



serle court

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Dan McCourt KC

Year of Silk: 2023 Year of Call: 2007

"Brilliant in the courtroom"

Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025

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Practice Overview

Dan was among the very first of his cohort to take silk, at only 15 years' call - an achievement made more remarkable by the fact that Dan practises across a wide range of heavyweight chancery commercial specialisms. He has rapidly established a thriving practice at silk level, centred on three inter-related areas: company law, civil fraud and trust disputes.

Dan's practice spans a range of jurisdictions in addition to England, including the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the BVI, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar.

In company law, during the past three years Dan has appeared in the Court of Appeal in four appeals concerning unfair prejudice (*Zedra, Loveridge (No.1)*, *Loveridge (No.2)* and *Zedra (No.2)*) and in the notorious *BIG* (regarding the scope and effect of the rule against reflective loss). Dan's clients succeeded in all four appeals.

In civil fraud, Dan is lead advocate for the claimant in *Isbilen*, a multi-jurisdictional fraud claim arising from the alleged misappropriation of some £40 million, and (led by David Allison KC) acts for the plaintiffs in *Re The Port Fund*, in which the general partner of a Caymanian exempted liability partnership is alleged to have conspired with others to cause losses exceeding £150 million to the fund's limited partners. Dan is also lead counsel in a related claim against the general partner's attorneys for breach.

In both fraud and company law contexts, Dan regularly acts and advises in relation to insolvency issues (see e.g. *Re Black Capital*, *Re Breton Park*).

In trusts disputes, Dan's range of expertise makes him especially sought after in cases concerning allegations of dishonesty and/or corporate structures. Recent examples include (i) *Equity Trust*, in which Dan's clients succeeded at first instance and in the Court of Appeal in resisting claims for fraudulent breach of trust against a corporate trustee and one of its employees, and (ii) *Kazzaz*, a breach of trust claim in Guernsey in which Dan's clients (subsidiaries of Standard Chartered) won at trial and in the Guernsey Court of Appeal.

Across the broad spectrum of his practice, Dan has developed noteworthy expertise in committal proceedings (representing both applicants and respondents). He has acted in many of the leading civil contempt cases over the past decade, including *Loveridge (No.2)*, *Isbilen v Turk*, *Super-Max v Malhotra*, *Emmott v Willson*, *Ablyazov, Berry Piling and Masri*. Dan co-authored the Chancery Bar Association's response to the Law Commission's consultation on contempt.

In the majority of his cases Dan acts as lead or sole advocate, and he excels at leading a team (Chambers & Partners notes that he is "*an absolute joy to work with*"). He is however equally comfortable working under senior KCs within or outside chambers, as he is currently doing across a range of cases in England and overseas. Dan's ability and experience as an oral advocate are outstanding, especially given his call: his recent appearances include appeals in the Supreme Court and the Privy Council, multiple hearings in the Court of Appeal, lengthy High Court trials and arbitrations involving extensive cross-examination, and heavy interlocutory applications (including in particular applications for search orders, freezing orders and proprietary injunctions). In Chambers & Partners Dan is described as "*magnificent in court*", with his advocacy being recognised as "*incredibly impressive*" and "*exceptional*". To similar effect, Legal 500 praises Dan as "*a fierce intellect and a brilliant advocate*", whose advocacy is "*persuasive and skilful beyond his years*".

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Civil Fraud

Company

Chancery

Private Client Trusts and Probate

International and Offshore

Recommendations

Chancery: Commercial (Chambers and Partners, UK 2021-2025)

Fraud: Civil (Chambers and Partners, 2021-2025)

Offshore (Chambers & Partners, 2024-2025)

Company (Chambers & Partners, UK 2024-2025)

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (Chambers & Partners Global, 2022-2023)

Fraud: Civil (The Legal 500, 2019-2025)

Company and Partnership (The Legal 500, 2017-2025)

Offshore (The Legal 500, 2022)

Fraud: Civil (Who's Who Legal: UK Bar 2018-2022)

