



serle court

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Alfie Lewis

Year of Call: 2021

".. a great asset, having obviously high legal capability, he is also very client friendly. He will go a long way."

Client feedback

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk



Practice Overview

Alfie joined Serle Court in 2025 before accepting tenancy in 2026. He was previously at another commercial set.

Alfie accepts instructions in all of Chambers' core practice areas, including civil fraud, commercial, probate, company, insolvency, property, and trusts disputes. He has a particular background in international dispute resolution and arbitration.

Alfie appears in the County Court, the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Employment Tribunal, and before arbitral tribunals. He has experience in appearing both led and as sole counsel

Prior to joining the Bar, Alfie worked in Shell's international litigation team where he assisted with large-scale environmental tort litigation, IP litigation, and acted as the designated assistant to the response group established in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine. Alfie also worked in WilmerHale's arbitration team, where he assisted on a large Southeast Asian construction arbitration and the IP case of *Swatch v Samsung*. Alfie previously worked as the judicial assistant to Lord Justice Popplewell in the Court of Appeal.

Areas of Expertise

Civil Fraud

LCIA Arbitrations (August 2023-June 2025): junior in three related arbitrations for approximately £100 million involving the collapse of a Russian bank. The substance of the case involved fraud, s. 423 Insolvency Act 1986 claims, and estoppel. Alfie was responsible for running the arbitrations on a day-to-day basis and had initial carriage of drafting the pleadings, the requests for disclosure, and submissions for both a security for costs application and an early determination application.

Alfie assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Wilson Leung in a dispute regarding alleged mismanagement between the general partner and limited partners in a US\$150m private equity fund (Exempted Limited Partnership under Cayman law).

Commercial Litigation

Leadingway v Saab (December 2023-April 2025): junior counsel representing the Saabs in a claim for (x) under a loan agreement. Alfie prepared first drafts of the skeletons before both the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Jigsaw Cloud v Prax (January-October 2024); sole counsel in a £100,000 claim for damages arising out of a service contract between an IT company and an oil company. Alfie drafted the statement of claim for claims in contract and unjust enrichment. The claim went uncontested.

Alfie assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC in overturning a freezing injunction by preparing the first draft of the skeleton.

Alfie drafted the defence to a restrictive covenants claim, which was subsequently settled, and has advised on restrictive covenants.

Alfie drafted the defence to a discrimination claim brought by a wheelchair user who had been unable to access a highstreet branch of a real estate agent.

Arbitration

Alfie has a great deal of arbitration experience for someone of his call, including: drafting memoranda; drafting the application notice and skeleton for an anti-suit injunction against foreign proceedings brought in violation of an arbitration agreement; drafting security for costs submissions under the LCIA rules; drafting Redfern schedules for disclosure in LCIA arbitrations; drafting the submissions for early determination under the LCIA rules; and appearing as sole counsel.

LCIA Arbitration (Winter 2023): junior in a claim for an anti-suit injunction against Russian proceedings brought in violation of an arbitration clause in a trust agreement. Responsible for drafting the skeleton and application notice. The injunction was granted in favour of our client. Alfie also produced the first draft of an opinion on arbitration and trusts law.

LCIA Arbitrations (August 2023-June 2025): junior in three related arbitrations for approximately £100 million involving the collapse of a Russian bank. The substance of the case involved fraud, s. 423 Insolvency Act 1986 claims, and estoppel. Alfie was responsible for running the arbitrations on a day-to-day basis and had initial carriage of drafting the pleadings, the requests for disclosure, and submissions for both a security for costs application and an early determination application.

LCIA Arbitration (Winter 2024): junior in a £250 million claim arising out of the purchase of a business. Alfie was responsible for the first draft of the initial statement of case. The dispute was settled after the statement of claim was submitted.

CIArb Arbitration (December 2023-present): sole counsel instructed by an international law firm in a contract and partnership dispute brought in an arbitration by a previous partner of the firm.

