

# Chambers

UK Bar 

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2021

Leading barristers  
and sets in the UK

Serle Court

## Art and Cultural Property Law

<b>Art and Cultural Property Law</b>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Bruce Andrew <i>Serle Court</i>

**Serle Court**

**Andrew Bruce** Acknowledged for his significant experience in art-related matters, especially disputes in connection with attribution and title. He has appeared in some very high-profile cases in recent years. **Strengths:** “A lawyer who is very knowledgeable on art law, especially when

it comes to technical issues like authenticity and title.” “He is very intelligent and no-nonsense in his approach. His drafting skills are of good quality and assist him in nailing the case.” **Recent work:** Acted for the defendant in a claim relating to the alleged conversion of an Andy Warhol print.

## Banking & Finance

<b>Banking &amp; Finance</b>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 4</b>
Blayney David <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Hattan Simon <i>Serle Court</i>

**Serle Court**

**David Blayney QC** Experienced practitioner with knowledge of a wide range of banking and finance issues along with added expertise in the company law and commercial chancery arenas. He has recently acted in several significant and market-renowned cases concerning major corporations. Blayney receives plaudits for his significant trial experience and is appreciated for his imaginative and persuasive arguments. **Strengths:** “He is exceedingly bright and very good on his feet.” “He has a super-computer brain for any sort of technical, scientific or

financial expert material and he has a very easy and understated style of advocacy.”

**Simon Hattan** Highly adept commercial junior, strongly skilled in a broad array of banking litigation as well as cases involving civil fraud and disciplinary proceedings. His financial practice is bolstered by the added perspective of his previous experience in working in two major investment banks. **Strengths:** “He is incredibly thorough and able to master large volumes of material, teasing out problems and opportunities.”

## Chancery: Commercial

<b>Chancery: Commercial</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Norbury Hugh <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Adkin Jonathan <i>Serle Court</i>
Ashworth Lance <i>Serle Court</i>
Blayney David <i>Serle Court</i>
Dowley Dominic <i>Serle Court</i>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
Lightman Daniel <i>Serle Court</i>
Machell John <i>Serle Court</i>
Reed Rupert <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>New Silks</b>
Collingwood Timothy <i>Serle Court</i>
Higgo Justin <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Drake David <i>Serle Court</i>
Weale James <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Hattan Simon <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 4</b>
Adams Paul <i>Serle Court</i>
Holcombe Sophie <i>Serle Court</i>
Mather James <i>Serle Court</i>
McCourt Fritz Dan <i>Serle Court</i>
Mohamedbhai Adil <i>Serle Court</i>
Morrison Matthew <i>Serle Court</i>
Tilley Gareth <i>Serle Court</i>

**Serle Court**

**THE SET**

Instructing solicitors praise Serle Court as “a leading commercial chancery chambers,” adding that “everyone at the set is sensible, collaborative and very easy to work with.” It houses an enviable bench of senior and junior barristers, and is regularly called upon to undertake the most complex cases in the market. In addition to offering expertise in the handling of high-profile domestic disputes, the team is highly regarded for its expertise in litigation arising in offshore jurisdictions, and members are routinely instructed in cases in Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, the BVI and Bermuda.

**Client service:** “The clerks are very responsive, helpful and commercial when it comes to negotiating fees.” “The team is very good at identifying and matching needs for specific client requirements – they make sure that they match the right barrister with the right client.” “The clerks understand the practicality of litigation and go the extra mile to help.” Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

**SILKS**

**Elizabeth Jones QC** “She’s very strong in court and is a truly formidable advocate.” “She is very robust and impressive on her feet. A top performer.”

**Philip Jones QC** “He’s very strong all-round – very knowledgeable on the law and good at dealing with both solicitors and clients. He has the ear of the court and is a real team player.” “He has astonishing problem-solving skills.”

**Philip Marshall QC** “He’s a mesmerising advocate and is utterly relentless – a very powerful performer.” “He takes on enormous cases and will fight like a tiger. He is resilient in the extreme.”

**Hugh Norbury QC** “He is incredible – very engaging and excellent at dealing with clients. He also has a great command of the law and is incredibly hard-working.” “He is really brilliant, approachable and good to work with. He is happy to get stuck into the

case.”

**Jonathan Adkin QC** “A tenacious advocate. He’s thoughtful and very good at considering the strategic aim of the case. He is very easy to work with.”

**Lance Ashworth QC** “He is easy to work with, commercial and practical. He’s always very involved in the detail right from the beginning.” “He’s a good cross-examiner and is very commercially minded and pragmatic.”

**David Blayney QC** “He is exceedingly bright and very good on his feet.” “He is immensely clever.”

**Dominic Dowley QC** “Has a good bedside manner and is very easy to deal with.”

**Dakis Hagen QC** “It’s a delight to watch him and his team work together so effectively. He has great judgement and excellent client-handling skills.” “He’s incredibly good – cautious, and highly responsive to the judge. He’s very adaptable in court.”

**Daniel Lightman QC** “Very strong on paper.” “He has an outstanding legal brain.”

**John Machell QC** “Always very thorough, prepared and thoughtful – he is a brilliant appellate advocate and is sound in his approach.” “He is a critical thinker and is innovative with his ideas. He is very responsive and user-friendly.”

**Rupert Reed QC** “He has a brilliant bedside manner with clients and is very sympathetic and patient. He’s a really good advocate and his written work is excellent. A class act.” “He is an absolute mine of information and is technically and intellectually strong.”

**Timothy Collingwood QC** “He is responsive, a good advocate and likeable as a person. He is switched on and sensible on his feet.” “He is really capable and very knowledgeable on trusts law. He is tactically sensible and really hard-working.”

**Justin Higgo QC** “Very clever and gets good results.”

**JUNIORS**

**Giles Richardson** “He’s just brilliant – exceptionally clever, hard-working and responsive.” “He’s very user-friendly and is a measured advocate.”

**David Drake** “An absolutely fantastic junior – he’s a great advocate and is fantastic on paper. He is incredibly easy to work with.” “He is phenomenal at turning things around quickly and is incredibly hard-working.”

**James Weale** “He is super bright, hard-working and responsive. He’s bursting with great ideas and energy. He is a superb draftsman and a strong oral advocate. He is also a real team player and a pleasure to deal with.” “His written work is just absolutely excellent and he is very, very sensible in his approach.”

**Simon Hattan** “He is incredibly thorough, and is able to master large volumes of material and tease out problems and opportunities. He is also an absolute pleasure to work with – he does not stand on ceremony and treats all team members as equals.” “He is really measured, clear and sensible in his advocacy, and is also very good on paper.”

**Paul Adams** “He has a phenomenal memory and can pull out an obscure case at a moment’s notice. He

works extremely quickly and produces substantial and lucid pleadings at an incredible speed. He is really, really impressive and a joy to work with.”

**Sophie Holcombe** “She is extraordinarily hard-working, very thorough and always fully prepared. She’s brilliant.”

**James Mather** “He is absolutely phenomenally intelligent and very impressive. He gets on top of the case quickly and sees angles that others do not see. He is also brilliant in court.”

