



serle court

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Dan McCourt Fritz KC

Year of Silk: 2023 Year of Call: 2007

"A fierce intellect and a brilliant advocate"

The Legal 500

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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. His appointment as a KC represented a natural progression from his position as one of the most sought after and highly rated chancery commercial juniors at the Bar (most recently recognised by his 2022 shortlisting by Legal 500 for chancery junior of the year). Dan is recognised by the main directories as a leading practitioner in Civil Fraud, Offshore, Chancery Commercial, Commercial Disputes and Company and Partnership Law.

Dan's practice centres on three inter-related areas: company law, civil fraud and trust disputes.

In company law, during the past two years Dan has appeared in the Court of Appeal in three appeals concerning unfair prejudice (*Zedra*, *Loveridge (No.1)* and *Loveridge (No.2)*) and as sole advocate 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 QC) 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 £100 million to the fund's limited partners.

Dan's trust practice has a strong international element: notable recent cases include *Re The Brockman Trust* - in which (led by John Machell KC) Dan acted for the successful respondent to an appeal concerning a Bermudan trust worth some \$8 billion - and *Volpi* (ongoing proceedings in the Bahamas relating to a group of high value family trusts). Dan is also regularly instructed in domestic trust disputes; he is currently acting for a Jersey trustee in English proceedings, defending a claim for alleged dishonest breaches of trust which is said to be worth £30 million.

In the majority of his cases Dan acts as lead or sole advocate. He is however equally comfortable working under more 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 numerous appeals 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*".

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*.

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, 2022)

Fraud: Civil (Chambers and Partners, 2021, 2022)

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

Fraud: Civil (The Legal 500, 2019-2021)

Company and Partnership (The Legal 500, 2017-2022)

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

Offshore (The Legal 500, 2022).

Quotes

"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, 2023)

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

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

"An exceedingly good fraud junior" (Who's Who Legal, 2019)

"Responsive, commercial and provides well thought out advice." (The Legal 500, 2019)

☐ *"A rising star"* (The Legal 500, 2018)

"gives robust but realistic advice and makes a strong impression." (The Legal 500, 2018)

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)
