



serle court

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7242 6105

Alan Boyle KC

Year of Silk: 1991 Year of Call: 1972

"A brilliant technician who delivers exceptional client service. A real pleasure to work with."

Chambers and Partners

aboyle@serlecourt.co.uk

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk



Practice Overview

After 47 years of practice at the Bar (12 of those as Head of Chambers), Alan Boyle KC retired from practice on 31st March 2021. Alan remains an Associate member of Serle Court.

During his long career as one of the most senior and distinguished silks at the chancery and commercial bar, Alan was involved in many of the most high profile cases, contributing to his reputation as *"a barrister of gravitas who produces persuasive advocacy."*

"He is magisterial and offers exceptional client service. One of his key strengths is his ability to get quickly to the heart of an issue, and to present complex advice in a clear and impressively structured way." (Chambers 2019)

Alan's practice comprised commercial and chancery litigation, company and insolvency litigation, trust and probate litigation, civil fraud, financial services, property litigation and mediation. He also developed a practice related to the trust aspects of divorce cases.

Areas of Expertise

Mediation

Alan trained with CEDR some 15 years ago, since when he has conducted a significant number of important mediations mainly in the commercial and chancery fields. He also acts as counsel in mediations in cases in which he is instructed.

Commercial Litigation

A pre-eminent chancery silk, he manages a top-flight practice that encompasses both commercial and traditional chancery matters. Accomplished as both an advocate and a mediator, he is instructed on particularly complex disputes.

He has handled disputes stemming from the insolvency of a hot strip steel mill in South Wales.

Lissack v Manhattan Loft Corporation, a trial regarding agents' commission.

Ojje v Ojje, disputes relating to offshore trust.

Lictor v Mir Steel, disputes relating to hot strip steel mill in South Wales following insolvency and appointment of administrators.

Masri v Consolidated Contractors, a committal application relating to alleged breaches of receivership orders.

Reachcom v Tchigirinski, claims by bank against Russian property magnate and related freezing orders.

Yugraneft v Abramovich, major multi jurisdiction case concerning affairs of Russian oil company.

Huntingdon v Imagine, commercial court trial and appeal concerning claim for incentive payments.

Meretz Investments v ACP, appeal concerning economic torts, unlawful means conspiracy and procuring breach of contract in connection with project to develop penthouses on the roof of an apartment block.

OEM v Baker Tilly, claim for auditor's negligence in failing to detect fraudulent abstraction of £5m from property company.

Charter v City Index, a claim to recover money abstracted by fraud and passed to a spread betting company Settled prior to trial.

Reeds v Norwich Union, a claim in respect of contracts for handling personal injury litigation.

Thistle Hotels v Gamma, a claim for breach of warranty arising out the £600m sale of part of a major hotel chain.

British & Commonwealth Holdings v Atlantic Computers, advising and representing failed computer leasing company in proceedings for misrepresentation in connection with a takeover, and in related mediation

DEG v Lasco, advising and representing German development bank in proceedings concerning failed farming venture in Zambia.

The Pointwest Litigation, advising and representing an insurance company in proceedings concerning agreements for sub-underlease in a large block of flats in West London.

Art Corporation v Schuppan, advising and representing a Japanese corporation in a 7 week trial concerning a contract by an Australian racing driver to manufacture and supply luxury supercars.

Lipkin Gorman v Karpnale, advising and representing Karpnale Limited in the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords in proceedings brought by solicitors to recover from a casino money stolen from the firm's client account.

The Tin Council Litigation, advising and representing the Commonwealth of Australia, the European Economic Community, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand as members of the International Tin Council in extensive proceedings in the Commercial Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords.

Civil Fraud

Has distinguished himself as an eminent commercial chancery practitioner and has extensive experience of handling civil fraud-related proceedings. He receives praise for his client-oriented approach.

Centenary Holdings, claims under s151 CA 1985.

Nautilus Fiduciary Services v Mountbatten, claims arising out of alleged share dealing fraud.

