



serle court

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Adrian de Froment

Year of Call: 2013

"Impressive...Adrian is a detail-oriented, focused and diligent barrister who provides pragmatic and realistic responses to client or solicitor proposals while never neglecting the client's stated goal."

Chambers & Partners, 2026

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Practice Overview

Adrian has a broad commercial chancery practice with a focus on commercial disputes, intellectual property, civil fraud and offshore and DIFC disputes. He has a particular interest in matters which combine these practice areas. Much of Adrian's work has an international or cross-border element to it, and he has experience of jurisdiction disputes, conflict of laws, service out of the jurisdiction and enforcement of foreign judgments.

He has substantial experience of large, complex litigation, having acted in matters including the RBS Rights Issue litigation and *Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company Limited and ors*, one of the highest value trust cases to have been litigated.

Adrian also regularly appears unled in the High Court and IPEC, including acting for the successful parties in two patent disputes (*D.W. Windsor Limited v Urbis Schreder Limited* [2025] EWHC 563 (IPEC) and *Bionome Technology Limited v Clearwater* [2024] EWHC 3155 (Ch)) and in UK enforcement proceedings following judgment in the DIFC for \$135 million (*Barclays v Shetty* [2022]).

Adrian is a registered Part II Practitioner before the DIFC Courts. He has been instructed in numerous matters overseas, both at first instance and on appeal, including in the DIFC Courts (where he acted in *Barclays v Shetty* [2020] and *Lural v Listran and Lokhan* [2021]) and the courts of The Bahamas and Bermuda. He also has experience obtaining interim relief, including freezing relief and Norwich Pharmacal relief.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Adrian gained a PhD in evolutionary biology from Princeton University. As a former scientist, he is well placed to deal with scientific and quantitative issues that arise in litigation.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

(2025-ongoing) Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in very substantial a fraud and intellectual property matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to a large corporate group based in the UAE.

ESG Global (Energy) Limited v Pozitive Energy Limited and ors (2025-ongoing). Led by Matthew Morrison KC, Adrian is acting in this commercial and software copyright cross-over matter.

Cavadore Limited and or v Jawa and or [2025] EWHC 2222 (Ch). Instructed by DMH Stallard LLP. A trade mark and licensing matter involving issues relating to extensions of time under CPR r.7.6(2) and r.7.6(3) for service out of the jurisdiction in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Bionome Technology Limited v Clearwater [2024] EWHC 3155 (Ch). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons LLP. Adrian acted for the successful respondent on an appeal from the Comptroller to the High Court in complex proceedings involving issues including the proper mode of declaration of trusts, the law of assignment and patent entitlement.

Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company Limited and ors (2021-2025). Instructed by MJM Ltd (Bermuda), Baker McKenzie (Taipei) and Stewarts Law (UK). Adrian acts with Richard Wilson KC, Professor Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.) and James Weale in one of the highest value trust cases to have been litigated. The 6-month trial took place between April and October 2021. The trial judgment ([2022] SC (Bda) 44 Com) is the subject of an appeal to the Bermuda Court of Appeal that was heard before Clarke P and Gloster and Smellie LJ over 10 days in January 2025.

Covalis Capital LP and Covalis Capital LLP v Banco BTG Pactual SA (2023). Led by Hugh Norbury KC, Adrian acted

for the claimants in claims relating to an investment fund.

Município de Mariana and ors v BHP Group. Adrian was instructed for the claimants in one of the largest group actions to come before the English court, arising from the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil in 2015. The dam collapse has been described as the worst environmental disaster in Brazilian history (instructed by SPG Law).

Barclays v Shetty (2020-22); (CFI-061-2020 in the DIFC); (CL-2021-000397 UK enforcement proceedings). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons. Led by Zoe O'Sullivan KC, Adrian acted for the successful claimant bank in a claim under a guarantee following the collapse of the defendant's UAE-based business empire. Obtained a USD \$135 million WWFO ex parte (before Wayne Martin J), continued by consent, and was successful in an application for immediate judgment: [2020] DIFC CFI 061 (also before Wayne Martin J). Acted (unled) in successful UK enforcement proceedings, obtaining summary judgment ([2022] EWHC 19 (Comm), Henshaw J), interim and final charging orders, permission to serve out and by alternative means on third parties in more than 10 different jurisdictions, and an order for possession and sale of valuable property in London.