**Dan McCourt Fritz** “Clients absolutely love him and he’s very good at drafting. He’s also very strong technically and he knows this subject very well.” “He’s excellent – very easy to deal with and brilliant at what he does.”

**Adil Mohamedbhai** “An excellent junior who is very good value for money. He goes above and beyond to make sure the drafting is in top shape, and he’s very nice to deal with.” “He grasps complicated concepts quickly and has a very practical approach to complex

legal problems. He simplifies issues and gets to the results.”

**Matthew Morrison** “An extremely bright barrister and a real people person. He is brilliant with clients and very commercial, but with a formidable intellect.” “He is easy to work with, practical and commercial. He takes a collaborative approach.”

**Gareth Tilley** “He is very sharp and practical. He works quickly and is very realistic in his judgement.” “He is extremely thorough in his consideration of the evidence and when drafting pleadings and other documents. He has proven to be an excellent advocate in court.”

## London Traditional

<b>Chancery: Traditional</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
McDonnell Constance <i>Serle Court</i>
Wilson Richard <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Machell John <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Star individuals</b>
Henderson William <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 1</b>
Brightwell James <i>Serle Court</i>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Hargreaves Emma <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 4</b>
Jones Oliver <i>Serle Court</i>
Weale James <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

Serle Court is an extremely well-known and much-respected chancery set, with a formidable group of silks and juniors handling complex private client disputes. “They are my favourite set to work with – they have expertise in this field, but what we love is that they are so pragmatic and commercial, real team players,” says a source.

**Client service:** The set’s administrative operation is praised by sources. “They are very easy to work with,” observes a commentator, adding: “It’s such a slick operation – they always provide a safe pair of hands.” John Petrie is the set’s chief executive and Steven Whitaker is head clerk.

#### SILKS

**Dakis Hagen QC** Exceptionally well-respected silk who is regularly instructed in the largest and most complex matters, particularly those with international or matrimonial finance aspects. **Strengths:** “Just fantastic to work with – he’s

highly responsive, clear, and an amazing advocate.” “Friendly, bright and good with clients.” “One of the finest barristers, who ‘understands and empathises with clients.’”

**Elizabeth Jones QC** A distinguished silk whose traditional chancery practice includes a substantial amount of international work. Due to her experience in commercial chancery, she is highly sought after for trust matters with a commercial aspect. **Strengths:** “Has an astonishing control of every room she’s in and adopts an exceptional academic approach.” “She’s phenomenal and has an extraordinary ability to get on top of material.” “She’s so impressive tactically as well, and has an absolute grasp of her cases.”

**Constance McDonnell QC** Highly respected in the traditional chancery market for her handling of the most high-profile matters, including the notable *Ilott* case. She focuses on probate and contentious trusts, and also handles the administration of estates. **Strengths:** She has a “professional approach” and “a wealth of experience and knowledge. She is excellent at putting forward tactical solutions to resolve problems.” “She works fantastically hard, is very calm and is very pleasant to deal with.”

**Richard Wilson QC** Has a particularly strong advisory practice. He is often instructed in cases concerning real property or landed estates. He is also noted for his handling of offshore trusts and other overseas matters. **Strengths:** “Very commercial, practical and responsive.” “He’s just fantastically user-friendly – always at the end of the phone if you need him. He’s also so good strategically.”

**John Machell QC** A respected silk with a broad chancery practice, who often appears in trusts and estates cases as well as more commercial matters. He is also frequently sought after for offshore matters, particularly those concerning trusts. **Strengths:** “He is a go-to silk for Cayman matters. He’s excellent to work with, very thorough, approachable and flexible.” “In court, he makes his point very eloquently and can explain difficult issues in a clear way.” “He’s measured in his approach, and gives clear, balanced, well-reasoned advice. He’s hard-working and personable.”

#### JUNIORS

**William Henderson** An exceptionally well-respected junior who is instructed in the most complex matters, including wills, probate, and trusts, both domestically and overseas. He is highly sought after by high net worth individuals. **Strengths:** “Unbelievably clever” and “just a fabulous advocate.”

**James Brightwell** Strong junior with a practice which encompasses both contentious and non-contentious matters, with a noted expertise in cases with complex trusts. He handles cases both domestically and offshore, and is respected for his highly technical knowledge. **Strengths:** “Very, very impressive.” “He’s exceptional in court and exceptionally polite.”

**Giles Richardson** An exceptionally well-respected junior who is frequently trusted with complex multi-jurisdictional matters. He is also noted for his experience in matrimonial finance and other matters falling in the crossover between family law and traditional chancery. **Strengths:** “Has a very good sense of humour, and is utterly unflappable. He’s incredibly diligent and bright, and is always on top of the most recent law.”

**Emma Hargreaves** A rising star whose respected chancery practice includes trusts, wills and estates. She has a particular expertise in unfair prejudice matters. **Strengths:** “Every time you see her, she’s surrounded by people who desperately need her help – she is just that outstanding.” “Emma is outstandingly intelligent. She is very, very responsive and she puts her heart and soul into everything she does.”

**Oliver Jones** Represents clients in contentious probate, trusts and estate administration matters. He has recently had a role in the high-profile case of *Sir Owen Glenn & Kea Investments Limited v Watson & Others*. **Strengths:** “The standout thing is his drafting skill. He’s amazing at turning around documents at high speed – really clever and such a nice man.”

**James Weale** Focuses his practice on contentious matters and is frequently sought after for complex Inheritance Act cases. He is also experienced in cross-border matters. **Strengths:** “A brilliant lawyer who is good with clients and gives spot-on advice.” “He’s absolutely fantastic – a complete hit with the clients. He’s on top of the detail, is incredibly responsive and has great judgement.”

## Charities

<b>Banking &amp; Finance</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Henderson William <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Fowles Jonathan <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

Serle Court has an established reputation in the charities market, and houses members who have been present in many of the most prominent cases of recent years. Individuals here represent charities in rate relief cases, trustee disputes and appeals against Charity Commission decisions. They are also active on tax and trust law matters, and regularly handle judicial reviews.

**Client service:** Steven Whitaker is the set's head clerk, who is "very likeable and pleasant to negotiate with."

#### JUNIORS

**William Henderson** Held in high regard for his charity work, he handles a broad range of contentious issues, but has a particular focus on tax-related disputes. He is Junior Counsel to the Treasury in Charity Matters. Trustee and governance disputes are other areas of activity. Henderson is co-editor of 'Tudor on Charities'. **Strengths:** "Brilliant at spotting things or drawing things out that you weren't aware of, he has depth of knowledge and experience that is truly impressive. He's excellent for technically difficult matters and is familiar with the more esoteric aspects of charities law." "Will Henderson is outstanding, particularly in court." **Recent work:** Acted for the trustees in Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK) v H.M. Attorney General.

**Jonathan Fowles** "An impressive barrister across all aspects of charity law," who regularly advises

charities on constitutional matters and counsels trustees as to their duties and capacities. Much of his work is highly sensitive and his recent instructions include a number of significant contentious cases in the sector. Fowles has experience of statutory inquiries and is expert in cases with reputational damage angles. He co-edits 'Tudor on Charities' alongside his stablemate William Henderson. **Strengths:** "He is incredibly knowledgeable about charity matters generally, gives very good practical advice and is a terribly likeable man." "His advice is clear and pragmatic on complex issues and he is a pleasure to instruct and work with." **Recent work:** Recently instructed by the London Borough of Merton in Nuffield Health v London Borough of Merton, a dispute over mandatory charitable relief from non-domestic rates.