Confidential trust dispute (2009-2010), disputes involved substantial family trusts and family companies located in Bermuda.

Reachcom v Tchigirinski, claims by bank against Russian property magnate and related freezing orders.

Meretz Investments v ACP, appeal concerning economic torts, unlawful means conspiracy and procuring breach of contract in connection with project to develop penthouses on the roof of an apartment block.

OEM v Baker Tilly, claim for auditor's negligence in failing to detect fraudulent abstraction of £5m from property company.

Charter v City Index, a claim to recover money abstracted by fraud and passed to a spread betting company. Settled prior to trial.

Jordan v Vodafone, claims for breach of oral sponsorship contract.

DEG v Lasco, advising and representing German development bank in proceedings concerning failed farming venture in Zambia.

The Pointwest Litigation, advising and representing an insurance company in proceedings concerning agreements for sub-underlease in a large block of flats in West London.

Art Corporation v Schuppan, advising and representing a Japanese corporation in a 7 week trial concerning a contract by an Australian racing driver to manufacture and supply luxury supercars.

Lipkin Gorman v Karpnale Ltd, advising and representing Karpnale Limited in the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords in proceedings brought by solicitors to recover from a casino money stolen from the firm's client account.

Company

Angelmist Properties v Leonard, a £30 million claim against the directors of a property company for breach of their duty of care in transferring an office block in London to a Jersey trust structure at an undervalue.

Lictor v Mir Steel, a claim for damages against a company which disposed of a hot strip mill following the insolvency of the company and the appointment of administrators.

Masri v Consolidated Contractors, committal application relating to alleged breaches of receivership orders.

Centenary Holdings, claims under s 151 CA 1985.

Yugraneft v Abramovich, major multi jurisdiction case concerning affairs of Russian oil company.

Thistle Hotels v Gamma, a claim for breach of warranty arising out the £600m sale of part of a major hotel chain.

The Tin Council Litigation, advising and representing the Commonwealth of Australia, the European Economic Community, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand as members of the International Tin Council in extensive proceedings in the Commercial Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords.

Insolvency

Leading chancery silk with a focus on complex litigation. He regularly handles commercial chancery cases that include significant insolvency issues, and is highlighted for his excellent reputation and authoritative nature.

Lictor v Mir Steel, disputes relating to hot strip steel mill in South Wales following insolvency and appointment of administrators.

Masri v Consolidated Contractors, committal application relating to alleged breaches of receivership orders.

Centenary Holdings, claims under s 151 CA 1985.

Yugraneft v Abramovich, major multi jurisdiction case concerning affairs of Russian oil company.

The Tin Council Litigation, advising and representing the Commonwealth of Australia, the European Economic

Community, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand as members of the International Tin Council in extensive proceedings in the Commercial Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

He is frequently instructed in trust and probate disputes, and company and insolvency litigation.

Recently instructed in a substantial dispute involving claims against offshore trustees arising out of allegations of share dealing fraud.

Khan v Gany Holdings, (leading Richard Wilson KC and Zahler Bryan) for the successful Respondents in this case involving allegations that a trustee had wrongfully failed to account for trust assets worth \$100m and that an appointment by trustees should be set aside.

Hagen v Hagen, a substantial and much publicised divorce involving the family behind Viking River Cruises.

Re Lord Bath's Longleat Settlement, disputes relating to the Longleat estate.

Ojje v Ojje, disputes relating to offshore trust.

Weisfisch, proceedings relating to Bahamian trust.

Al Sadi, international inheritance disputes.

Confidential trust dispute in 2011, disputes involving substantial family trusts in Bermuda.

Confidential trust dispute in 2012, substantial trust claims in Jersey.

Chowkwanyun, disputes involving substantial family trusts.

Charman v Charman, appeal in divorce proceedings concerning the treatment in ancillary relief proceedings of over £70m of assets held in a Bermuda trust

Meretz Investments v ACP, appeal concerning economic torts, unlawful means conspiracy and procuring breach of contract in connection with project to develop penthouses on the roof of an apartment block.