Harrington v Wells (BL-2020-002057). Acting for the defendant in a High Court claim concerning alleged deceit in relation to an investment in a company developing data management and processing software for the telecoms industry (instructed by IBB).

Barclays v Al Khaili (2020-21, DIFC); Claim Nos: CFI-012-2020; CFI-086-2020; CA-003-2021. Instructed by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP. Adrian acted for the claimant bank at first instance and on its successful appeal before Justices Christopher Clarke, Wayne Martin and Zaki Azmi in a case concerning recognition in the DIFC of judgments from other jurisdictions, including for the purposes of the statutory res judicata provision Art 5(A)(4) of the Judicial Authority Law.

GDE LLC and Goffe v Anglia Autoflow Limited [2020] EWHC 105 (Comm). Acted, with Professor Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.), for the successful defendant at a 5-day trial of a preliminary issue as to choice of law under Rome Convention (instructed by Birketts LLP).

KBC Aldini Capital Limited v David Baazov and ors. Acted (led by Rupert Reed KC) for a Canadian internet entrepreneur in defending claims for USD 40 million based on fraud and passing off allegations made in DIFC proceedings relating to equity commitment letters filed in support of a 'go private' bid to acquire Amaya Inc: jurisdiction challenge ([2017] DIFC CFI 002) interlocutory applications, claimant struck out shortly before trial in February 2020 (instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright).

INVISTA v Botes and ors [2019] EWHC 58 (Ch); [2019] 1 WLUK 170. Adrian acted for the successful defendants in this claim for alleged misuse of confidential information concerning biotechnology. He was successful at trial before Birss J, after successfully resisted summary judgment before Arnold J. The various judgments on liability and costs include an important decision on Part 36 offers: [2019] 1 WLUK 170; [2019] EWHC 1086 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 1087 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 1088 (Ch).

HSBC Invoice Finance v Augustus Martin (2018-2019): acted as sole counsel for the defendant and Part 20 claimant in relation to claims exceeding £6m arising out of unpaid and allegedly inflated invoices (instructed by Kingsley Napley).

Advised (with Prof. Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.)) in relation to a potential claim against the English guarantor of a debt owed by a French company to a Monégasque bank which had subsequently been assigned to a BVI company owned by a subset of the guarantors. The case involved complex jurisdiction and choice of law issues and an issue regarding the possible connivance in the default of their co-guarantor by the shareholders in the potential claimant (2017-2018) (instructed by Charles Russell Speechlys).

RBS Rights Issue (2015-2017): instructed as part of the team acting for the defendants in claims arising out of the £12 billion RBS rights issue, with David Railton KC, Sonia Tolaney KC, David Blayney KC and Simon Hattan (instructed by

Herbert Smith Freehills).

Shoeb v Square One (2017): acted as sole counsel for the defendants in a \$1.6m debt claim involving allegations of sham (instructed by LSGA).

Sigley v Southern: acted for the respondent to a s.994 unfair prejudice petition.

Smith v Huertas (2015): instructed (with Jennifer Haywood), for the respondent in relation to an application for a declaration under Regulation 44/2001 art.34(1) that it would be manifestly contrary to public policy for the UK to recognise and enforce a French judgment (instructed by Boodle Hatfield).

HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Mishal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud v Apex Global Management Ltd [2014] EWCA Civ 1106, assisted Daniel Lightman (now KC) in an appeal by a Saudi Arabian Prince, the respondent to a s.994 petition, against an unless order and the entry of judgment against him for US\$ 7.7m.

Singh v Singh [2014] EWHC 1060 (Ch): assisted Ian Croxford KC and Daniel Lightman (now KC) in a 5-week trial that resulted in the dismissal by Sir William Blackburne of a claim by a father that his son's business empire was held on constructive trust for the male members of his family in accordance with the Indian principles of the Mitakshara.

Bank of St Petersburg & Or v Arkhangelsky & Ors [2014] EWCA Civ 593: assisted Philip Marshall KC and Justin Higgs in this matter in which the Court of Appeal disapplied a Russian limitation period and granted an anti-enforcement injunction preventing the enforcement of Russian judgments abroad pending the outcome of litigation in England.