## Commercial Dispute Resolution

<b>Commercial Dispute Resolution</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Adkin Jonathan <i>Serle Court</i>
Ashworth Lance <i>Serle Court</i>
Machell John <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 4</b>
Blayney David <i>Serle Court</i>
Lightman Daniel <i>Serle Court</i>
Norbury Hugh <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 5</b>
O'Sullivan Zoe <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>New Silks</b>
Higgo Justin <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Hattan Simon <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 5</b>
Adams Paul <i>Serle Court</i>
Morrison Matthew <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

A regular presence in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division, Serle Court is a set peopled with strong practitioners at both silk and junior level. Members are highly regarded for their capabilities, with sources reporting: "They are pragmatic, commercial and user-friendly." Individuals at the set regularly guide clients through high-value cases in the market, many of which are international in scope. Recent cases include Carlyle Capital v Conway & Others, a claim for in excess of USD1 billion arising out of mortgage-backed securities trading, the largest claim brought in Guernsey. Another highlight

saw the practitioners represent the administrators of Lehman Brothers in inter-company financing issues and subordinated debt claims totalling USD10 billion.

**Client service:** "The clerks, led by Steve Whitaker, are brilliant." "They are helpful, friendly and responsive."

#### SILKS

**Philip Marshall QC** "He understands the evidence very quickly and he is a clear strategist who is easy to work with." "Philip is fantastic in court and so smooth on his feet." **Recent work:** Acted for the administrators of Lehman Brothers in relation to inter-company financing issues and subordinated debt claims totalling USD10 billion.

**Elizabeth Jones QC** "Very bright and an incredibly tough commercial litigator." "She has a very good sense of where the case is going as she sees the big picture." **Recent work:** Instructed on behalf of Sir Owen Glenn in various proceedings against Eric Watson relating to a British Virgin Islands joint venture company, Spartan Capital.

**Philip Jones QC** "A good advocate who is very hard-working." "He's not afraid to get his hands dirty and he produces great written work." **Recent work:** Acted for Ng Man Sun in a share dispute with Chen Mei Huan over a British Virgin Islands company which is the ultimate owner of a hotel and casino in Macau.

**Jonathan Adkin QC** "Instils confidence in the client very quickly." "He is extremely persuasive and effective on his feet, including in cross-examination, and he really gets into the weeds of the case."

**Recent work:** Acted as lead counsel for one of the defendants in The Public Institution for Social Security v Al-Rajaan and Others, a case regarding a Kuwaiti state agency that alleged breaches of banking obligations and money-laundering against a number of Swiss banks and other individuals.

**Lance Ashworth QC** "He is absolutely brilliant and all over the detail in a case." "Lance is a terrific advocate who is particularly superb on the paperwork. He pays attention to detail and is really good with the client."

**Recent work:** Acted for Grove Park Properties in suing the Royal Bank of Scotland for the recovery of monies paid in respect of a loan which was voided

due to an alteration of the loan agreement. He also defended the company against a counterclaim of £16 million.

**John Machell QC** "Very well prepared, a really nice person to work with and a very good team player." "He is very impressive and perceptive." **Recent work:** Successfully acted for the defendant in Danilina v Chernukhin, a Russian oligarch case involving a property development.

**David Blayney QC** "Very cerebral and good-humoured," "he is an original thinker." **Recent work:** Acted for Constantin Medien in its claim against Bernie Ecclestone over an alleged USD44 million bribe in connection with the sale of the Formula One Group in 2005.

**Daniel Lightman QC** "His submissions are extremely good and he is very impressive." "He has exceptional knowledge and expertise, particularly in relation to company disputes." **Recent work:** Represented Andreas Dinglis and Master Holdings Group, the respondents to a petition presented by Dinglis's son and daughter alleging that the family established property holding and property management companies were run in an unfairly prejudicial manner.

**Hugh Norbury QC** "User-friendly and excellent in terms of his strategy and tactics." "Hugh Norbury QC is incredible: he is very engaging, has a great command of the law and is incredibly hard-working." **Recent work:** Acted for the defendant in ArcelorMittal v Essar Steel, a case concerning two steel manufacturing giants.

**Zoe O'Sullivan QC** "She gives the right answer quickly and her advice is really clear." **Recent work:** Appeared in Shanghai Shipyard v Reignwood International Investment (Group) Company Ltd, acting for the defendant in resisting claims of USD340 million.

**Justin Higgo QC** "Highly enthusiastic, he rolls up his sleeves and is always on top of the law." "He simplifies difficult concepts and makes the job look easy." **Recent work:** Acted in Munkenbeck v The Vinyl Factory, an unjust enrichment claim relating to the redevelopment of Marshall Street Baths in central London.

**JUNIORS**

**Simon Hattan** “He is extremely hard-working, responsive and able to turn around work in tight timeframes.” **Recent work:** Acted for the defendant and counterclaimant in *Noksel Celik AS v Bemaco Steel*, a multimillion-pound claim arising out of a contract for the supply of steel piping.

**Paul Adams** “Very able and pays amazing attention to detail.” “He does a very good job and his drafting is impressive.” **Recent work:** Acted for Sir Owen Glenn and Kea Investments in a dispute regarding a joint venture.

**Matthew Morrison** “Brilliant with clients, very commercial and a man with a formidable intellect.”

“He is all over the detail and very proactive.” **Recent work:** Acted for the third defendant in a case, a Mr Ramkhumar, in respect of claims brought by the Punjab National Bank which alleged that loans totalling USD37 million were procured by fraudulent misrepresentation and deceit.

## Company

<b>Company</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Lightman Daniel <i>Serle Court</i>
Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Ashworth Lance <i>Serle Court</i>
Blayney David <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>New Silks</b>
Collingwood Timothy <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Drake David <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Adams Paul <i>Serle Court</i>

**Serle Court****THE SET**

Serle Court maintains a solid reputation for company law work, particularly as it pertains to contentious matters such as breach of duty claims, derivative claims and shareholder disputes. Members here are frequently engaged to advise on matters with significant cross-border dimensions, including those in the BVI, Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands. Recent instructions include a role in significant shareholders’ litigation concerning the Kings Solution Group. Several members continue to be involved in the major Edwardian Group litigation. Interviewees report: “The set has great strength and depth and very capable barristers,” and: “The set is extremely good; the barristers are all nice to work with and take responsibility for the work they do. There is a collaborative feel to the set.”

**Client service:** “The clerks are very responsive, helpful and commercial.” “They’re efficient, friendly and sensible.” “It’s a very well-organised set.” Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

**SILKS**

**Philip Jones QC** A respected and highly sought-after silk with a fantastic reputation in company disputes. He maintains a thriving offshore practice and continues to undertake significant work on behalf of the government. Particular praise is reserved for his expertise in directors’ disqualification. **Strengths:** “He’s very responsive and clear-minded which, from a strategic point of view, is very helpful.” **Recent work:** Represented Trina Solar, a Chinese-controlled solar panel business, in connection with its delisting from the New York Stock Exchange via the Cayman Islands merger provisions.

