profile shipping cases, including *YieldStreet v QBE*, a high-value fraud claim involving vessels sold for scrap. The set is particularly recognised for its capabilities in insurance coverage disputes, fraud-related cases and loss of cargo claims. An interviewee notes: “7KBW is capable of quickly providing clear and concise advice to complicated matters,” while another adds: “It is a go-to set for shipping disputes.”

Client service:

“The clerks are top-notch and professional.”

“All the clerks are helpful and responsive, providing an excellent service.”

“The clerks have an approachable manner and provide a strong level of service.”

“The clerks at 7KBW provide prime service.”

“Excellent service, and Gary Rose, joint deputy senior clerk, is an experienced and commercially minded clerk.”

Greg Leyden is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Jonathan Gaisman KC Jonathan Gaisman KC is a highly regarded barrister who has worked on some of the most significant shipping cases in recent years. With shipping a core strength of his practice, Gaisman advises on high-value and complex cases, with particular excellence in marine insurance fraud.

Strengths:

“He provides unbelievably strong legal knowledge and very sound commercial advice.”

Dominic Kendrick KC Dominic Kendrick KC is an eminent silk with a commercial practice of the highest calibre. He has considerable expertise in sophisticated shipbuilding cases and charter party disputes. He appears in both high-profile

court cases and confidential arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Dominic is an excellent silk with incredible insight into the shipping space."

Peter MacDonald Eggers KC Peter MacDonald Eggers KC is a dynamic commercial barrister with capability across shipping, commodities, insurance and energy matters, among other areas. He has experience in piracy, sanctions, charter party and sale of goods disputes, as well as a niche specialism in losses caused by natural disasters.

Strengths:

"I very strongly recommend Peter and have very high confidence in him."

"I think extremely highly of Peter, he's first class."

"Peter is a very good silk."

Alistair Schaff KC Alistair Schaff KC is a leading commercial barrister renowned for his ability in shipping, insurance and international trade disputes. An admired advocate, he is also regularly called on to act as an arbitrator. He has been engaged in relation to a wide variety of topics, from charter parties to shipbuilding.

Strengths:

"Alistair has an excellent way of communicating, a really good courtroom presence and pitches the case perfectly."

David Allen KC David Allen KC is a tough and technically knowledgeable barrister. His practice encompasses a range of shipping and commercial disputes, and he has particular expertise in offshore and superyacht-related matters.

Siobán Healy KC Siobán Healy KC is a notable silk specialising in shipping, commodities and international trade matters including dangerous cargoes, demurrage and shipbuilding disputes. She regularly acts in arbitrations as an advocate and is frequently appointed as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"She is very experienced. A great, thorough and wonderful lawyer."

"She is very impressive and sees things from the point of view of the client."

"She is an excellent advocate."

Stephen Hofmeyr KC Stephen Hofmeyr KC is an experienced barrister with expertise in a range of shipping matters including shipbuilding disputes, yacht-related litigation and charter party disputes. He appears as an advocate in Commercial Court and arbitration and also engages in advisory work.

Strengths:

"He has precise and deep knowledge of shipping law and handles matters effectively."

"Stephen is excellent. He is incredibly polite, intelligent and a trusted adviser in large cases."

"He understands the technical evidence and has the ability to manage parties in a friendly and efficient manner."

Richard Southern KC Richard Southern KC is an excellent barrister with marked ability in shipping matters. He has a particular focus on charter party disputes involving such commodities as crude oil and iron ore. An accomplished advocate, he also accepts instruction as an arbitrator. His clients hail from around the world.

Strengths:

"Richard is a top-notch KC with great advocacy skills."

"He commands the tribunal's attention in both written and oral submissions."

"Richard is all over the detail and will pick up anything that has been missed."

Richard Waller KC Richard Waller KC is a highly regarded practitioner with experience in a range of shipping disputes. He acts in both litigation and arbitrations under LMAA rules, and easily turns his hand to charter party disputes and fraud cases.

Strengths:

"Richard is a very good silk."

David Bailey KC David Bailey KC is a strong practitioner with capability in a range of shipping matters in both litigation and arbitration. He is recognised for his experience in shipbuilding and yacht-related disputes.

Stephen Kenny KC Stephen Kenny KC is admired for his long experience of dealing with shipping, commodities and international trade disputes, and he also handles cases involving allegations of fraud. He is further noted for his work on energy and insurance matters.

Strengths:

"Stephen is technically astute and able to give clear advice on complex issues."

"He is a very intelligent barrister."

"Stephen is really good and very efficient."

Michael Holmes KC Michael Holmes KC is a highly proficient silk whose practice includes cargo claims, international carriage of goods and a range of charter party disputes including unsafe ports, quarantine and dangerous cargoes. He also acts in yacht-related actions. Holmes has notable experience in LMAA arbitrations with the Commercial Court.

Gavin Kealey KC Gavin Kealey KC is the head of chambers and has deep shipping expertise which he puts to use on complex matters. He often receives high-value international instructions and also appears in arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Gavin has a very strong reputation in the shipping space and is a fearless advocate for his client."

"His knowledge is incredible."

Jawdat Khurshid KC Jawdat Khurshid KC is a well-respected silk who advises on complex commercial disputes in the shipping and commodities spaces. He is noted for his presence on significant international matters.

Strengths:

"Jawdat is calm, good forensically and explains the issues and how to deal with them well."

"Jawdat is a practical and talented advocate, providing excellent service and quality work."

"He is solid throughout, very accessible and very good with clients."

N G Casey KC N G Casey KC is a new silk with strength in a range of litigation and arbitration cases. He frequently tackles charter party disputes and has a noteworthy specialism in high-value cases involving the design and construction of superyachts.

Strengths:

"He is very commercial, understands what the client wants to achieve and finds solutions."

"He is very strong, user-friendly and approachable."