Civil Fraud

(2025-ongoing) Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in very substantial a fraud and intellectual property matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to companies incorporated in the UAE.

Barclays v Shetty (2020-22); (CFI-061-2020 in the DIFC); (CL-2021-000397 UK enforcement proceedings). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons. Led by Zoe O'Sullivan KC, Adrian acted for the successful claimant bank in a claim under a guarantee following the collapse of the defendant's UAE-based business empire. Obtained a USD \$135 million WWFO ex parte (before Wayne Martin J), continued by consent, and in the successful application for immediate judgment: [2020] DIFC CFI 061 (also before Wayne Martin J). Acted (unled) in successful UK enforcement proceedings, obtaining summary judgment ([2022] EWHC 19 (Comm), Henshaw J), interim and final charging orders, permission to serve out and by alternative means on third parties in more than 10 different jurisdictions, and an order for possession and sale of valuable property in London.

Harrington v Wells. Acted for the defendant in a High Court claim concerning alleged deceit in relation to an investment in a company developing data management and processing software for the telecoms industry (instructed by IBB).

Faerch v Davidson. Acting for the defendant in a claim concerning alleged embezzlement, including appearing at the return date of a doorstep delivery-up and imaging order.

HSBC Invoice Finance v Augustus Martin: acted for the defendant and Part 20 claimant in relation to claims exceeding £6m arising out of allegedly inflated invoices (instructed by Kingsley Napley).

KBC Aldini Capital Limited v David Baazov and ors [2017] DIFC CFI 002: acted, with Rupert Reed KC, for a Canadian internet entrepreneur in defending claims for USD 40 million based on fraud allegations made in DIFC proceedings relating to equity commitment letters filed in support of a 'go private' bid to acquire Amaya Inc (instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright).

Shoeb v Square One: acted as sole counsel for the defendants in a \$1.6m debt claim involving allegations of sham (instructed by LSGA).

HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Mishal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud v Apex Global Management Ltd [2014] EWCA Civ 1106, assisted Daniel Lightman (now KC) in an appeal by a Saudi Arabian Prince, the respondent to a s.994 petition, against an unless order and the entry of judgment against him for US\$ 7.7m.

Intellectual Property

Adrian is ranked by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for Intellectual Property. He is frequently instructed in patent, trade mark, passing off, copyright, design and breach of confidence/trade secret matters in the High Court, IPEC and UK IPO.

He is a contributor to the CITMA publication "*Contentious Trade Mark Registry Proceedings*" by Michael Edenborough KC, and also a contributor to the CITMA and CIPA Trade Mark Handbook.

Recent instructions include:

Patents: *Damex (UK) Limited v Brennan Enterprise Limited* (2025-ongoing) Adrian acts of the Claimant in complex IPEC proceedings concerning a patent for technical fabric.

Fraud and intellectual property: (2025). Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in a fraud and IP matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to companies incorporated in the UAE.

Software copyright and breach of confidence: *ESG Global (Energy) Limited v Pozitive Energy Limited and ors* (2025-ongoing). Led by Matthew Morrison KC, Adrian acts for the claimant in this software copyright and breach of confidence matter.

Trade marks: *Carl Zeiss Meditec AG v BC Hilamax Oy* (2025). Instructed by Dehns. Trade mark appeal to the Appointed Person. Decision pending.

Software Copyright and fraud: *CyberOcean Limited v Supercraft Limited and ors* (2025). Instructed by JMW LLP. Adrian acts for the 1st and 2nd Defendants in this software copyright and fraud IPEC matter.

Patents: *Damex FR (UK) Ltd v Brennan Enterprise Ltd* (2025). Instructed by Knights plc. Acting for the claimant in a claim seeking a declaration of invalidity and revocation, a declaration of non-infringement, and remedies in respect of unjustified threats.

