



serle court

chancery  
& commercial

Raises the Bar in Chancery & Commercial

# GAR Interactive and DIFC- LCIA Dubai Arbitration Week

## WHEN

Monday, 16th November 2020  
09:15 - 13:30

## WHERE

Virtual Conference



*offers a variety of skill sets that others can't provide, and houses some of the biggest names at the Bar.*



Chambers and  
Partners



serle court

## Serle Court is a leading Chancery and Commercial set of barristers' chambers based in London.

Serle Court has a strong international presence with many members recognised in Chambers Global 2020 directory for their work in jurisdictions including the DIFC and wider UAE. Rupert Reed QC and James Weale have also been ranked in The Legal 500's EMEA 2020 directory for their work in the Middle East.

Chambers' regional practice has a particular focus on commercial arbitration and DIFC Court work, including that arising out of the role of the DIFC Court as the court of the seat or in acting on the enforcement of awards. Members of Chambers are recognised for their expertise in commercial, banking, property, company, partnership and trusts disputes as well as fraud and asset recovery.

Rupert Reed QC and Chris Stoner QC have been acted in a number of commercial arbitrations in Dubai. Rupert has also sat as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and chair in various ICC, DIFC-LCIA and DIAC proceedings. He is a member of both the DIAC Rules Task Force and DIFC Court's Arbitration Working Group.

Serle Court also has a significant practice in the DIFC Courts. James Weale, Dan McCourt Fritz, Gregor Hogan and Jonathan McDonagh are all contributors to the *DIFC Courts Practice*, co-edited by Rupert Reed QC.

Rupert Reed QC acted with Zoe O'Sullivan QC as co-counsel in the landmark case of *YYY v. ZZZ* [2017] DIFC ARB 005, in which the DIFC declined to recognise a decision of the Dubai Court of Cassation that was in breach of the New York Convention. He has been assisted in other DIFC cases by James Weale, Gareth Tilley, Adrian de Froment, Sophia Hurst and Gregor Hogan.

In recent years, members of Chambers have been involved in various other leading DIFC cases, including *Fedex v. Abdul Latif Jameel Transportation* (anti-suit injunctions), *Orion Holdings v. Privatbank Ihag* (necessary and proper party jurisdiction) and *Sunteck v. Grand Valley* (opting out of DIFC Court jurisdiction).

Over the course of the past year, members of Chambers have acted in a number of significant DIFC and related English cases:



- *Cesfin Ventures LLC v. Al Qubaisi* – obtaining a freezing injunction in support of New York proceedings (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- *FAL Oil v. SEWA* – acting for SEWA in resisting enforcement of judgment of Sharjah Court (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- *First Abu Dhabi Bank v. Larmag* – challenging jurisdiction of DIFC Courts over claims against an Abu Dhabi bank (Rupert Reed QC and Sophia Hurst)
- Obtaining a worldwide freezing order against a UAE-based entrepreneur to preserve assets to satisfy a London arbitration award (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- *CEBD v. NMC Trading LLC* – obtaining a worldwide freezing order against entities in the troubled NMC Group (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- *KBC Aldini Capital v. Baazov* – defending a Canadian entrepreneur from fraud allegations (Rupert Reed QC and Adrian de Froment)
- *Grand Valley v. Sunteck* – challenging the jurisdiction of the DIFC Court by reference to an arbitration agreement (Rupert Reed QC and Sophia Hurst)
- *IMMS v. BankMed* – appealing the refusal of a freezing injunction in support of Lebanese proceedings (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- Defending a DIFC company against fraud allegations made within a joint venture dispute (Rupert Reed QC and Gregor Hogan)
- *SBM v. Renish* - obtaining judgment for a Mauritian bank against the main participants in a trade finance fraud (Rupert Reed QC and James Weale)
- Acting for a major UAE conglomerate whose assets had been frozen in the wake of the NMC scandal (Rupert Reed QC and Sophia Hurst)
- Acting for majority shareholders of the same conglomerate whose assets has similarly been frozen (Philip Marshall QC)

Senior clerk, Dan Wheeler, heads the clerking team that handles Chambers' Middle East work and regularly visits the UAE to meet clients in Dubai and the wider region.

## Barristers registered as Advocates before the DIFC Courts:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • <a href="#"><u>Philip Marshall QC</u></a> | • <a href="#"><u>Rupert Reed QC</u></a> | • <a href="#"><u>Zoe O'Sullivan QC</u></a> |
| • <a href="#"><u>Matthew Morrison</u></a>   | • <a href="#"><u>James Weale</u></a>    | • <a href="#"><u>Jonathan McDongah</u></a> |
| • <a href="#"><u>Adrian de Froment</u></a>  | • <a href="#"><u>Sophia Hurst</u></a>   | • <a href="#"><u>Gregor Hogan</u></a>      |



## Rupert Reed QC - Speaker

Rupert's work focuses on disputes in property, commercial, banking, trusts and fraud matters. He co-edits the *DIFC Courts Practice* and has acted in many leading DIFC cases, including *Corinth v. Barclays*, *Bocimar v. ETA*, *Vannin v. Khorafi*, *DAMAC v. Ward*, *WCT v. Meydan*, *Sunteck Lifestyles v. Grand Valley*, *Orion Holdings v. Al Haj and Larmag v. First Abu Dhabi Bank*.