JUNIORS

Charles Priday Charles Priday is a highly accomplished and respected junior with an admirable practice covering dry shipping, shipbuilding and international trade disputes. He regularly acts on a sole basis against KCs in litigation and arbitration, and has notable experience advising on charter.

Strengths:

"Charles is commercially savvy and provides a fantastic service every time."

"Charles is a knowledgeable and strong advocate on shipping matters."

"He is always very reliable, competent and on top of the detail."

Sandra Healy Sandra Healy is a strong junior regularly instructed in shipping and commodities matters in litigation and arbitration. She has marked ability in charter party and cargo claim disputes, and has expertise in interim relief and jurisdiction matters.

Strengths:

"Sandra is very responsive and has a great ability to balance complex legal arguments with the commercialism required by clients."

"Her work product is really well considered and immediately usable."

"Sandra is a very strong barrister."

Alexander MacDonald Alexander MacDonald is a formidable junior with considerable experience in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He advises on international sanctions and shipbuilding contracts, as well as significant cases involving marine insurance cover.

Strengths:

"Alexander is really excellent."

Marcus Mander Marcus Mander is a capable practitioner who undertakes cases across the whole range of commercial shipping litigation. He takes on shipbuilding and ship finance disputes in litigation and arbitration.

Strengths:

"Marcus is an excellent barrister."

Benjamin Parker Benjamin Parker is a highly regarded junior, adept at handling a range of commercial shipping disputes. He regularly appears in the Commercial Court and in arbitration, and also has a burgeoning advisory practice. Many of his cases are international in origin or have international elements.

Strengths:

"Benjamin is very experienced and has extremely deep knowledge of the law."

"He offers thoughtful and measured advice throughout."

Richard Sarll Richard Sarll is an adroit junior who acts in both commercial shipping and admiralty law and frequently contributes to the academic literature on the subject. He is instructed in charter party disputes, general average cases and collisions. He is adept at handling claims relating to commodities contracts.

Strengths:

"Richard is great. He is extremely knowledgeable and has a very nice manner about him."

"Richard is excellent. He is very fast, offers great advice and has a fantastic reputation."

Clara Benn Clara Benn is an accomplished shipping and commodities-focused junior noted for

her work on high-profile shipping cases. She is further highlighted for her competencies in ship financing disputes. She appears both in court and in arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

“Clara is really bright and very commercial.”
 “Clara is really excellent at getting to the heart of a dispute and is really clear in her thinking.”
 “Clara is excellent, she’s got a really good working relationship with her solicitors and counsels.”

Gavin Geary Gavin Geary is a well-regarded junior frequently appearing in the Commercial Court on a variety of shipping and commodities disputes. He is also well acquainted with international cases as well as arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Gavin is very thorough, very considerate and pleasant to deal with.”
 “Gavin is very pragmatic and wraps his head around issues very quickly.”
 “Gavin is a pleasure to work with.”

Jason Robinson Jason Robinson is regularly instructed by leading shipping solicitors and P&I clubs to handle high-value cases. He is well known for representing clients in superyacht and shipbuilding cases.

Strengths:

“Jason is incredibly responsive, gets familiarised with matters incredibly quickly and is able to understand the client’s goals.”
 “Jason is very user-friendly, robust and commercial.”

Jessica Sutherland Jessica Sutherland is an effective barrister whose practice covers shipping litigation and arbitration. She acts on matters arising from charter party disputes and general average claims. She upholds an active cross-border practice and has experience taking on cases originating in Hong Kong and South Africa.

Strengths:

“Jessica is very good, efficient and user-friendly.”

Adam Turner Adam Turner is an experienced junior who is well versed in dry shipping matters as well as international trade and insurance. He is instructed both led and unled and has expertise in cases involving commercial fraud, jurisdictional issues and interim relief.

Strengths:

“Adam is a good lawyer who is very calm.”
 “Adam is very committed and well versed in the law.”

Stephen Du Stephen Du works at the forefront of the shipping and commodities industry with a standout multi-jurisdictional practice. He is particularly experienced leading cases in Asia.

Strengths:

“Stephen shows a remarkable ability to revert quickly on complex issues with clear advice.”
 “He is very capable and delivers advice in a very user-friendly manner.”

“Stephen is an extremely skilled barrister who provides a prompt and diligent service.”

Jocelin Gale Jocelin Gale is an expert in commercial litigation and arbitration with a focus on shipping. He has a background in banking and is regularly instructed on cases involving insurance issues or complex financial structures.

Strengths:

“Jocelin is extremely committed and clever. He is

good to work with and a fierce opponent.”

“Jocelin is a very good barrister.”

Charles Holroyd Charles Holroyd is an experienced and established junior with a vast knowledge of shipping law, including shipbuilding, ship finance, sale and purchase, international trade and more.

Strengths:

“Charles is able to turn complex legal and factual questions to short and straightforward advice.”
 “Charles gives sensible advice in disputes and provides strong support to his clients.”

“He handles disputes impeccably and is a very bright lawyer who is very calm and provides good, considerate advice.”

Tim Jenns Tim Jenns is a barrister with experience handling a broad range of charter party disputes. He has handled arbitrations and boasts a cross-border commercial litigation practice.

Strengths:

“His approach ensures no stone has been left unturned by the time you reach the court.”

Sarah Martin Sarah Martin has impressive capabilities when working across commodities as well as wet and dry shipping issues. She has extensive experience working on multi-jurisdictional cases and excels in litigation and arbitration settings.

Strengths:

“Sarah has a first-class intellect backed up by a commercial mind. She is highly approachable and a pleasure to work with.”
 “Sarah is very clear on case detail and strategy.”

Andrew Pearson Andrew Pearson has experience acting on significant shipping cases in the High Court. He is well regarded for his shipbuilding and yachts practice.