Trade marks: *Cavadore Limited and or v Jawa and or* [2025] EWHC 2222 (Ch). Instructed by DMH Stallard LLP. A trade mark and licensing matter in the High Court involving issues relating to extensions of time under CPR r.7.6(2) and r.7.6(3) for service out of the jurisdiction in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Patents: *D.W. Windsor Limited v Urbis Schreder Limited* [2025] EWHC 563 (IPEC). Instructed by Fox Williams LLP. Adrian acted for the successful claimant in a 2-day IPEC patent infringement trial before HHJ Melissa Clarke in December 2024 concerning patents relating to lighting infrastructure. Led by Tom Moody-Stuart KC, Adrian also represented D.W. Windsor in separate proceedings brought by Urbis Schreder.

Patents and trusts: *Bionome Technology Limited v Clearwater* [2024] EWHC 3155 (Ch). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons LLP. Adrian acts for the successful respondent on an appeal from the Comptroller to the High Court in patent entitlement proceedings. The appeal raised both patent and commercial chancery issues including the proper mode of declaration of trusts, the law of assignment and patent entitlement.

Trade marks: *STIRLING MOSS Trade Mark*. Instructed by Boodle Hatfield LLP. Adrian acts for the administrator of the estate of the racing driver Stirling Moss in a dispute relating to the trade mark STIRLING MOSS.

Registered design: *Jellycat Limited v. Aldi Stores Limited (Defendant) v. Posh Paws International Limited (Third Party)*. Instructed by Birketts LLP. Adrian acts for Posh Paws International Limited in high-profile High Court proceedings regarding alleged infringement of a registered design for a Jellycat “Dexter Dragon” soft toy.

Trade marks: *iMiracle (HK) Limited v Vapes-Bars Limited (2023-2024)*. Instructed by JMW LLP. Adrian, led by Michael Edenborough KC, represented the Defendants in this complex and very high-value (many millions of USD) trade mark and passing-off matter relating to disposable vapes. Adrian successfully obtained an order from Mr Justice Meade transferring the matter out of the Shorter Trial Scheme: *iMiracle (HK) Limited v Vapes-Bars Limited [2023] EWHC 2972 (Ch)* (October 2023). The judgment provided important guidance on the scope of the STS.

Copyright (2004): acted for the Claimant in a claim for infringement of copyright in design drawings (instructed by Birketts LLP)

Confidential information (2024): acting for the claimant in action against a former employee for breach of confidence (instructed by Potter Clarkson LLP).

Trade marks (2024): Acted for the Italian luxury goods maker Sergio Rossi S.P.A. in complex cross-oppositions (instructed by Bromhead Johnson LLP).

Software Copyright (2024): acting for the claimant in a claim for infringement of copyright in software (instructed by JMW LLP).

Breach of confidence: *Kinleigh Ltd (t/a “Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward”/”Kfh”) v David Astburys Ltd (2023)*. Acted for the claimant in an action against former employees for breach of confidence.

Art forgery: advising an art dealer on strategy in relation to forgery by third parties of work purportedly by a well-known street artist (2023).

Passing off (2023): *RSM Restaurant Limited and ors v Liverpool Road Leisure and ors*. Acted for the claimants in passing off proceedings (instructed by JMW LLP).

Trade Marks: *Om Records LLC v Om Developpement (O/1087/22)*. IPO proceedings involving s.5(2)(b) and s.5(4)(a) cross-oppositions; assignments in gross; whether goodwill trivial in extent (instructed by Murgitroyd).

Harrington v Wells. Acting for the defendant in a High Court claim concerning alleged deceit in relation to an investment in a company developing data management and processing software for the telecoms industry (instructed by IBB).

Trade marks: (2022) Advised in relation to potential multi-jurisdictional trade mark infringement and passing off proceedings; descriptive marks (instructed by Murgitroyd).

Trade marks: PAI Partners SAS v PAI Capital Limited (2022). Acted for the successful claimant in a claim for trade mark infringement and passing off in relation to the use of the name of a French private equity firm (instructed by Potter Clarkson LLP).

Trade marks: IPR Protection Ltd v Biddle (2022). Acted for the defendant in relation to claims for trade mark infringement; s.11(2)(b) descriptive use defence; s.47 invalidity application (instructed by Bird & Bird).

Patents: (2022) Patent infringement: advised as to the availability of claim for infringement of a patent for a geotextile material (instructed by Hill Dickinson).