The Blickle Litigation, case concerning family trusts established in Jersey and Bermuda.

Sherrington v Sherrington, a successful appeal in a probate case in which the judge held that a will executed by a solicitor was not valid.

The Thyssen Litigation, claims to set aside a Bermuda trust for undue influence.

The Jahre Litigation, acting in England and the Cayman Islands in relation to a claim against defendants in numerous jurisdictions, involving allegations of fraud relating to the operation of an international trust, jurisdiction disputes and conflicts of laws, and a variety of issues of Cayman and Bahamian law.

International and Offshore

Kingate Global Fund v Kingate Management, a claim in the commercial list in Bermuda arising out of the Madoff

fraud. The case concerned two feeder funds claiming management fees of over USD300 million which it said had been paid to the manager on the basis of erroneous calculations of net asset value. The case raised questions of unjust enrichment and contractual entitlement.

AB Jnr v MB, a 10 week trial in the Cayman Islands; two major cases in the Court of Protection.

The Blickle Litigation, case concerning family trusts established in Jersey and Bermuda.

The Thyssen Litigation, claims to set aside a Bermuda trust for undue influence.

The Jahre Litigation, acting in England and the Cayman Islands in relation to a claim against defendants in numerous jurisdictions, involving allegations of fraud relating to the operation of an international trust, jurisdiction disputes and conflicts of laws, and a variety of issues of Cayman and Bahamian law.

Yugraneft v Abramovich, major multi jurisdiction case concerning affairs of Russian oil company.

Sports, Entertainment & Media

Apple v EMI (1993), advising and representing EMI in claims against the Beatles' company, Apple Corps, to construe, alternatively rectify, settlement agreements settling disputes between EMI and Apple regarding the Beatles' three 1960's recording contracts.

Elton John v Dick James Music & This Record Company [1991] FSR 397, advising and representing Elton John in his claim to avoid publishing, recording and management agreements made with Dick James Music and This Record Company for undue influence and to recover sums under those agreements.

Banking and Financial Services

Reachcom v Tchigirinski, claims by bank against Russian property magnate and related freezing orders.

Matrimonial Finance: Trusts and Company law

Recommendations

Chancery: Traditional (Chamers & Partners High Net Worth, 2020)

Civil Fraud, Private Client (Who's Who Legal: UK Bar, 2020)

Chancery: Commercial and Traditional, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Company, Fraud: Civil, Offshore, Trusts (Chambers & Partners, 2019)

Dispute Resolution: Commercial and Commercial Chancery, Offshore, Private Wealth: Trusts (Chambers Global 2019)

Chancery: Traditional (Chambers High Net Worth, 2019)

Commercial Litigation, Company, Fraud: Civil, Insolvency, Private Client: Trusts and Probate, Offshore (Legal 500)

Asset Recovery, Private Client (Who's Who Legal: UK Bar, 2019)

Leading Lawyer, Trusts (Citywealth Leaders List)

Quotes

Chambers and Partners High Net Worth, 2020

"He is quite extraordinary,"

"I can't use enough superlatives. He is the super silk. He is incredibly smart, so brilliant on the detail even though he is so senior, and the most lovely man. He handles the clients so well, and is so approachable."

Chambers and Partners, 2020

"Alan is a fantastically robust advocate and a real pleasure to work with. He's good strategically and straight as a die."

"He's fantastic - he has absolute command of the narrative of his clients' cases."

"A colossus on the chancery stage, he has to be one of the most authoritative barristers in the country. His is one of the names which carry real clout. He presents powerful arguments, he's an extraordinary hard worker, and clients love him for all those reasons."

"A brilliant advocate and fierce opponent."

"Fantastically focused and committed, he strikes a perfect balance between being sympathetic with clients and utterly combative when fighting for them in court." "His clear and authoritative advocacy is impressive."

"He has an enormous presence, he's a respected figure and he carries real authority. He's a formidable courtroom presence and I'm definitely impressed with him as an opponent."

The Legal 500, 2020

"Experienced, urbane and very responsive."

"He is very responsive and experienced."