Strengths:

“Andrew is hard-working, responsive and pragmatic.”

“Andrew has a very approachable style and has a rare ability to provide straightforward advice on complex legal issues with practical commercial vision.”

“He is a very good lawyer with solid experience and is very user-friendly.”

Quadrant Chambers

A market-leading set, Quadrant Chambers continues to excel, offering a raft of stellar silks and high-calibre juniors who exhibit strong sector expertise in both dry and wet shipping matters as well as significant commodities disputes. Members regularly appear in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court in the highest-profile cases, often with far-reaching implications. Recent instructions include *NKD Maritime v Bart Maritime*, a seven-day Commercial Court trial concerning a ship sale contract, under which the buyers claimed that the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Indian government constituted a restraint of governments. Sources say: “Quadrant has an excellent depth and is home to many of the leading barristers in shipping and commodities.”

Client service:

“The clerks are very quick to respond and try to find commercial solutions at a short notice.”

“The clerks are very diligent and revert rapidly.”

“The clerks are always professional and able to advise at a moment’s notice.”

Simon Slattery is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Luke Parsons KC Luke Parsons KC is an esteemed silk who is well respected for his broad shipping and commodities practice covering issues such as shipbuilding, ship sale and charter party disputes. He is highly active in the Court of Appeal, the Commercial Court and the High Court, and is equally adept at arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Luke is a brilliant tactician and a highly accomplished advocate. His cross-examination is cool, calm and extremely effective.”

“He has a calming presence on any file and has a key grasp of the complex cases.”

“Luke has an excellent reputation in the space.”

Simon Rainey KC Simon Rainey KC is a highly acclaimed silk active across the shipping and commodities spaces. His exceptional practice covers diverse matters including shipbuilding, piracy and explosion, dangerous cargo and charter party disputes. He is further noted for his excellence in superyacht disputes.

Strengths:

“Simon is exceptionally knowledgeable, undertakes the most complex work and regularly appears in the highest courts.”

“Simon is renowned and with good reason. He is the person you take difficult questions to.”

“Simon is one of the best silks in shipping.”

Simon Croall KC Simon Croall KC is a distinguished barrister with a superb practice that takes in shipping, commodities and international trade matters. He has a fantastic track record in the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Commercial Court, as well as in arbitrations. He is experienced in handling disputes regarding charter parties and matters pertaining to ship detention and shipbuilding.

Strengths:

“Simon is extremely good, very calm, very clever and offers good advice on strategy.”

“He is really user-friendly and extremely calm.”

“Simon is very strong and knows his stuff.”

Lionel Persey KC Lionel Persey KC is an excellent silk, deputy High Court judge and Lloyd’s arbitrator. He has a first-rate practice covering shipping matters including charter parties, bills of lading, salvage and collisions. He also has significant expertise in energy and insurance-related matters.

Strengths:

“Lionel is extremely experienced with admiralty matters and this comes across in his advice and overall handling of the matter.”

“Lionel is respected and knows his stuff.”

John Russell KC John Russell KC is a tough advocate whose shipping practice includes charter parties, shipbuilding and piracy claims. He has particular acumen in both cargo claims and yacht-related disputes. He is as at ease appearing in arbitrations as he is in courtroom trials. He has marked experience in cases concerning force majeure clauses.

Strengths:

“John is an excellent technical lawyer and a go-to on technical shipping cases.”

“He has an exceptional ability to make even the

most complex and technical points digestible.”

“John is a strong advocate who provides good commercial written advice.”

Robert Thomas KC Robert Thomas KC is a switched-on barrister whose varied practice includes shipping and commodities matters and advice on anti-suit injunctions. He is recognised for his ability in both arbitrations and litigation.

Strengths:

“Robert is an excellent technical lawyer with a good commercial sense. He is good on his feet and very user-friendly.”

“He is a great barrister.”

“Robert is a very good barrister.”

Nigel Cooper KC Nigel Cooper KC is a well-known silk engaged in both wet and dry shipping work as well as insurance and international trade matters. He frequently advises on shipbuilding and yacht-related disputes. He represents clients both as an advocate in court cases and arbitrations and as an arbitrator. He accepts instructions from law firms, corporations, insurance companies and the UK government.

Strengths:

“Nigel is a pleasure to work with and learn from.”

“Nigel is very good.”

“Nigel is a robust advocate with particular expertise in yachting disputes.”

Nigel Jacobs KC Nigel Jacobs KC is an esteemed practitioner who frequently tackles collision, salvage and marine insurance matters as well as dry shipping work. He is regularly called on to handle complex international cases across a range of jurisdictions.

Strengths:

“Nigel is a great barrister in the space.”

“He is level-headed and provides good advice.”

“Nigel has a great sense of humour and stands up for his clients.”

Chirag Karia KC Chirag Karia KC is a barrister with a significant shipping and commodities practice who undertakes work in a variety of areas including cargo claims, collisions and marine insurance disputes. Many of his instructions cross multiple jurisdictions. He has notable experience in cases concerning anti-suit injunctions.

Strengths:

“Chirag is very user-friendly and clear with his advice.”

“Chirag is well organised, drafts precisely and provides clear advice.”

“His key strength is explaining complicated concepts with ease and simplicity for clients.”

Poonam Melwani KC Poonam Melwani KC is a well-regarded silk who approaches shipping and commodities cases within the context of a far-reaching commercial practice. She is regularly instructed in charter party, bill of lading and general contract disputes. Her practice also includes disputes regarding alleged fraud.

Strengths:

“Poonam always goes above and beyond. I really like her and she’s really good in difficult cases.”

“Poonam is a shipping specialist who is very involved in the space.”

“A dream to watch in cross-examination and incredibly user-friendly and approachable for clients.”