Passing off: *Perimeter Solutions v Perimeter Fencing Solutions* (2021). Acted for the claimant in a passing off matter. Settled after service of particulars of claim (instructed by JMW LLP).

Copyright: *Photobooth v NEPBH* (IP-2021-NCL-000002). Copyright infringement claim in relation to mobile booth “skins”. Instructed in relation to CMC (instructed by McDaniel & Co.).

Trade marks: *easyGroup v Beauty Perfectionists Limited and ors* (IL-2020-000032). Drafted particulars of claim in a High Court claim for trade mark infringement (instructed by Stephenson Harwood LLP).

Trade marks: RE: POTTER’S HERBALS (OP000412928) Trade mark opposition at the UK IPO, including an interlocutory application for disclosure (instructed by Joshi IP).

Trade marks: RE: GAPMAPS (OP000414681) Trade mark opposition at the UK IPO (instructed by J.A. Kemp LLP).

Copyright: *Penhallurick v MD5 Limited*. Instructed for the claimant in relation to cross-claims in the IPEC for infringement of copyright in computer software and breach of contract: statements of case, advice, oral advocacy at interlocutory hearings (instructed by Virtuoso Legal).

Confidential information: *INVISTA v Botes and ors* [\[2019\] EWHC 58 \(Ch\)](#); [2019] 1 WLUK 170; [\[2019\] EWHC 1086 \(Ch\)](#); [2019] EWHC 1087 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 1088 (Ch). Acted, unled, for the successful defendants in this dispute involving allegations that research scientists formerly employed by INVISTA had acted in breach of confidence, in breach of pre- and post-termination employment covenants and had procured breaches of contract by a third party. Successfully resisted summary judgment one month before trial (before Arnold J.). Represented the defendants at the 7-day trial before Birss J., at which the breach of confidence, post-termination and procuring claims were dismissed, and at 5 hearing days in relation to consequential matters. The case was notable for the costs result. Birss J. held that a part 36 offer made four months before trial by the claimants had not been a genuine offer to settle and this was one of the rare cases in which it was therefore unjust to enforce any of the consequences of CPR 36.17(4). Birss J. accordingly made a costs award in favour of the defendants.

RE: IT ON YOUR TERMS (R0432/2018) Instructed, with Michael Edenborough KC, for the appellant in relation to an appeal against a decision of the EU IPO (instructed by IPTogether).

BSS Group Limited and PTS Group Limited v Perry Street Software. Instructed, with Michael Edenborough KC, for the claimant in IPEC proceedings for infringement of EUTMs and UKTMs and associated counterclaim for declaration of invalidity/revocation (instructed by Freeths LLP).

Chiselwood v Bespoke Cabinets Ltd and Krantz Acted for the claimant at the 1-day trial of a claim for infringement of copyright and UKUDR (IPEC) (instructed by McDaniel & Co).

EPP v Farnsworth and ors Acted for the claimant exclusive licensee in relation to an IPEC claim for infringement of two EUTMs, copyright infringement and passing off (instructed by Virtuoso Legal).

International and Offshore

Adrian has a busy offshore practice including recent instructions in high-profile cases in Bermuda and The Bahamas.

A large part of Adrian's English work also has an international or cross-border dimension to it, including advice and advocacy in relation to private international law issues as detailed in that section below.

Recent instructions include:

R(SCRL) v Prime Minister of The Bahamas and ors (2025 – ongoing). Adrian is instructed for SCRL in a complex set of

judicial review (2025/PUB/JRV/00020) and statutory appeal proceedings arising from the approval of a very substantial resort development on a presently uninhabited island in the Exuma Cays.

Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company Limited and ors [2022-2025]. Instructed by MJM Ltd (Bermuda), Baker McKenzie (Taipei) and Stewarts Law (UK). Adrian acted with Richard Wilson KC, Jonathan Haris KC (Hon) and James Weale in one of the highest value trust cases to have been litigated. The 6-month trial took place between April and October 2022. The trial judgment ([2022] SC (Bda) 44 Com (22 June 2022) was the subject of an appeal to the Bermuda Court of Appeal that was heard over 10 days in January 2025.