**Daniel Lightman QC** Often acts in company law cases and is an expert in minority shareholder cases. His areas of expertise also cover derivative claims and Section 994 petition proceedings, and he has wider experience in corporate insolvency work. **Strengths:** “Daniel is excellent; he’s responsive and works hard.” **Recent work:** Represented a number of respondents to unfair prejudice petitions concerning Bankside Hotels.

**Philip Marshall QC** A heavyweight barrister who regularly undertakes disputes concerning directors and acquisitions, as well as those with asset recovery and fraud issues. He handles cases in both domestic and international courts, and also has deep commercial arbitration expertise. His offshore experience includes recent appearances in Guernsey and the BVI. **Strengths:** “He is an extraordinary advocate of huge energy and enthusiasm.” **Recent work:** Appeared in *Emmerson v Vekselberg*, a high-value claim of breach of contract arising out of a joint venture.

**Lance Ashworth QC** Maintains an active company and insolvency practice within his highly regarded commercial chancery practice. Areas of particular strength include shareholder disputes and unfair prejudice claims. **Strengths:** “Lance’s strength is that he gives robust advice. He is client-friendly and efficient with his paperwork.” **Recent work:** Appeared in *Zedra Trust Company v The Hut Group*, litigation concerning claims of unfair prejudice.

**David Blayney QC** Respected junior silk who handles company law as part of a broad commercial

and chancery practice. He is often called upon to handle breach of directors’ duty, unfair prejudice proceedings and disputes concerning the validity of agreements. **Strengths:** “He’s very easy to deal with and particularly good from a strategic point of view.” **Recent work:** Acted in a shareholder dispute, including Section 994 proceedings, in relation to the Kings Solutions Group.

**Timothy Collingwood QC** A highly respected new silk who takes instructions in domestic and international cases. He is particularly noted for his capabilities in shareholder disputes involving breach of duty and allegations of fraud. Clients benefit from his having formerly practised as an attorney-at-law in the Cayman Islands. **Strengths:** “Tim is easy to work with as he’s bright, efficient and pragmatic.” **Recent work:** Represented the petitioners in litigation concerning R-Squared Holdco and the control of a company.

**JUNIORS**

**David Drake** An experienced junior with a strong track record in disputes concerning breach of directors’ duties and unfair prejudice. He also offers skills in related fields, including civil fraud and corporate insolvency. **Strengths:** “He is knowledgeable in the area, user-friendly and able to think laterally and come up with solutions.”

**Paul Adams** Enjoys a strong reputation for his skills in a range of company disputes including those relating to breach of fiduciary duty, shareholder agreements and reflective loss. He often appears in both the English and the BVI Courts of Appeal. **Strengths:** “His knowledge is astonishing and his writing is incredibly polished. He absolutely shines.” **Recent work:** Represented the claimants in *Glenn & Kea Investments v Watson & Ivory Castle*, significant litigation concerning allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and issues of directors’ authority.

## Competition Law

<b>Competition Law</b>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Rab Suzanne <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Suzanne Rab** has a varied client list that includes UK regulators, industry associations and solicitors in private practice. She handles follow-on damages claims and advises on competition law arguments arising within the context of wider UK commercial disputes. Rab has notable experience advising sector regulators on the exercise of their competition law

powers. **Strengths:** “She will throw herself in with phenomenal energy and experience and packages that up in a client-friendly manner.” **Recent work:** Represented some of the claimants in a follow-on damages action against the participants in the trucks cartel.

## Court of Protection: All Circuits Property & Affairs

<b>Court of Protection: Property &amp; Affairs</b>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
McDonnell Constance <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Constance McDonnell QC** Highly regarded for her work on probate and contentious trusts and probate. When in the Court of Protection she is frequently involved in cases concerning lifetime gifts, statutory wills and enduring powers of attorney. She is further able to advise on the sale of assets for clients who

lack capacity. **Strengths:** “Great at cutting through all the nonsense and being practical. She really communicates very well with her clients, and outlines everything that needs to be done.” “She delivers advice in a very confident, inspiring way.”

## Family/Matrimonial: Trusts/Tax Experts

<b>Family/Matrimonial: Trusts/Tax Experts</b>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Star individuals</b>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 1</b>
Wilson Richard <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Hargreaves Emma <i>Serle Court</i>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Dakis Hagen QC** Superb advocate for cases concerning the intersection between family and chancery law, who is regularly instructed in the largest and most ground-breaking of matters. He is greatly experienced in all areas of chancery and trust law, and regularly handles complex international matters involving offshore trusts. **Strengths:** “Clients in the Family Division appreciate his passionate approach. He is a fighter whose speciality is offshore trusts.” “Dakis is a trailblazer in this kind of work. He has a standout reputation because he pushes the boundaries.” **Recent work:** Acted in *AF v SF*,

appearing as leading counsel for the respondent in respect of trust issues in a complex financial remedy case involving ancient and dynastic settlements.

**Emma Hargreaves** Junior with a fast-growing reputation for handling complex financial remedy matters with a chancery element. She regularly acts in complex international proceedings, including those involving issues of sham trusts and non-disclosure. **Strengths:** “Beyond intelligent and unbelievably detailed in her approach. She rolls up her sleeves, works incredibly hard, and always gets back to the instructing solicitor straight away.” “So terrifyingly bright she can destroy most opponents in about five sentences.” “A rising star who really punches above her weight, she will continue to rise in credibility.” **Recent work:** Represented a third party involved in the highly publicised *Christina Estrada v Walid Juffali* financial remedy proceedings.

**Giles Richardson** Enjoys a strong presence in cases involving the crossover between matrimonial and chancery law. He has valuable experience of handling matrimonial proceedings involving Jersey and Guernsey trusts. **Strengths:** “Bridges the gap between matrimonial and complex trust issues. He is approachable, gets stuck in, works well in a team

and has a detailed, technical knowledge of trusts law.” “Brilliant with clients, witty and extremely hard-working, he is able to explain complicated trust issues in a clear and understandable way.”

**Richard Wilson QC** Trusts expert whose practice frequently overlaps with some of the most complex financial remedy proceedings. He garners market praise both for his expertise in offshore trusts and his ability to adapt to the mannerisms of the family courts. **Strengths:** “Incredibly well regarded in the trusts world, he has a base of knowledge and experience that gives him a real edge in the Family Division.” “A forthright silk who argues cases in a manner that is appropriate to the family court.” “He is easy to work with and has a collaborative style. Clients find his advice concise and simple to understand.” **Recent work:** Appeared in *W v Line* Trustee, acting for the successful husband in proceedings before the Gibraltar Supreme Court concerning that court’s jurisdiction to determine matters relating to the validity of actions taken by the trustee of a Gibraltar trust when those issues had been raised in English matrimonial proceedings.