Stewart Buckingham KC Stewart Buckingham

KC demonstrates considerable expertise across a wide practice area, taking on work in energy commodities, shipbuilding, and wet and dry shipping law. He has notable experience of both highly technical arbitrations and litigation in the Commercial Court. He has acted in numerous cases concerning piracy, collision and salvage.

Strengths:

“Stewart combines a very personable delivery to clients with considerable ability as an advocate.”

“He is incredibly user-friendly and entirely reliable.”

“He is very intelligent, approachable and commercial in his advice.”

Michael Davey KC Michael Davey KC is well regarded for his ability in wet and dry shipping disputes including charter parties, bills of lading, salvage and collisions. He also covers related insurance and conflict of law matters. He has significant knowledge of fisheries disputes.

Strengths:

“Michael is clear and well drafted in his advice.”

“He is knowledgeable and easy to work with.”

“He is very calm, technical and has your back in cases.”

David Goldstone KC David Goldstone KC is an excellent barrister with marked ability in shipping law. His practice covers wet and dry work such as salvage, unsafe ports and charter party disputes. He frequently appears in arbitrations and maintains a multi-jurisdictional practice.

Strengths:

“I rate David very highly, he really knows his stuff.”

Yash Kulkarni KC Yash Kulkarni KC is a skilful barrister with an active shipping and commodities practice, who works to resolve disputes through litigation and arbitration. He has marked experience in freezing, search and asset preservation orders, as well as anti-suit injunctions.

Strengths:

“Yash is extremely brilliant and personable in equal measure.”

“He is extremely user-friendly, a pleasure to work with and wonderfully efficient.”

“Yash is excellent and provides outstanding support.”

Thomas Macey-Dare KC Thomas Macey-Dare KC is a highly commended practitioner specialising in wet and dry shipping, international trade and insurance disputes. He has particular strength in emergency applications as well as technical issues related to navigation and seamanship. He is a frequent presence both on the courtroom circuit and in trade arbitrations.

Strengths:

“Thomas is diligent, accessible and very good at understanding difficult technical matters.”

“Thomas is an excellent lawyer who is commercial, calm and unflappable.”

“He has a fantastic ability to digest huge amounts of detail and his advocacy style brings people with him.”

Michael Nolan KC Michael Nolan KC manages an extensive shipping practice covering litigation, arbitration and advice. He deals with charter party, bill of lading and shipbuilding contract disputes. He has particular knowledge of the sea-fishing industry as well as harbour law.

Strengths:

“Michael is impressive and a pleasure to work with.”

“Michael is very experienced and knows exactly how to present things in court.”

“Michael is amazing to work with.”

Chris Smith KC Chris Smith KC is an accomplished silk with a wide-ranging practice encompassing dry shipping, commodities, transport and insurance disputes. He is a familiar figure in court and arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

“Chris is very approachable and easy to work with.”

“Chris is a brilliant lawyer, extremely commercially aware and a pleasure to work with.”

“He is a really excellent advocate and very strong in arguing the case.”

James Turner KC James Turner KC is a highly recommended barrister regularly instructed in shipbuilding, salvage and marine casualties. He also covers charter parties and trade finance matters including bills of exchange and letters of credit. He is a familiar presence in the Commercial and Admiralty Courts. He also appears regularly in arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

“James is very strong and does excellent work in the space.”

“James’ ability to perform under pressure is astonishing and he makes complex points in a simple and persuasive way.”

“His service is excellent as he always gives very accurate advice and works very hard.”

John Kimbell KC John Kimbell KC has a flourishing commercial practice encompassing wet and dry shipping work. He routinely acts in LMAA arbitrations and in the Commercial and Admiralty Courts. He enjoys a substantial following among clients in Germany, where he is a qualified lawyer. He also sits as a GMAA arbitrator.

Strengths:

“John combines an in-depth knowledge of the practice area with a commercially minded approach.”

“His input has been invaluable and I would not hesitate to instruct him.”

“John is very good for written advice and very able as an advocate.”

John Passmore KC John Passmore KC is a highly able silk with a broad practice covering wet and dry shipping as well as commodities disputes. He also takes on ship sale and purchase, shipbuilding and offshore construction matters. He is also frequently sought out to provide advice on marine insurance issues.

Strengths:

“John is considered and brings a level of calmness to even the most difficult and tense matters.”

“John is responsive, detail-oriented and pragmatic.”

“He explains difficult issues clearly in a commercial setting.”

JUNIORS

Nevil Phillips Nevil Phillips is an outstanding junior with an excellent and longstanding reputation who frequently appears unled against KCs. He has marked experience covering wet and dry shipping disputes, and he has authored a leading

text on the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

Strengths:

"Nevil is responsive, intellectually strong and has great judgement. He is one of the top names in shipping cases."

"Nevil has a mastery of the law, works very hard and is an absolute pleasure to work with."

"Nevil is very calm, very clever and provides good advice on strategy."

Benjamin Coffey Benjamin Coffey is a standout shipping and commodities junior. He has expertise in charter party, shipbuilding and ship finance disputes as well as in both hard and soft commodities including oil, coal, steel, sugar and grain.

Strengths:

"Ben is extremely highly thought of. He is hard-working, knowledgeable and instructed in some of the largest shipping cases."

"He is results-oriented, efficient and delightful to work with."

"Benjamin provides sound commercial advice on complex matters in pressured circumstances. His knowledge of the subject matter is first-rate."

Ruth Hosking Ruth Hosking is commended for her practice covering bills of lading, charter parties and commodities disputes as well as anti-suit injunctions. She appears in the Commercial Court and the Admiralty Court as well as in arbitrations. She is regularly instructed directly.

Strengths:

"She shows great qualities and is extremely dedicated."

"Ruth is very prepared to roll her sleeves up to help ensure that the end client is getting the best possible service."