Company

Alfie assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Sparsh Garg in derivative proceedings brought by a shareholder in Gibraltar regarding alleged breaches of fiduciary duties and unlawful means conspiracy by the company's alleged de jure and shadow directors.

Partnership and LLP

CIArb Arbitration (December 2023-present): sole counsel instructed by an international law firm in a contract and partnership dispute brought in an arbitration by a previous partner of the firm.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Alfie assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC with an opinion on the proper exercise of trustees' powers as between a life interest beneficiary and a remainderman.

Alfie is judicial assistant to Dame Elizabeth Gloster, Sir Christopher Clarke, and Sir Anthony Smellie in Bermuda Court of Appeal in *Grand View Private Trust Company v Wong*.

International and Offshore

Alfie has experience as a junior in commercial DIFC and ADGM cases.

Alfie assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Sparsh Garg in derivative proceedings brought by a shareholder in Gibraltar regarding alleged breaches of fiduciary duties and unlawful means conspiracy by the company's alleged de jure and shadow directors.

Insolvency

LCIA Arbitrations (August 2023-June 2025): junior in three related arbitrations for approximately £100 million involving the collapse of a Russian bank. The substance of the case involved fraud, s. 423 Insolvency Act 1986 claims, and estoppel. Alfie was responsible for running the arbitrations on a day-to-day basis and had initial carriage of drafting the pleadings, the requests for disclosure, and submissions for both a security for costs application and an early determination application.

Alfie has prepared an application for recognition under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations.

Alfie has experience presenting winding-up petitions.

Employment

Garner v Thorpe Hall (January 2025): sole counsel representing the defendant in a 4-day hearing to determine claims in disability discrimination.

Ahmed v Pakistan International Airlines (October 2024): sole counsel instructed by 7 claimants in a joined claim for unfair dismissal. Successfully argued that evidence was not covered by litigation privilege. The judge held, in the alternative, that the iniquity exception to privilege was made out. Further succeeded in resisting applications for the judge to recuse himself and for a stay of proceedings. The case was then settled on preferential terms.

Bellingham v TGS (January 2024): sole counsel for the second defendant in a claim for unfair dismissal in the context of the purchase of an international oil prospecting company. Successful in establishing a TUPE transfer.

Alfie has experience drafting claims and defences in unfair dismissal and discrimination.

Intellectual Property

Alfie has a strong interest in IP. Prior to joining the Bar, Alfie worked on a dispute concerning a patent for a digital payment mechanism accessed by customers through QR codes. Alfie also worked on the Swatch v Samsung litigation whilst at WilmerHale, being responsible for day-to-day case management and reviewing the evidence.

Client Testimonials

Partnership arbitration case: Excellent quality of work with extremely sound analysis for someone of Alfie's level of call. Alfie is also a thoroughly nice chap and has been super responsive.

Employment case: Alfie was tactically astute and made clear, concise, and resounding arguments which ultimately allowed us to reach settlement. He had an excellent grasp on what was a rather meaty case involving 7 claimants and some 15 witnesses all in and was able to convey our arguments to great effect.

Publications

'The Balder effect: conditional arbitrability's threat to the New York Convention', *Arbitration International*, (2023) 39(1)

'Conditional Arbitrability – A Questionable Innovation in Russian Arbitration', *ASA Bulletin* [2021](3)

'Navigating Scylla & Charybdis: International Arbitration and National Insolvency', *Norton Journal of Insolvency Law and Practice* (2017) 25(5)

Prizes

International Insolvency Institute 2016 Gold Award

Shortlisted for the LCIA Gillis Wetter International Arbitration Prize 2019

NLS Trilegal International Arbitration Moot – Best Oralist

Education & Qualifications

Oxford University, Harris Manchester: DPhil in international arbitration law, with a particular focus on the resolution of Russian and CIS disputes.

UCL: LLM

BPP: GDL

Oxford University, Christ Church: Russian Language and Literature BA

Memberships

International Insolvency Institute's NextGen initiative for future leaders in the field of insolvency law.

Young Energy Arbitration Club's steering committee.