## Fraud: Civil

<b>Fraud: Civil</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
Norbury Hugh <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Adkin Jonathan <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 4</b>
Dowley Dominic <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>New Silks</b>
Higgo Justin <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Drake David <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Harrison Nicholas <i>Serle Court</i>
Hattan Simon <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 4</b>
McCourt Fritz Dan <i>Serle Court</i>
Morrison Matthew <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

The experienced commercial barristers at Serle Court are routinely instructed in high-profile fraud cases on both a domestic and international scale. Members offer significant expertise in claims involving allegations of bribery, as well as the tracing, freezing and recovery of assets across a wide range of jurisdictions. Several of the set's instructions involve offshore jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the BVI, while the team is also regularly instructed in disputes arising in Russia and the Middle East. Recent work handled by the set includes acting for one of the defendants in *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al-Rajaan*, an USD800 million fraud claim brought by the Kuwaiti state involving allegations of bribery and collusion.

**Client service:** "There is a real collaborative effort within the set and the clerks are very responsive, helpful and commercial." "The clerks are friendly, approachable and happy to accommodate requests." "Charlie Payne and Adam Bell are excellent – they're extremely efficient and turn around instructions very quickly." Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

#### SILKS

**Philip Marshall QC** A specialist fraud advocate instructed in significant pieces of litigation involving the full range of allegations. He also sits as a Deputy High Court Judge. **Strengths:** "One of the top barristers around – he has massive experience, is super quick and very academically clever." "He is ruthlessly efficient and gets the job done." "He is impressively quick on his feet." **Recent work:** Represented one of the defendants in *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al-Rajaan*, a fraud claim for over USD800 million arising out of alleged bribery in respect of banking and investments of the state pension fund of Kuwait.

**Philip Jones QC** Provides carefully crafted advice in difficult fraud disputes and is adept at addressing jurisdiction issues. His cases originate all over the world including the Caribbean, the CIS and Asia. **Strengths:** "A fantastic barrister with a huge brain." "He is impressive and clear in his submissions." **Recent work:** Acted for the defendants in *Symphony v Keleston*, a claim for fraud arising out of a sale of a wind turbine business in Thailand.

**Hugh Norbury QC** An excellent silk with an expansive commercial practice. He is instructed in high-profile and high-value civil fraud cases involving allegations such as breach of fiduciary duty, bribery and conspiracy. **Strengths:** "An incredible barrister who is very engaging, deals with clients incredibly well and has a great command of the law." "He is highly competent and clever." **Recent work:** Instructed in *EOL v Monex & Others*, a bribery claim relating to secret commissions paid to senior people in the treasury department of Entertainment One.

**Jonathan Adkin QC** An impressive advocate who has acted in a large number of prominent, multi-jurisdictional fraud disputes. He has great experience of cases involving high net worth individuals. He has experience handling cases involving allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of fiduciary duty. **Strengths:** "A brilliant advocate." "He is very calm, extremely thorough and very direct in his advocacy." **Recent work:** Appeared in *Panasonic Europe BV v Core Communication Investments & Others*, a high-value claim alleging fraudulent misrepresentation by senior management leading to the acquisition of a telecoms business.

**Dominic Dowley QC** Works on pivotal fraud cases within the context of an international commercial practice that also covers banking and financial services, professional negligence and trusts work. Many of his instructions emanate from the Caribbean. **Strengths:** "He is incredibly effective." "A reliable and bright barrister." **Recent work:** Instructed in *NOUK v Mirador Shipping*, an international shipping fraud.

**Elizabeth Jones QC** An experienced commercial practitioner frequently instructed in major fraud matters. Her cases concern the full raft of allegations including forgery, bribery, conspiracy and deceit. She is also a skilled mediator. **Strengths:** "She is impressive in court and very good at making submissions." "Her fraud brain is incredible – she is technically bright and astute and for complex issues she is a go-to person." **Recent work:** Acted in *eOne v Monex*, a case involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and bribery.

**Justin Higgo QC** An admired silk with a broad commercial chancery practice. He receives a steady supply of significant fraud instructions relating to diverse allegations including deceit, breach of fiduciary duty and misappropriation of funds. **Strengths:** "He is enthusiastic, great on his feet and has a really nice attitude in court." "He is very robust and has great knowledge of civil fraud." **Recent work:** Appeared in *Spokane v CMS*, a breach of fiduciary duty claim brought by a Swiss investment fund against its former solicitor in connection with losses caused to investments in Turkish pharmaceutical companies.

#### JUNIORS

**David Drake** Advises on complex cases of civil fraud, and is an expert on freezing and document preservation orders. In addition he appears in criminal proceedings. He has experience advising on disputes involving allegations of dishonesty, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence. **Strengths:** "He is great at analysing academically tricky areas." "A great advocate with a first-class brain who is also fantastic on paper." "He is a pleasure to work with and is a QC in all but name." **Recent work:** Represented Mavuli Caboose Establishment in bringing claims including misstatement, breach of fiduciary duty and dishonest assistance against RP&C International and Greenall in relation to a series of investments made in a now-insolvent group of companies.

**Nicholas Harrison** Handles high-value fraud claims emanating from all around the globe. Jurisdictions in which he has appeared include Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Isle of Man and the BVI. He has dealt with a range of allegations including misappropriation of funds and undue influence. **Strengths:** "Very reliable and a good advocate."

**Simon Hattan** Manages a general commercial and chancery practice and is regularly instructed in fraud matters involving such allegations as breach of fiduciary duty, misrepresentation and dishonesty.

**Strengths:** "A brilliant senior junior who is very strategic. He is great if you have a thorny issue that you want to navigate around." "He knows the law back to front and he pleads his cases thoroughly." **Recent work:** Defended one of the defendants in *Public Institute for Social Security v Multiple Defendants*, claim involving allegations that valuable banking relationships were tainted by the payment of secret commissions worth many millions.

**Dan McCourt Fritz** Regularly acts for both claimants and defendants in complex fraud cases. He is experienced in the handling of disputes involving allegations of conspiracy, bribery and breach of fiduciary duty. He is particularly well regarded for his expertise in breach of confidence claims, and frequently appears in civil contempt proceedings.

**Strengths:** "He is very hard-working." "He is user-friendly, sharp and bright." "A rising star and an absolute pleasure to work with." **Recent work:** Acted for the defendants in *Taylor v Van Dutch*, an unlawful means conspiracy claim relating to the ownership of a luxury yacht.

**Matthew Morrison** Prosecutes and defends high-profile fraud proceedings concerning such issues as unfair prejudice, breach of fiduciary duty, conspiracy and misappropriated assets. He has acted in cases relating to numerous overseas countries including in North America and the Middle East. **Strengths:** "A clever barrister." "He is highly efficient, knows the law inside out and produces quality work." **Recent work:** Instructed by the third defendant in *Punjab National Bank v Srinivasan & Others*. PNB alleged that substantial loans totalling USD37 million were procured by fraudulent misrepresentation and deceit.

## Information Technology

Information Technology
Leading silks
<b>Band 3</b>
O'Sullivan Zoe <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Zoe O'Sullivan QC** Has a growing IT practice that sees her handling cases concerning software development and licensing, major contractual disputes and outsourcing issues. She is also experienced at handling media technology issues as well as those in the banking and energy sectors. O'Sullivan regularly handles matters involving

public authorities. **Strengths:** "Decisive, commercial and approachable." "She is a highly intelligent and extremely hard-working and thorough advocate, and a very robust cross-examiner." **Recent work:** Acted for ATOS IT Services in a claim by an NHS trust for breach of a contract regarding the digitisation of patient records.

## Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property
Leading silks
<b>Band 3</b>
Edenborough Michael <i>Serle Court</i>
Leading Juniors
Up and Coming
Wickenden Stephanie <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Michael Edenborough QC** A seasoned silk who is highlighted for his deep expertise in trade mark law. He has additional expertise in patents and design rights disputes. He is also often instructed in cases concerning geographical indications, data protection and moral rights. He operates an impressive practice in EU trade mark appeals to the General Court of the EU. **Strengths:** "He is both an analytical and a tactical thinker." "He is very responsive and proactive." **Recent work:** Acted for NHS England and Wales in a claim alleging the French pharmaceutical company Servier fraudulently obtained a patent from the EPO.

**Stephanie Wickenden** A promising junior offering experience in a range of trade mark and design disputes. She regularly acts in infringement and passing-off claims, including those with jurisdictional elements. **Strengths:** "She is very calm and collected, and has a good sense of commerciality." "She brings a lot of good ideas to the table and brings a good dynamic to any litigation." **Recent work:** Acted in Glaxo Wellcome v Sandoz, a passing-off claim in respect of the purple colour and get-up of Seretide asthma inhalers.

## Mediators

Mediators
Leading silks
<b>Band 4</b>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Leading Juniors
<b>Band 1</b>
Rogers Beverly-Ann <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Elizabeth Jones QC** Handles a diverse range of mediations and has notable recent experience tackling trusts and probate, employment and shareholder-related disputes. **Strengths:** "Especially impressive in her desire to seek out new ways to resolve disputes." **Beverly-Ann Rogers** Has an outstanding reputation as a mediator especially in chancery-related cases including those concerning trusts, property, partnership and company law issues. Her experience

also extends to employment and general commercial cases. **Strengths:** "One of the greats, who keeps a grip on the mediation process without bullying the parties, and has an unflustered and authoritative demeanour. Everyone comes out feeling that they have had the opportunity to thrash out their problems." "She is so effective because she's prepared to be quite firm with the warring parties, but always in a very courteous and polite way."

## Offshore

Offshore
Leading Sets
<b>Band 1</b>
Serle Court
Leading silks
<b>Band 1</b>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
Marshall Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Adkin Jonathan <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>
Wilson Richard <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Machell John <i>Serle Court</i>
Leading Juniors
<b>Band 1</b>
Brightwell James <i>Serle Court</i>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Harrison Nicholas <i>Serle Court</i>
Jordan Ruth <i>Serle Court</i>
Morrison Matthew <i>Serle Court</i>
Purkis Kathryn <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

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. Members continue to act in some of the most substantial cases in offshore jurisdictions, including Wong v Grand View in Bermuda. One instructing solicitor comments: "They are excellent without exception."

**Client service:** "The clerks are great: they are very user-friendly, practical and pragmatic." "The client service is second to none; we would not be able to run any of our cases without them." Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

#### SILKS

**Dakis Hagen QC** 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:** "He continues to be a top trust adviser and one of our absolute go-to barristers. Excellent with clients." "Excellent to work with: approachable, responsive and always adds value to the case." "He is charming with clients and has an almost unparalleled ability to simplify complex legal principles and facts for the benefit of both solicitors and lay clients." **Recent work:** Acted for the plaintiffs in Wong v Grand View & Others, which involved a claim in Bermuda that five purpose trusts were invalid.

**Philip Marshall QC** 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:** "He is a truly excellent advocate." "Incisive and robust." "He is a serious big hitter." **Recent work:** Represented the trust in Leremeieva v Estera Corporate Services regarding a claim in the BVI of fabrication of a trust and the creation of a trust de son tort.

**Jonathan Adkin QC** 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:** “A very powerful advocate and a hugely valuable ally to have.” **Recent work:** Acted in PT Ventures SPGS v Vidatel, a BVI High Court action regarding the enforcement of a USD600 million arbitral award.

**Elizabeth Jones QC** 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. Jones has recently been engaged in significant proceedings in Bermuda and the Bahamas. **Recent work:** Advised a former trustee of a Jersey-based trust in a case concerning the recovery of damages awarded against the trustee’s employees for breach of fiduciary duty while acting as company directors.

**Philip Jones QC** 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. **Recent work:** Acted in the Shanda Games case in the Cayman Islands, a case regarding the de-listing, from the NYSE, of a Chinese-controlled business.

**Richard Wilson QC** 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:** “Astute, responsive, prepared to make himself available, and the advice is always pragmatic.” “Excellent to deal with and offers solid commercial advice.” “He is very easy to work with and makes himself available no matter how busy he is.”

**Recent work:** Represented the plaintiff beneficiary in a case which sought to set aside appointments made by the trustees, on the basis that they failed to give proper consideration to the exercise of their discretion, in connection to a USD400 million

Bahamian trust.

**John Machell QC** He has a wide range of offshore expertise regularly handling major trusts cases as well as general commercial disputes. He is frequently sought out by clients in Jersey and the Cayman Islands. **Strengths:** “He gives excellent advice and is cost-effective and very responsive. A very high-quality silk.”

#### JUNIORS

**James Brightwell** Acclaimed by market sources for his work in trusts and estates litigation. He is frequently called upon to represent clients in the BVI and the Channel Islands, and has garnered accolades for his role in the Tchenguiz trust litigation. He is further noted for his non-contentious trusts work. **Strengths:** “He is very, very knowledgeable, thoughtful, very analytical and hard-working.” “A very solid, very bright, prompt and reliable senior junior to go to. He has an in-depth knowledge of trust law.” **Recent work:** Represented the Public Trustee of Guernsey in a case raising questions around the previous administrator of several pension schemes and the ownership of scheme assets.

**Giles Richardson** 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:** “An outstanding barrister, easy to work with, solid and technically very gifted.” “His pragmatic advice is world class.” “He provides quick and thorough advice and inspires confidence with clients.” **Recent work:** Instructed in R&H v Volaw, a case concerning a £100 million claim against former trustees arising from their investment of trust monies in a failed gym chain.

**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:** “He is always on top of every aspect of the case. Quite outstanding.” “He is very hard-working and clear-minded.”

**Ruth Jordan** Offers noteworthy expertise in a range

of offshore commercial work, including shareholder and investment disputes. She is particularly adept at handling litigation in the Bahamas. **Recent work:** Instructed by the plaintiffs in TG Investment & Others v New Hope Holdings & Others regarding a suit to recover over USD44 million in loans and investments made to the Port Lucaya Marina development in the Bahamas.

**Matthew Morrison** Acts in a range of offshore cases, including trusts and liquidation disputes. Regularly appears before courts in the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas. **Strengths:** “He is very good and has excellent drafting skills.” “Very thorough, industrious and bright.” **Recent work:** Acted for the respondent beneficiary in DIB v Ridley in securing the discontinuance of claims brought by DIB regarding allegations of a USD500 million fraud.