Caroline Pounds Caroline Pounds is a sought-after junior regularly engaged on a broad range of high-profile wet and dry shipping disputes and commodities cases. She is highly commended for her ability in the High Court and in arbitration, frequently appearing on a sole basis. Her instructions arise from around the world.

Strengths:

"Caroline is an absolutely brilliant senior junior and an incisive cross-examiner."

"She is very competent and very nice to deal with."

"Caroline is a very good barrister."

Tom Bird Tom Bird is an impressive junior with a burgeoning dry shipping practice. He regularly acts in charter party, bill of lading and shipbuilding disputes. He represents ship owners and cargo interests in significant arbitrations and court actions. He also has notable expertise in commodities cases.

Strengths:

"Tom has the perfect mix of legal acumen and commercial awareness."

"Tom combines flair and intelligence with being a genuine pleasure to deal with."

"Tom is very strong, responsive and provides really interesting ideas and advice."

Ben Gardner Ben Gardner is a well-regarded junior with a broad practice covering commodities and shipping matters as well as insurance and conflict of laws. He regularly receives direct in-house instructions from industry clients to appear in courtroom trials and confidential arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Ben is extremely commercially aware, has an excellent knowledge of the subject matter and provides sound advice under pressured circumstances."

"He is excellent on his feet, very quick to grasp commercial and legal issues and a pleasure to work with."

"Ben has excellent knowledge of business practice combined with solid legal knowledge."

Paul Henton Paul Henton is an experienced junior with capability in a range of Commercial Court and arbitration actions. His practice encompasses both wet and dry shipping cases, many of which are the subject of considerable press interest.

Strengths:

"Paul is a very able, very smart junior."

"Paul is incredibly helpful, always available, bright, detailed and straightforward."

"Paul is a very good junior."

Gemma Morgan Gemma Morgan has a broad practice covering wet and dry shipping work as well as matters concerning commodities and international carriage of goods. Morgan has a prominent arbitration practice, regularly undertaking shipbuilding and technical disputes. She is especially adept at conducting arbitrations under LMAA terms. She is further noted for her yachts work.

Strengths:

"Gemma is extremely good. She's very thorough, maintains focus on the key points of the case and is very clear."

"Her cross-examination is excellent and she has a very persuasive, logical style of submission."

"Gemma is very user-friendly and responsive."

Andrew Carruth Andrew Carruth impresses with his wet and dry shipping practice. He has the skills to act on high-profile shipping cases and is frequently instructed as sole counsel on matters.

Strengths:

"Andrew is very clever, good at drafting and easy to work with."

"Andrew is absolutely excellent. A great person to work with and I really rate him."

"Andrew provides very strong written advocacy and is able to get to the nub of issues."

Henry Ellis Henry Ellis is highly regarded for his work across both dry and wet shipping matters as well as commodities disputes. He appears in both courtroom trials and arbitrations, and is particularly recognised for his experience of dispute resolution in Asia. He is further recognised for his capabilities in international trade work.

Strengths:

"Henry is a good technical shipping lawyer who is very easy to work with and user-friendly."

"He is very responsive and commercially minded and grasps the facts of a case with ease."

"The knowledge he has of shipping law is incredibly thorough."

Andrew Leung Andrew Leung is a notable junior, regularly instructed in complex and high-value proceedings before the Commercial Court, Admiralty Court and Court of Appeal. He is regularly instructed in wet and dry shipping disputes as well as significant commodities claims.

Strengths:

"He is very calm, thorough and strong."

"Andrew is a very fair opponent that produces

good written work."

"Andrew is a very good junior."

Natalie Moore Natalie Moore is an accomplished junior with capability to act in international trade and in wet and dry shipping matters in the Commercial Court and in arbitration. She has handled cases relating to piracy as well as bill of lading and charter party disputes. She is increasingly instructed in her own right as sole counsel. She has a strong knowledge of anti-suit injunctions.

Strengths:

"Natalie's advice is always spot on and she is able to provide commercial guidance."

"Natalie is knowledgeable, confident and a hard worker."

"She is responsive and a pleasure to work with."

James Shirley James Shirley accepts shipping instructions within a broad-ranging commercial practice. He has experience in charter party disputes, demurrage and unsafe port claims. He handles both litigation and arbitrations.

Peter Stevenson Peter Stevenson focuses on high-value commodities and shipping disputes. His practice covers wet and dry shipping work as well as marine insurance and shipbuilding. He is well known for his ability to take on a range of disputes involving affreightment, dangerous cargo, collisions and unsafe port claims.

Strengths:

"Peter is very user-friendly and good to work with."

"He's very approachable, very user-friendly and incredibly smart."

"Peter is a rising star in the space."

Mark Stiggelbout Mark Stiggelbout is a well-regarded shipping and commodities practitioner with additional faculty in insurance, energy and insolvency disputes. He regularly acts in court and arbitration proceedings and has experience obtaining urgent injunctive relief.

Strengths:

"Mark's drafting is impeccable and he is a very safe pair of hands."

"His work product is of a very good quality and he is pleasant to work with."

"Mark is very thorough and impressive."

Paul Toms Paul Toms is a highly regarded junior with marked capability in shipping and commodities actions in the High Court and London Mercantile Court and in arbitration. He acts in piracy and charter party disputes, among other areas, and has a burgeoning appellate practice.

Strengths:

"Paul is very good, very collaborative and his written work is very strong."

"Paul is a skilful advocate who is always on top of the detail and effective at presenting complex arguments clearly and persuasively."

"His work is invariably of an extremely high quality."

Nichola Warrender KC Nichola Warrender KC is an experienced barrister with significant expertise in wet and dry shipping, international trade and commodity matters. She also handles shipbuilding cases and other commercial disputes.

Strengths:

"Nichola is highly intelligent, clear in her advice and always understands the needs of the case and the client."

"She is excellent, pleasant and very clever."