Jean-Rony Jean Charles v Attorney General of the Bahamas, Minister of Immigration and ors (JCPC 2019/0100). Led by Edward Fitzgerald KC, Adrian acted for the appellant on his appeal to the Privy Council (heard in July 2022) arising from the his detention and expulsion from The Bahamas to Haiti. The appeal to the Privy Council concerned, inter alia, points of general importance concerning the ambit of the court's constitutional jurisdiction in the Bahamas, including in particular whether constitutional relief may be sought in the same proceedings as a writ of habeas corpus, and the scope of the relief which may be ordered pursuant to that jurisdiction. Instructed by Callenders & Co (Bahamas) and Simons Muirhead Burton (London). The case has attracted considerable political and public attention in The Bahamas.

Barclays v Shetty (2020-22); (CFI-061-2020 in the DIFC); (CL-2021-000397 UK enforcement proceedings). Led by Zoe O'Sullivan KC, Adrian acted for the successful claimant bank in a claim under a guarantee following the collapse of the defendant's UAE-based business empire. Obtained a USD \$135 million WWFO ex parte (before Wayne Martin J), continued by consent, and in the successful application for immediate judgment: [2020] DIFC CFI 061 (also before Wayne Martin J). Acted (unled) in successful UK enforcement proceedings, obtaining summary judgment ([2022] EWHC 19 (Comm), Henshaw J), interim and final charging orders, permission to serve out and by alternative means on third parties in more than 10 different jurisdictions, and an order for possession and sale of valuable property in London (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Barclays v Al Khaili (2020-21); Claim Nos: CFI-012-2020; CFI-086-2020; CA-003-2021. Instructed on behalf of the claimant bank at first instance and on its successful appeal before Justices Christopher Clarke, Wayne Martin and Zaki Azmi in a case concerning recognition in the DIFC of judgments from other jurisdictions, including for the purposes of the statutory res judicata provision Art 5(A)(4) of the Judicial Authority Law (instructed by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP).

KBC Aldini v Baazov and ors (2018-2020). Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian acted for the first defendant to claims for USD 40 million based on fraud and passing off allegations relating to equity commitment letters filed in support of a 'go private' bid to acquire Amaya Inc. The proceedings involved a jurisdiction challenge and various interlocutory applications, including a successful application for evidence to be given by video link (apparently only the third such order granted in over a decade, and of renewed interest after the onset of the pandemic) and a successful application for security costs made by the defendants shortly before trial in February 2020 (instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright LLP).

UAE & DIFC Litigation

Adrian is a Registered Part II Practitioner in the DIFC. Notable recent instructions include:

Fraud and intellectual property (2025). Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in a fraud and passing off matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to companies incorporated in the UAE.

Barclays v Shetty (2020-22) (CFI-061-2020). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons Middle East LLP. Led by Zoe O'Sullivan KC, Adrian acted for the Barclays in a claim under a guarantee following the collapse of the defendant's UAE-based business empire. Obtained a USD \$135 million WWFO ex parte (before Wayne Martin J), continued by

consent, and then immediate judgment: [2020] DIFC CFI 061 (also before Wayne Martin J). Adrian also represented Barclays in the subsequent UK enforcement proceedings, obtaining summary judgment (*Barclays v Shetty* [2022] EWHC 19 (Comm), Henshaw J.), interim and final charging orders, permission to serve out and by alternative means on third parties in more than 10 different jurisdictions, and an order for possession and sale of valuable property in London.

Lural v (1) Listran (2) Lokhan [2021] DIFC CA 003. Instructed by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP. Adrian acted for the claimant bank at first instance and on appeal before Justices Christopher Clarke, Wayne Martin and Zaki Azmi in a case concerning recognition in the DIFC of judgments from other jurisdictions, and the proper construction and application of the statutory *res judicata* provisions in Art 5(A)(4) of the Judicial Authority Law. The matter then went to the Federal Supreme Court for adjudication under Article 99 of the UAE Constitution.