**Kathryn Purkis** Has experience acting as a solicitor in Jersey and as a result enjoys a strong practice in the Channel Islands. She regularly advises on trust disputes and fraud matters. **Strengths:** “A fantastic asset on matters with Jersey and English law aspects.” “She is very approachable and hands-on.” “Efficient, precise and extremely courteous.” **Recent work:** Instructed by the plaintiff in CMC v Foster & Others regarding alleged breaches of duty in relation to vehicle contracts in Kenya

## Partnership

<b>Partnership</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Star individuals</b>
Machell John Serle Court
<b>Band 1</b>
Jones Philip Serle Court
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Braithwaite Thomas Serle Court
Haywood Jennifer Serle Court
<b>Band 2</b>
Mather James Serle Court

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

A pre-eminent set with a deep bench of barristers who act for law firms, financial services companies and other professional services clients in connection with a variety of partnership issues. Members also represent property developers and individual partners in family partnerships. The set is known for having developed strong arbitration and mediation practices and for being home to barristers who “combine detailed legal knowledge with practical application; they invariably present their advice in a client-friendly manner.”

**Client service:** Head clerk Steven Whitaker runs a “very well-run clerking team” that includes the “terrific” Nicholas Hockney.

#### SILKS

**John Machell QC** Receives extensive and enthusiastic praise from across the market as the go-to silk for the most complex or intractable pure partnership or LLP matters, his mastery of the latter being cited particularly frequently. His partnership practice covers a wide range of sectors including legal and financial services as well as family-owned partnerships. **Strengths:** “Without doubt a top silk in partnership and LLP matters,” who is “sharp of mind, commercial and popular with clients.” “He is extremely accessible and user-friendly and quickly manages to distil very complex legal issues down to their essence. John commands complete confidence and always delivers a clear analysis of the legal position and risk.” **Recent work:** Has recently advised various substantial solicitors’ firms on #MeToo issues, including questions relating to the expulsion of partners and SRA reporting obligations.

**Philip Jones QC** Stands out for his clarity of thought, straightforwardness of exposition and high level of user-friendliness, founded upon many years’ experience of handling partnership disputes, often on behalf of HMRC. He is also prominent in the representation of solicitors’ firms and property partnerships. **Strengths:** “Instructed when clients are looking for a heavyweight name with sound commercial judgement.”

#### JUNIORS

**Thomas Braithwaite** A versatile commercial chancery barrister with particularly extensive partnership experience in the professional services and property development spheres, where he advises on a variety of matters including bankruptcies. He also assists with arbitration procedures. **Strengths:**

“A highly intelligent advocate who provides great client service.” **Recent work:** Acted in Re Bell Pottinger LLP, appearing for a number of former members of the company who were defending claims for the recoupment of their drawings from the firm.

**Jennifer Haywood** Handles an exhaustive range of contentious and non-contentious partnership issues as part of her wide-ranging chancery practice. Active in a variety of sectors, including the legal, medical, property development and professional services spheres, and a noted authority on LLP issues, she attracts particular praise for her strategic advice and business acumen. **Strengths:** “Combines high-level strategic advice and lateral thinking with an attention to detail that is unsurpassed.” “She is particularly well known for her partner disputes work and is excellent at mediation.” “She develops good relationships with clients and gives sound advice on the merits of a case and in settlement negotiations.”

**James Mather** A formidable junior well respected in the partnership field, particularly where the operations of solicitors’ firms and property developers are concerned. He also offers notable expertise in litigation and arbitration partnership matters, both domestically and in offshore jurisdictions. **Strengths:** “Exceptionally bright and very articulate.” “He is very responsive, incisive and user-friendly.” **Recent work:** Acted in Re Shannon Construction, a dispute over a substantial property joint venture relating to land in the South East, alleged to be conducted on the basis of an informal partnership.

## Professional Negligence

<b>Professional Negligence</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 4</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Jones Philip Serle Court

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

A well-respected set which is noted for its representation of accountants, valuers and solicitors in negligence claims. Chambers fields particularly strong expertise in matters relating to property, company ownership or the management of trusts. Its members represent both claimants and defendants. Impressed sources say: “The set’s depth of knowledge makes it stand out.”

**Client service:** Steven Whitaker leads a team of clerks which is “very strong” and “makes sure we never have any issues.”

#### SILKS

**Philip Jones QC** Regularly instructed in professional negligence cases relating to a broad range of business professionals, including accountants, lawyers, company administrators and tax advisers. His practice benefits from his comprehensive understanding of commercial chancery law. **Strengths:** “A very bright and tough advocate, who is good at finding those little details which really make a difference in a case.” **Recent work:** Defended an Isle of Man-based corporate services provider in a negligence claim relating to its administration of a London property development company.

## Real Estate Litigation

<b>Real Estate Litigation</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 4</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Stoner Christopher Serle Court
<b>Band 4</b>
Reed Rupert Serle Court
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Francis Andrew Serle Court
<b>Band 3</b>
Braithwaite Thomas Serle Court
Bruce Andrew Serle Court

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

Serle Court is a set with strong expertise across a wide range of real estate disputes, with recent experience in areas including waterways, restrictive covenants, service charges and trespassing. Members are experienced in both chancery and commercial cases. Barristers at the set act for high net worth individuals, investment and development companies and hotel groups, among other clients. One satisfied solicitor comments: "I have used a lot of their barristers and they are all exceptional."

**Client service:** "The clerking team is exceptional. They always get back to you very quickly with recommendations." "I have found the clerks responsive and helpful." Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

#### SILKS

**Christopher Stoner QC** Has garnered recognition for

his expertise in water and canal law, and is known as one of the leading silks practising riparian rights. His practice also takes in service charge and landlord and tenant disputes. He accepts instructions on behalf of public authorities and private individuals.

**Strengths:** "He is an excellent barrister, great with clients, bright and quick on his feet." **Recent work:** Acted for Peter Horsford after he had been sued by his mother for approximately £2.5 million for her partnership share in a farm, which she had promised him for his entire life. Peter counterclaimed for a proprietary estoppel.

**Rupert Reed QC** Well known for his extensive property practice, he regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle Eastern clients, concerning property in London. **Strengths:** "Super bright and able to focus on the key points of the case in question." "He's very easy to work with, his advice is always very prompt and he has excellent organisational skills and is a very strong advocate in court." "His written work is excellent. He is very diligent and thinks quickly on his feet." **Recent work:** Acted for the purchaser of a Fulham property who fell victim to a vendor identity fraud in a claim against the conveyancers who acted for the vendor.

#### JUNIORS

**Andrew Francis** Has a fine reputation at the Bar for his dedicated property litigation practice. He is acknowledged for his work in restrictive covenants and rights to light, and is also recognised for his knowledge of party wall law. He has authored

a number of significant texts on property law. **Strengths:** "Very helpful, good with clients and very easy to pick up the phone and have a chat to." "As well as being hugely knowledgeable, he was responsive and delivered commercial advice."