Koye Akoni Koye Akoni is a noteworthy junior who boasts an international commercial practice encompassing both wet and dry shipping matters.

Strengths:

"Koye has a remarkable ability to grasp the essence of a case and formulate strategy and argument."

"Koye is very sensible and calm."

"He is calm, considered and assured."

Stephanie Barrett Stephanie Barrett has notable experience across a range of shipping matters. She demonstrates strong ability in shipbuilding and cargo claims as well as charter party disputes including demurrage and unsafe port issues. She acts as an advocate in arbitration as well as in court.

Max Davidson Max Davidson offers expertise across wet and dry shipping disputes. He has particular experience handling complex LMAA arbitrations. He is further noted for his competencies in commodities cases.

Strengths:

"Max is professional, approachable and considers the commercial impact of the client's position in any given matter."

"He is extremely smart, incredibly easy to work with and always available to discuss strategy and procedure."

"Max Davidson is very good and is remarkable in coming back quickly with his advice."

Tom Nixon Tom Nixon is capable of working across all facets of shipping and commodities. He possesses the acumen to work as a sole counsel and is comfortable acting on high-value cases.

Strengths:

"Tom is an excellent lawyer, he picks up on detail and his drafting is near flawless."

"Tom is an absolute pleasure to work with and very user-friendly."

"He turns around a finished product with superb quality."

Saira Paruk Saira Paruk is a respected junior with a broad knowledge of the shipping industry. Her practice spans bills of lading and charter party disputes as well as cargo damage claims.

Strengths:

"Saira is hard-working and likeable with a strong eye for detail."

"Saira is clear on the law, excellent in advocacy and adjusts her style to meet the opposition well."

"Saira is insightful, knowledgeable, persuasive, excellent on her feet and an absolute pleasure to deal with."

Jamie Hamblen has a notable and wide-ranging commercial practice with experience as both a sole and junior counsel. His work encompasses a broad range of shipping, shipbuilding and commodities matters. He has experience acting in arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Jamie is an excellent technical lawyer, very responsive and excellent on his feet."

"He is very thorough, tremendously detailed, and works collaboratively."

"Jamie writes well and is well organised."

Band 2

Essex Court Chambers

Adept across wet and dry shipping matters, members of Essex Court Chambers are regularly sought out by shipbuilders, ship owners, shipyards and insurers for their expert knowledge. Its tenants have acted in high-profile court cases, including BP Oil v Glencore Energy. A source comments they have "first-class appreciation of the law and jurisdictional issues, and know what matters to the client."

Client service:

"The clerks are very approachable and friendly."

"The set has an excellent clerking team."

"The clerks are prompt, efficient and kind."

Joe Ferrigno is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Steven Berry KC Steven Berry KC is a renowned barrister with a leading dry shipping practice. He is recognised for his significant expertise in charter party, marine insurance and bill of lading disputes.

Strengths:

"Steven is one of the very best and a joy to work with."

"Steven is an excellent barrister. He makes you feel at ease whether you're a counsel, solicitor or client."

"He is highly recommended for his commercial advice and advocacy skills."

Philippa Hopkins KC Philippa Hopkins KC is an impressive barrister with a wide commercial dispute resolution practice that has a particular focus on shipping matters. She regularly acts as an advocate in court as well as in arbitration forums. Her practice includes marine insurance, dry shipping, shipbuilding and commodities cases.

Strengths:

"She is brilliantly intelligent and very prominent in the Bar."

"Philippa has an absolutely stellar, high-quality practice."

"Philippa helps clients get to where they need to be in a case."

Christopher Smith KC Christopher Smith KC is a commercial silk with a reputable wet and dry shipping practice. He has expertise in shipbuilding, collisions, towage, charter party and bill of lading disputes. His knowledge also extends to safe port and berth matters.

Strengths:

"Christopher is extremely hard-working, user-friendly and a very good barrister."

"He is a great tactician and an incredibly useful sounding board to bounce ideas off before committing to a course of action."

"He has a unique sense of commitment and dedication to the client and the case."

Claire Blanchard KC Claire Blanchard KC is a highly regarded practitioner with experience in a range of shipping and international trade matters. She acts as an advocate and also accepts appointments as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Claire is a very strong barrister."

Graham Dunning KC Graham Dunning KC is a

well-regarded silk known for his distinguished advocacy. He has extensive experience across a broad spectrum of shipping and commodities matters including charter party and bill of lading disputes. He is often called upon to act as an advocate or an arbitrator in maritime arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Graham is one of the best in the space."

Nigel Eaton KC Nigel Eaton KC is a knowledgeable and technically capable silk with a broad-based shipping and commodities practice. He tackles charter party, contract of affreightment and shipbuilding actions, as well as disputes relating to the full range of hard and soft commodities. His workload includes both litigated cases and arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Nigel thinks about every possible angle. He is so clear, to the point and very good at making points in the most concise way."

"Nigel is an extremely impressive KC."

"Nigel has a strong approach and I really rate him."

Jeremy Brier KC Jeremy Brier KC is a noteworthy barrister with considerable ability across wet and dry shipping matters including shipbuilding and marine insurance disputes. He has experience of jurisdiction and fraud issues, and is sought out by top solicitors.

Strengths:

"Jeremy is very easy to work with, a great team player and a strong leader."

Jeffrey Gruder KC Jeffrey Gruder KC is a well-known barrister with a broad commercial law practice. He has been involved in numerous high-profile shipping disputes, including both international and London-based arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Jeffrey always provides clear advice, you can go to him for an opinion and get a concrete answer."

"He is a very strong silk who does strong, specialist work in shipping."

JUNIORS

David Walsh David Walsh acts on a range of dry shipping cases and is recommended for his advocacy in court and arbitrations. His practice includes charter parties, demurrage disputes and marine insurance matters.