KBC Aldini Capital Limited v David Baazov and ors (2017-2020). Instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright. Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian acted for a Canadian internet entrepreneur in defending claims for USD 40 million based on fraud and passing off allegations made in DIFC proceedings relating to equity commitment letters filed in support of a 'go private' bid to acquire Amaya Inc. The matter involved a jurisdiction challenge ([2017] DIFC CFI 002) and various interlocutory applications. The claim struck out shortly before trial in February 2020.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company Limited and ors. Ongoing. Instructed by MJM Ltd (Bermuda), Baker McKenzie (Taipei) and Stewarts Law (UK). Led by Richard Wilson KC, and by Professor Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.) in relation to conflict of laws issues, Adrian acts in one of the highest value trust cases to have been litigated. The 6-month trial took place between April and October 2021. The trial judgment ([2022] SC (Bda) 44 Com) is the subject of an appeal to the Bermuda Court of Appeal that was heard over 10 days in January 2025.

Bionome Technology Limited v Clearwater [2024] EWHC 3155 (Ch). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons LLP. Adrian acted for the successful respondent on an appeal to the High Court on issues including whether a trust had been properly declared over certain patent applications.

Private International Law

Recent instructions include:

Wong v Grand View Private Trust Company Limited and ors. Ongoing. Instructed by MJM Ltd (Bermuda), Baker McKenzie (Taipei) and Stewarts Law (UK). Led by Richard Wilson KC, and by Professor Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.) in relation to conflict of laws issues, Adrian acts in one of the highest value trust cases to have been litigated. The 6-month trial took place between April and October 2022. The trial judgment ([2022] SC (Bda) 44 Com) is the subject of an appeal to the Bermuda Court of Appeal that was heard over 10 days in January 2025.

Barclays v Shetty (2020-22); (CFI-061-2020 in the DIFC); (CL-2021-000397 UK enforcement proceedings). Instructed by Simmons & Simmons. Led by Zoe O'Sullivan KC, Adrian acted for the successful claimant bank in a claim under a guarantee following the collapse of the defendant's UAE-based business empire. Obtained a USD \$135 million WWFO ex parte (before Wayne Martin J), continued by consent, and was successful in an application for immediate judgment: [2020] DIFC CFI 061 (also before Wayne Martin J). Acted (unled) in successful UK enforcement proceedings, obtaining summary judgment ([2022] EWHC 19 (Comm), Henshaw J), interim and final charging orders, permission to serve out and by alternative means on third parties in more than 10 different jurisdictions, and an order for possession and sale of valuable property in London.

Barclays v Al Khaili (2020-21); Claim Nos: CFI-012-2020; CFI-086-2020; CA-003-2021. Instructed on behalf of the claimant bank at first instance and on its successful appeal in a case concerning recognition in the DIFC of judgments from other jurisdictions, including for the purposes of the statutory res judicata provision Art 5(A)(4) of the Judicial Authority Law (instructed by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP).

(2021) Led by Jonathan Harris KC (Hon) and Philip Jones KC, provided advice in relation to questions relating to head of state immunity and the justiciability of factual issues concerning a head of state.

GDE LLC and Goffe v Anglia Autoflow Limited [2020] EWHC 105 (Comm) Acted, with Professor Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.), for the successful defendant at a 5-day trial of a preliminary issue as to choice of law under Rome Convention; extensive drafting, conducted cross-examination at trial and oral advocacy on an interlocutory application (instructed by Birketts LLP).

Município de Mariana and ors v BHP Group (2018-2019) instructed as part of the team acting for the claimants in one of the largest group actions to come before the English court, arising from the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil in 2015. The dam collapse has been described as the worst environmental disaster in Brazilian history (instructed by SPG Law).

KBC Aldini Capital Limited v David Baazov and ors [2017] DIFC CFI 002: Acted, with Rupert Reed KC, for a Canadian internet entrepreneur in a jurisdiction challenge pertaining to a USD 40m fraud claim in the DIFC relating to allegedly forged equity commitment letters filed in support of a 'go private' bid (instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright).

Acted (with Prof. Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.)) in relation to a potential claim against the English guarantor of a debt owed by a French company to a Monégasque bank which had subsequently been assigned to a BVI company owned by a subset of the guarantors. The case involved complex jurisdiction and choice of law issues and an issue regarding the possible connivance in the default of their co-guarantor by the shareholders in the potential claimant (2017-2018) (instructed by Charles Russell Speechlys).