Formerly Chancery Junior of the Year in London, he has a strong reputation as an advocate and arbitrator in both London and Dubai, with a working knowledge of Arabic and significant experience of UAE and Saudi law.

He is recommended in the legal directories for Banking and Finance (Legal 500), Civil Fraud (Who's Who Legal), Commercial (Legal 500), Chancery Commercial (Chambers UK Bar and Global), UAE Dispute Resolution (Legal 500 EMEA, Chambers Global) and Property litigation (Legal 500, Who's Who Legal and Chambers UK Bar).

Legal 500 2021 notes client comment: 'A go to QC for international complex fraud and dispute resolution'; 'our go to silk for DIFC Court matters – he is pre-eminent in the UAE and DIFC'.

Chambers UK Bar 2020 identified him as: "A noted leader in both commercial and pure chancery matters. ...He is a particularly fine choice of counsel for Middle Eastern work". "He's a good guy who has a terrific grasp on tactics. He remains a good team-player and collaborates well with his juniors and the solicitor's team."

The Legal 500 2020 identified him as being a leading silk in Property Litigation: "Oozes experience, very calm under extreme pressure with deadly accuracy in the court room."

Chambers Global 2019 said of Rupert: "Destined for great things, and clever enough to make the work look easy." "He's someone who makes sure he gets the law and the facts right in advance, so that he's totally in control in court. ...[He] is well connected in Saudi Arabia...".

The Legal 500 2019 said of Rupert as a Commercial advocate: "He stands out because of his unique ability to cross linguistic and cultural gaps in cases connected to the region."





## **Dan Wheeler** Senior Clerk

Dan joined Chambers in 2000, having previously worked at 1 Hare Court. He started as a Junior Clerk in 1999 and was promoted to First Junior Clerk in 2010, Team Leader in 2013 and to Senior Clerk in 2018. Dan is responsible for the management and development of members' practices, including diary management, work allocation, fee negotiation, business development, client relationship management and the listing of cases at Court. In 2016 Dan completed his Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management. The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners describes Dan as follows: *"commercial and a pleasure to deal with"; "always recommends a barrister suitable for the job and generally makes life easier"; "responsiveness and willingness to accommodate complicated requests."*

Dan can be contacted at [dwheeler@serlecourt.co.uk](mailto:dwheeler@serlecourt.co.uk)



## **Charlotte Davidson** Business Development Manager

Charlotte joined Serle Court's clerking team in 2013 and took up the role of Business Development Manager in 2018.

Charlotte is responsible for implementing chambers' current business development and marketing strategy. Charlotte works closely with Chief Executive John Petrie, Marketing Manager Shana Garioch, and the Senior Clerks in order to plan business development activities and establish client care for chambers in all key areas of practice. Charlotte also oversees chambers' PR and communications programme.

Prior to joining chambers, Charlotte started her career as a Clerk at 4 New Square. In 2010, she completed the Bar Vocation Course (BVC); now the BPTC, and holds a Law degree from the University of Kent.

In 2019 Charlotte completed the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management, awarded by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). She is a member of the Legal Practice Management Association (LPMA) and the Professional Services Marketing Group (PSMG).

Charlotte can be contacted at [cdauidson@serlecourt.co.uk](mailto:cdauidson@serlecourt.co.uk)



## **Shana Garioch**

### **Marketing Manager**

Shana joined Serle Court in June 2019 as a Marketing Manager. She is responsible for managing chambers' marketing mix and, together with the Chief Executive, John Petrie, and Business Development Manager, Charlotte Davidson, implementing chambers' marketing strategy.

Shana brings a diverse and substantial marketing experience, having worked at Landmark Chambers, one of the UK's leading planning sets, and 9 Gough Chambers, a leading common law set, where she headed the marketing projects.

Shana has a Bachelors' Business Administration degree completed in Brazil, her home country. She started her marketing career working at the biggest oil company in South Brazil. Shana speaks fluent Portuguese and has a good understanding of Italian and Spanish.

Shana is a member of the Professional Services Marketing Group, PSMG.

Shana can be contacted at [sgarioch@serlecourt.co.uk](mailto:sgarioch@serlecourt.co.uk)



## Don't just take our word for it...

---



“excellent as a whole, and indeed pre-eminent in offshore work, with a large number of highly competent counsel”

“a strong Chancery set with ‘real strength in depth in company and partnership and fraud-related matters’ and has ‘some of the best and brightest at the Bar’.”

“one of the very best commercial chancery sets, and one of the few that genuinely competes in both traditional chancery and commercial litigation”

“universally high quality from bottom to top. It is striking how well they work together as a cohesive team and they really care about their clients. They fight cases with real tenacity but without taking bad points.” All the barristers are “incredibly capable in this area – you really can’t go wrong using this set. One of the very best Chancery set out there with terrific strength in depth.”

Serle Court “offers a variety of skill sets that others can’t provide, and houses some of the biggest names at the Bar”



Recent quotes from  
The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners



serle court