Strengths:

"He produces really excellent, considered and well-written pleading."

"David is a thorough, safe pair of hands."

"David is an impressive and very strong barrister."

Adam Board Adam Board is a senior junior working across the full shipping and commodities spectrum. He is frequently instructed as a sole lead and has experience acting at all levels of court including the Commercial Court and Supreme Court.

Strengths:

"He always produces a high-quality product."

"Adam is level-headed and gives a very sensible opinion on matters."

"Adam is calm, reassuring and the person you want in a panic."

4 Pump Court

4 Pump Court is an excellent set, home to members who exhibit strong capabilities in both wet

and dry shipping disputes. The chambers provides a wealth of expertise in shipbuilding, cargo claims and sanctions, regularly advising on overseas jurisdictions. Members counsel clients in Mainland China and Hong Kong on marine and construction work. The set's work highlights include acting in *Havila v Hijos de J Barreras*, a shipbuilding dispute concerning the financing of a project for the construction of two LNG-powered ferries. Interviewees highlight the set as offering "a specialist team with some of the best barristers in the area of shipping," as well as being a "great set of chambers that is easy to deal with."

Client service:

"The clerks are very approachable and responsive."

"The clerks are responsive and helpful."

Carl Wall and Stewart Gibbs are senior clerks.

SILKS

Sean O'Sullivan KC Sean O'Sullivan KC is a highly commended barrister with expertise in dry shipping matters including demurrage, charter party and sale of goods disputes. He stands out for his deft handling of shipbuilding disputes in litigation and arbitration.

Strengths:

"Sean is a very commercial and skilled advocate, who is sharp on the detail and works incredibly hard."

"He is very user-friendly, approachable, down-to-earth and attentive."

"Sean is a very strong advocate who has a good grasp of all the details and issues in dispute."

Nick Vineall KC Nick Vineall KC is often highlighted for his technical acumen. He has particular experience in offshore construction and shipbuilding disputes. He has recently been involved in a growing number of arbitration appeals.

Strengths:

"He's very friendly, helpful and gets his head around complex and technical issues very quickly."

"Nick is a very impressive silk."

"He is very experienced and knows how to present in a way that others appreciate."

James Leabeater KC James Leabeater KC is an excellent silk with notable capability across dry shipping, shipbuilding and offshore construction disputes. He regularly appears in both the Commercial Court and arbitration forums. His caseload concerns a diverse selection of matters including shipbuilding, charter parties and cargo contamination.

Strengths:

"He is a steady pair of hands, is very reliable and very easy to deal with."

"What makes him stand out is that he is a very good cross-examiner."

"James has strong commercial skills and is good with clients."

Nigel Tozzi KC Nigel Tozzi KC is a respected commercial shipping barrister who acts as both an advocate and arbitrator. He handles a variety of matters including ship conversion and repair, shipbuilding and ship sale disputes. He has a substantial knowledge of refund guarantees and related issues.

Strengths:

"Nigel is a very able advocate. He is very strong, user-friendly and cooperative."

Alexander Wright KC Alexander Wright KC is an outstanding silk with a dynamic practice covering matters such as charter party, contract of affreightment and international carriage of goods disputes. He is also instructed in complex shipbuilding disputes and a range of wet shipping matters. He maintains an impressive practice in China, acting for shipyards.

Strengths:

"He is very user-friendly, approachable, down-to-earth and attentive."

"Alexander is very meticulous, careful and thoughtful."

"He offers great advice and has an excellent work ethic."

JUNIORS

Andrew Stevens Andrew Stevens is a respected junior in demand for his capabilities in international shipping arbitrations. He possesses additional expertise acting in superyacht cases.

Strengths:

"Andrew will get stuck into the detail and provide first-rate legal and commercial advice."

"He can always come up with unique and practical solutions based on his profound understanding of the law in shipping."

"Andrew is very precise, very careful, has good drafting skills and is user-friendly."

James Watthey James Watthey has a recognised capacity in both wet and dry shipping matters. He is particularly notable for his work in superyacht disputes and his close relationships with shipping lines, P&I clubs and overseas clients. He is also increasingly active in commodities disputes.

Strengths:

"He provides very thorough, insightful advice and is very user-friendly."

"James has immense knowledge of the marine industry."

"James is strong across the board. He is responsive and good on his feet."

Ed Jones Ed Jones is a well-regarded junior who is sought out by shipping firms for salvage and frustration cases. He is experienced in representing clients in both the Admiralty and Commercial Courts, and frequently appears as sole counsel.

Strengths:

"Ed is excellent at processing information and providing clear and commercial legal advice."

"His written work is brilliant and he turns it around very quickly."

"Ed is really hard-working and his advocacy is very impressive."

Rani Noakes Rani Noakes is an adroit junior noted for her expertise in shipping and commodities matters. She regularly acts in complex arbitrations and court proceedings, frequently as sole counsel. She has experience handling charter party and bill of lading disputes along with a plethora of wet shipping and shipbuilding concerns.

Strengths:

"Rani is easy to deal with, handles complex situations, and is very bright and very pragmatic."

"Rani's written submissions are really good and she is growing a strong reputation."

"Her written work is good and she is very pleasant to deal with."

Robert Scrivener Robert Scrivener is a notable junior with a practice that spans multiple jurisdictions. He is acts on a range of matters in the shipping industry such as vessel construction issues, charter party disputes and FPSO arbitrations.

Strengths:

"Robert is very thorough, detail-oriented and has a fast response time."

"He puts in a huge amount of time and effort, is a real team player and really gets stuck into the technical detail."

"Robert is a fantastic junior."

Thomas Steward Thomas Steward has an expansive practice that includes instructions relating to shipbuilding, charter parties and cargo disputes. He handles both wet and dry matters, as well as cases concerning international trade issues. In addition to being an effective litigator, he regularly appears in arbitration proceedings.