Smith v Huertas: instructed (with Jennifer Haywood), for the respondent in relation to an application for a declaration under Regulation 44/2001 art.34(1) that it would be manifestly contrary to public policy for the UK to recognise and enforce a French judgment (instructed by Boodle Hatfield).

Telecommunications and Information Technology

Fraud and IT systems: (2025). Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in a fraud and IP matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to *inter alia* the information technology systems of companies incorporated in the UAE.

Software copyright and breach of confidence: *ESG Global (Energy) Limited v Positive Energy Limited and ors* (2025-ongoing). Led by Matthew Morrison KC, Adrian acts for the claimant in this software copyright and breach of confidence matter.

Software Copyright and fraud: *CyberOcean Limited v Supercraft Limited and ors* (2025). Instructed by JMW LLP. Adrian acts for the 1st and 2nd Defendants in this software copyright and fraud IPEC matter.

Confidential information (2024): acting for the claimant in action against a former employee for breach of confidence (instructed by Potter Clarkson LLP).

Software Copyright (2024): acting for the claimant in a claim for infringement of copyright in software (instructed by JMW LLP).

Telecoms: *Harrington v Wells*. Acting for the defendant in a High Court claim concerning alleged deceit in relation to

an investment in a company developing data management and processing software for the telecoms industry (instructed by IBB).

Confidential information, deletion of data: *INVISTA v Botes and ors* [2019] EWHC 58 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 58 (Ch); [2019] 1 WLUK 170; [2019] EWHC 1086 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 1087 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 1088 (Ch). Acted, unled, for the successful defendants in this dispute involving allegations that research scientists formerly employed by INVISTA had acted in breach of confidence, in breach of pre- and post-termination employment covenants and had procured breaches of contract by a third party. Successfully resisted summary judgment one month before trial (before Arnold J.). Represented the defendants at the 7-day trial before Birss J., at which the breach of confidence, post-termination and procuring claims were dismissed, and at 5 hearing days in relation to consequential matters. The case was notable for the costs result. Birss J. held that a part 36 offer made four months before trial by the claimants had not been a genuine offer to settle and this was one of the rare cases in which it was therefore unjust to enforce any of the consequences of CPR 36.17(4). Birss J. accordingly made a costs award in favour of the defendants.

Company

(2025-ongoing) Led by Rupert Reed KC, Adrian is acting in very substantial matter arising from alleged wrongdoing relating to the management of two corporate groups based in the UAE and UK, respectively.

Harrington v Wells. Acted for the defendant in a High Court claim concerning alleged deceit in relation to an investment in a company developing data management and processing software for the telecoms industry (instructed by IBB).

Sigley v Southern. Adrian acted for the respondent to a s.994 unfair prejudice petition.

HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Mishal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud v Apex Global Management Ltd. Assisted Daniel Lightman KC in complex s.994 proceedings.

Group Litigation

Município de Mariana and ors v BHP Group. Adrian was instructed for the claimants in one of the largest group actions to come before the English court, arising from the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil in 2015.

Quotes

"Adrian is a detail-oriented, focused and diligent barrister who provides pragmatic and realistic responses to client or solicitor proposals while never neglecting the client's stated goal." Chambers & Partners, 2026

"Adrian's attention to detail has been impressive. He was proactive and approachable throughout. Adrian was particularly impressive on his feet and agile with his advocacy." Chambers & Partners, 2026

"Adrian's work advising on IP disputes is of the highest quality. Adrian's draft pleadings on complex IP matters stand up to the scrutiny of years of subsequent litigation." Chambers & Partners, 2026

Client Testimonials

“...able to transform a house which appeared to be built on sand to one with a solid concrete foundation.”

Publications

[*Easy Rent a Car Ltd v Easygroup Ltd*](#) (20 March 2019) Intellectual Property Magazine

Prizes and awards

Queen Mother’s Scholarship, Middle Temple (for the GDL and the BPTC)

Burroughs-Wellcome Fellowship, Princeton University

Centennial Fellowship, Princeton University

Scholarship, New College, Oxford

Education & Qualifications

BA Biological Sciences (Double First), New College, Oxford

PhD Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University

GDL (Distinction), City University London

BPTC (Outstanding), City University London

Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice

Appointments

Registered Part II Practitioner before the DIFC Courts - December 2019