**Recent work:** Acted in a successful application to modify covenants over land at Northwood to allow a block of flats.

**Thomas Braithwaite** Noted for having a diverse practice that spans franchise rights, development rights and negligence claims among other matters. He is regularly instructed by major bodies such as The Crown Estate in relation to manorial rights and land registration issues, and has appeared before the Supreme Court. **Strengths:** "Straightforward and good with clients." "He is a real expert in the field and the advice he gives is incredibly incisive – there's an overlay of the commercial to it, which is really helpful from counsel." **Recent work:** Acted for the Crown Estate Commissioners in a case concerning the scope of the doctrine of accretion and diluvion in the context of the first registration of land comprising the foreshore in Norfolk.

**Andrew Bruce** Has a high-quality property practice, with an emphasis on landlord and tenant law and property litigation. He also has substantial expertise in property-related professional negligence work.

**Strengths:** "He is very responsive, gives clear and succinct advice and is good with clients." "He's just a brilliant barrister. His written opinion is very clear, he doesn't sit on the fence and will tell you how it is but does so in a very user-friendly manner." **Recent work:** Acted for the Port of London Authority in the long-running battle regarding the charging of premiums for moorings at Chelsea Reach.

## Restructuring/Insolvency

<b>Restructuring/Insolvency</b>
<b>Leading Sets</b>
<b>Band 3</b>
Serle Court
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Jones Philip Serle Court
<b>Band 3</b>
Marshall Philip Serle Court
<b>Band 4</b>
Lightman Daniel Serle Court
<b>Band 5</b>
Jordan Ruth Serle Court
Ashworth Lance Serle Court
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 5</b>
Jones Philip Serle Court

### Serle Court

#### THE SET

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 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.

**Client service:** "The clerks are hugely helpful, prompt in their responses and very easy to deal with." Steven Whitaker is the head clerk.

#### SILKS

**Philip Jones QC** A well-known advocate who is highly praised by market commentators for his breadth of 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 truly excellent to work with, really user-friendly and produces top-quality work." "A highly experienced and respected barrister." **Recent work:** Acted for the directors in *Wickes v Humbles*, a claim for breach of directors' duties brought against the directors arising out the liquidation of an Isle of Man company.

**Philip Marshall QC** 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 is an extraordinary advocate. He's very forceful and good on technical cases." **Recent work:** Represented the independent directors in *Carlyle Capital v Conway & Others*, a claim for in excess of USD1 billion arising out of mortgage-backed securities trading by a Carlyle associated company.

**Daniel Lightman QC** 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. Interviewees particularly highlight his standout technical ability and deft handling of complex cases. **Strengths:** "One of the most outstanding legal brains of a generation." "He is thorough in his preparation and skilful in presenting his statements of case. He's also very approachable and affable." **Recent work:** Assisted the majority shareholders of *Pedersen (Thameside)* with the dismissal of the minority shareholder's winding-up petition.

**Lance Ashworth QC** Respected silk noted for his broad knowledge of restructuring and insolvency matters. He has particular expertise in directors'

disqualification cases. **Strengths:** “He is extremely approachable and has a very good touch with clients. He’s also able to digest really complex documents and get straight to the heart of the issue, and explain this issue concisely to clients.” “He has an easy style and is very charming – he is a good cross-examiner as well as being very commercially minded, pragmatic and experienced.” **Recent work:** Acted for the former director of Kedros Formations, a company which formed thousands of companies for the

benefit of a company in the Philippines. The director was being pursued under the Company Directors’ Disqualification Act.

## JUNIORS

**Ruth Jordan** Well known for her adroit handling of cases on behalf of the government. She offers broad expertise across the insolvency space, and has notable strength in matters containing financial services and fraud elements. Her expertise also

spans disqualification cases and trusts litigation. She has appeared in the tax tribunals, Court of Appeal and Privy Council, and frequently handles offshore judicial reviews. **Strengths:** “She is very prompt, commercial and concise – she gets to the point.” **Recent work:** Acted for HMRC in two appeals relating to two similar tax avoidance schemes which exploited loan relationships using a bonus share issue to produce deductible losses of £84 million and £94 million respectively.

## Tax

<b>Tax</b>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 2</b>
Jones Philip <i>Serle Court</i>

### Serle Court

**Philip Jones QC** Talented commercial practitioner who regularly appears for HMRC in tax disputes, but also handles cases on the taxpayer side. He further advises on professional negligence matters relating to tax advice. **Strengths:** “A lovely man who is intellectually very able.” **Recent work:** Acted in HMRC v General Electric, a case alleging that General Electric obtained a settlement with HMRC on fraudulent grounds.

## Trusts

<b>Trusts</b>
<b>Leading Silks</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Hagen Dakis <i>Serle Court</i>
Jones Elizabeth <i>Serle Court</i>
Wilson Richard <i>Serle Court</i>
<b>Leading Juniors</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Brightwell James <i>Serle Court</i>
Hargreaves Emma <i>Serle Court</i>
Henderson William <i>Serle Court</i>
Richardson Giles <i>Serle Court</i>

substantial position in a valuable group of companies held by purpose trusts. This is thought to be the largest contentious trust litigation ever.

**Emma Hargreaves** 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:** “Incredibly smart and highly enthusiastic.” “She is first-rate and works incredibly hard.” **Recent work:** Acted for an offshore corporate trustee in respect of various Bermudian proceedings and applications in the English High Court for ancillary interim injunctive relief.

**William Henderson** 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:** “He is very good at analysing the permutations of a case, and weighing up the risks and rewards.” **Recent work:** Instructed in an application by settlors to set aside transfers of c.£15 million to trustees of a settlement on the grounds of mistake.

**Elizabeth Jones QC** 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:** “A tough, no-nonsense advocate who applies herself to the case robustly.” **Recent work:** Instructed on behalf of New Zealand businessman and philanthropist Sir Owen Glenn in various proceedings relating to a BVI joint venture company, Spartan Capital Limited.

**Giles Richardson** 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:** “Clever and a delight to work with, he can more than hold his own against the more established silks in the area.” “For offshore trusts work, he’s truly a top choice – unflappable, very very responsive, and someone for whom nothing is too much trouble.” **Recent work:** Acted in the landmark Z Trusts litigation, the first case in any jurisdiction to consider the novel and complex issue of how the court and/or a trustee should administer an ‘insolvent trust’.

**Richard Wilson QC** 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:** “An excellent, thorough and hard-working silk.” **Recent work:** Acted for the plaintiff beneficiary of a USD400 million Bahamian trust who was seeking to set aside appointments made by the trustees on the basis that they failed to give proper consideration to the exercise of their discretion.

### Serle Court

**James Brightwell** Highly regarded for his expertise in trusts matters and particularly for his handling of offshore trusts work. He is renowned for his detailed knowledge of complex trusts law and has co-authored one of the leading texts in the area. Brightwell has in-depth knowledge of niche topics such as trust rectification and Beddoe relief. **Strengths:** “Excellent tactically and very astute.” “He has incredible expertise.” **Recent work:** Instructed on behalf of the plaintiff in multibillion-pound proceedings in Bermuda.

**Dakis Hagen QC** 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:** “He is brilliant at tailoring his approach to the offshore courts – he really knows how to deal with each jurisdiction individually.” **Recent work:** Acted in Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company & Others, a dispute relating to the identity of the true owner of a