Strengths:

"Thomas is a fantastic barrister. He is incredibly hard-working and extremely clever."

"I am impressed with his dedication and the speed with which he gets to grips with the detail."

"He is very good on the shipping side."

36 Stone

36 Stone is commended for its members' expertise across significant commodities and shipping disputes. International trade is a particular area of competence for many counsel, who frequently act in overseas jurisdictions. Tenants have recently handled significant cases, such as the collision between 'VL Nichioh' and 'Shandong Zheng Tong'. One source remarks that the set is "brilliant, and effective at managing time and expectations." Another says they have a "good ability to grasp facts quickly and give commercial advice."

Client service:

"The clerks are very responsive."

"The clerks respond in a timely manner."

Reiss Nott is 36 Stone's senior clerk and is ably assisted by first clerk Billy Brett, and by Sam Medlock and Lily Bussey.

SILKS

Elizabeth Blackburn KC Elizabeth Blackburn KC is an experienced and highly regarded silk with specialist expertise in wet shipping disputes. Her diverse practice includes marine insurance, pollution, collision and salvage actions as well as shipbuilding and international maritime law. She is also regularly appointed as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Elizabeth is an excellent KC to work with."

"She is a dream to work with and is very conscientious."

Vasanti Selvaratnam KC Vasanti Selvaratnam KC is an experienced barrister with considerable ability in wet and dry shipping matters as well as commodities disputes. She is capable of taking on knotty legal issues such as the force majeure principle and interim relief applications. She regularly acts as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Vasanti is one of the best silks in the space. She is very concise and an excellent arbitrator."

"Vasanti is a fantastic KC."

JUNIORS

Ravi Aswani Ravi Aswani is an excellent practitioner with a wide-ranging shipping, commodities and international trade practice. He has notable experience acting as an advocate, arbitrator and mediator. He has undertaken an interesting selection of cases over the years, relating to such matters as shipbuilding and repair, collisions, damaged cargoes and violated charter party agreements.

Strengths:

"Ravi is extremely thoughtful and calm with deep expertise in maritime."

"He is easy to work with, very reliable, clear and to the point."

Mark Jones Mark Jones is a prominent junior with a strong international trade, commodities and shipping practice regularly handling charter party disputes, collisions and general average. He has further expertise in complex shipbuilding and ship sale and purchase disputes. He also advises on marine insurance and piracy and hijacking cases. A skilled litigator, he also frequently appears in arbitration proceedings.

Charles Debattista Charles Debattista is highly respected for acting as both advocate and arbitrator in shipping matters such as charter party, letters of credit and ship management disputes. He is particularly well known for his large advisory practice.

Strengths:

"Charles has a deep knowledge on shipping and commercial law."

Rachel Toney Rachel Toney is a highly commended junior with ability across wet and dry shipping matters including collisions, indemnity claims and charter party actions. She offers niche expertise in shipping-related employment and personal injury claims. Toney has a flourishing shipbuilding and superyacht disputes practice. She also routinely acts as a mediator and arbitrator.

Strengths:

"She is very accessible and her availability is excellent."

"Rachel has an excellent reputation."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Nicholas Craig KC (3 Verulam Buildings) Nicholas Craig KC of 3 Verulam Buildings is an adroit advocate noted for his work in the Commercial Court and in arbitration proceedings. He is particularly noted for the international dimension to his work. He also sits as an arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Nick has a very good record on cases, is very calm and is very easy to work with."

"Nick is very encouraging to other members of the team and easy to work with."

Alexander Gunning KC (One Essex Court) Alexander Gunning KC of One Essex Court maintains a strong shipping and commodities practice. He has marked expertise in disputes relating to charter parties and the offshore construction of rigs and ships. He has a noted following among Asian clients.

Strengths:

"Alexander is excellent. He understands really big, complex shipping issues and is particularly brilliant in arbitration."

Francis Hornyold-Strickland (Monckton Chambers) Francis Hornyold-Strickland's practice covers a wide range of wet and dry shipping matters. His cases are not restricted by jurisdiction, and he has a proven track record in areas such as demurrage, salvage disputes and energy transportation.

Strengths:

"He is incredibly intelligent and a brilliant barrister."

"Francis is very smart, a good advocate and offers great client service."

"He is user-friendly and very much a team player."

Richard Lord KC (Brick Court Chambers) Richard Lord KC of Brick Court Chambers is an acclaimed and highly respected barrister with an extensive dry shipping and commodities practice. His dispute caseload covers a wide array of issues including fraud, cargo claims, shipbuilding, charter parties, contracts of affreightment and marine insurance.

Strengths:

"He is an excellent advocate and deep thinker, but also very practical in his approach."

"Richard is a very proactive barrister."

Jern-Fei Ng KC (7BR) Jern-Fei Ng KC of 7BR is a dry shipping expert who is well accustomed to arbitration hearings at the LMAA. He has significant experience in a range of matters involving such issues as charter party and vessel construction disputes, as well as matters involving force majeure.

Strengths:

"Jern-Fei completely understands clients' commercial interests, and is proactive and very user-friendly."

"I have very strong confidence in his abilities."

Fionn Pilbrow KC (Brick Court Chambers) Fionn Pilbrow KC of Brick Court Chambers is a well-regarded barrister noted for his strong commercial practice, offering broad-ranging expertise in commodities and international trade disputes.

Strengths:

"Fionn is a joy to work with. He is committed, talented and responsive."

"He is very commercial and gives very practical advice."

Charlotte Tan (Brick Court Chambers) Charlotte Tan of Brick Court Chambers is an affable junior with expertise in shipping, commodities and commercial dispute resolution. She acts in a diverse array of disputes including those relating to shipbuilding, charter party agreements and joint ventures.

Strengths:

"Charlotte is very good, very effective and very bright."