Quotes

"Dan is a leading light at the Bar. His strength is that he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and a memory that puts us all to shame." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is brilliant on his feet and a decisive and authoritative leader." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan goes toe to toe with far more senior silks and excels. His advocacy is superb, and he is the kind of guy you want on your team." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is calm and good at responding to questions from the bench. He is very good at thinking on his feet because of the way he prepares." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is fiercely bright and thinks outside the box to secure positive outcomes for his clients. He is also very personable and has a good manner with clients." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is very good on his feet." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and a memory that puts us all to shame. He memorised everything presented in court. With clients, he adapts his style to gain their confidence." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan McCourt Fritz KC is robust, charming and incredibly clever. He is a gifted advocate who is incredibly easy to work with." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"I trust his judgement, both legally and commercially, absolutely. He is patient and both sensible and measured in his advice." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"He knows the law really well and is a really good advocate." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is excellent when on his feet and has stepped up to being a silk seamlessly." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan McCourt Fritz KC has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law, and is able to effortlessly memorise everything presented in court." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"He is brilliant and persuasive, and his court craft is excellent." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"He is really bright, easy to work with and has a very good, calm advocacy manner." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"A high quality junior who has stepped up to KC seamlessly and is very good on his feet." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"His advocacy is superb." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"He is really strong, punchy and backs himself, which is good." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is super bright, very client-friendly, pragmatic and easy to deal with." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2026)

"Dan is an excellent advocate. He is very persuasive but also great at analysing large amounts of information and distilling it into key issues. His advocacy is direct and focused." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is extremely pleasant to work with and is an absolute team player. His technical ability is brilliant and he does not overcomplicate things." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is fantastic. He fights the client's corner, is very creative and is not afraid to take a chance and push for outcomes that more conservative people may shy away from." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is exceptionally intelligent and shows good commercial judgement. He is a very good advocate, knows the law extremely well and is able to apply it. He's also very friendly and easy to work with." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"He is very persuasive but also great at analysing and distilling large amounts of information. He doesn't shy away from key issues in his advocacy, which is direct and focused, sharp and persuasive." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar,

2025)

"He is so clever, very commercial and great with lay clients. He is brilliant in the courtroom and has a real punch about him." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is a gifted advocate, charming and very insightful." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is really perceptive and fights the client's corner. He is a brilliant lawyer and very creative." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan's pleadings and written submissions are thorough and robust." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is extremely capable. He will go extremely far as a silk." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2025)

"Dan is very hardworking, with outstanding technical ability." (The Legal 500, 2025)

"He's very punchy and all over the detail." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2024)

"Dan provides very pertinent advice which points clients in the right direction." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2024)

"Dan is definitely someone to watch in the space." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2024)

"Very experienced, and an absolute joy to deal with." "Dan is fantastic. He is personable and is absolutely on top of things. His advocacy is incredibly impressive." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"His written work is superb, and he functions brilliantly within a large team." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"Dan is incredibly clever, tactically very sound and an engaging advocate who can handle difficult situations well" (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"Dan is extremely bright and has an extremely promising future ahead. His advocacy is persuasive and skilful beyond his years." (The Legal 500, 2023)

"Dan is a robust advocate who fights the client's corner and who inspires confidence from the client and the tribunal." (The Legal 500, 2023)

"An excellent junior who has an expert's grasp of offshore commercial fraud work and a piercing intellect. He is also a real team player who rolls up his sleeves when the pressure is on." (The Legal 500, 2023)

"He's magnificent in court and his advocacy is exceptional" (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"Dan really does have it all. He is charming, hard-working, humble and immensely intelligent" (The Legal 500, 2022)

"Grasps all the details with lightning speed" (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"Someone who drafts simply and beautifully" (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"He works incredibly hard, is a delight to work with and is very responsive and bright" (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"An absolute pleasure to work with and a barrister who is very good at his craft" (Chambers & Partners, 2022)

"A great all rounder. He is excellent at drafting as well as advocacy and is an asset to any team" (The Legal 500, 2022)

"He is very hard-working." "He is user-friendly, sharp and bright." "A rising star and an absolute pleasure to work with." (Chambers and Partners, 2021)

"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." (Chambers and Partners, 2021)

"He has a fierce intellect and is a brilliant advocate, and is also superb with clients and, which really marks him out." (The Legal 500, 2021)

"A collaborative team player who is great on detail." (The Legal 500, 2021)

"Fantastic to lead and work with" (Who's Who Legal, 2020)

Education & Qualifications

Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge - BA Neuroscience (First Class, ranked joint 1st)

City University - LLB Hons. (First Class); GDL (Distinction)

Senior Scholar, Gonville and Caius College

Shelford Scholarship (2007), Lord Mansfield Scholarship (2006) and Lord Bowen Scholarship (2005), Lincoln's Inn

City University Scholarship (2005)