"An excellent fraud silk."

"Very responsive and experienced."

"One of the best of the best: a stellar intellect."

"A master tactician with highly polished client skills and a tenacity to get the right outcome."

Chambers High Net Worth, 2019

"stellar reputation" at the traditional chancery Bar.

"A colossus on the chancery stage, he has to be one of the most authoritative barristers in the country,"

"His is one of the names which carry real clout. He has the most extraordinary ability to assimilate huge volumes of material and present them after culling all the relevant information. He presents powerful arguments, he's an extraordinary hard worker, and clients love him for all those reasons. He is totally committed to the cause."

Who's Who Legal UK Bar, 2019

'a great litigator" and a key name in the private client space'

'recognised as "one of the top people at the bar"'

Chambers and Partners 2019

"He's immensely authoritative and has a formidable courtroom presence."

"He is one of the doyens of the Commercial Chancery Bar. If you are in a difficult place where you need a silky, persuasive voice, you go to Alan. He has been around for donkey's years and has so much experience."

"Knows how to utilise strategy and he really inspires confidence in solicitors and clients. His expertise in traditional chancery matters is fantastic, and he also maintains a really commercial outlook."

"Has a really good feel for advocacy and is supremely talented in the courtroom." "He is a heavyweight barrister whom people tend to go to on important cases."

Chambers Global 2019

"He is among the very best trusts practitioners and is received very well in the market. He is hugely committed, has a great brain and is a pleasure to work with."

"Gets straight to the heart of the matter, and has both a razor-sharp intellect and a laser focus on his client's interests." "He is exceptional in terms of client service and a brilliant technician."

The Legal 500 2019

"A brilliant analyser of cases and equally effective on paper."

"Impeccable skillset and highly regarded by the Bench and colleagues alike."

"One of the leaders at the Chancery Bar – highly regarded by the bench and colleagues alike."

"Thorough and diligent, and not easily put off course by the skill of an opposing advocate."

"A towering figure and a powerful advocate who grabs the court's attention."

"He provides exceptional client service and is a brilliant tactician."

"He gives his all to his clients' cases."

Client Testimonials

"One of the – if not the – outstanding leaders at the Chancery Bar. Extraordinarily clever and a pleasure to work with both in the UK and in common law jurisdictions worldwide."

Keith Oliver (Peters & Peters Solicitors LLP)

"Alan Boyle is an absolute pleasure to work with. He is very client focused and friendly and inspires confidence with his thorough preparation and knowledge of the facts and the law. He is not afraid to roll his sleeves up and work as part of a team. Alan is incredibly clever, focused and his ability to deliver submissions confidently in court justifies his reputation as a 'Super Silk'."

Jenny McKeown (Stephenson Harwood LLP)

"Serle Court is a market leader and a go-to set for contentious trust and offshore work. Over the years, we have worked with a number of different silks and juniors on both litigation and arbitration matters, often with a cross jurisdiction aspect. This has included Alan Boyle KC, Dominic Dowley KC, John Machell KC, Richard Wilson KC, Dakis Hagen KC, Sophie Holcombe, and Oliver Jones. The quality of their work has been consistently excellent, and their commercial nous and practical advice certainly sets them out from the pack. Head Clerk, Steve Whitaker, runs a tight ship and is always a pleasure to deal with."

Jeremy Kosky and Maxine Mossman (Clifford Chance LLP)

Publications

[Relief from flawed decisions](#), Trusts and Estates Law & Tax Journal, November 2018, together with Alan Boyle KC and Richard Wilson KC.

The Practice and Procedure of the Companies Court, (1997, LLP).

Appointments

CEDR Accredited Mediator

Authorised to sit as a deputy High Court Judge in the Chancery Division

Advising London Clearing House, Hong Kong Stock Exchange and International Stock Exchange

Disciplinary proceedings at LIFFE and London Commodities Exchange

Memberships

Chancery Bar Association

Commercial Bar Association

Insolvency Lawyers' Association

Association of Contentious Trust and Probate Specialists
