



## Jonathan Adkin QC

Year of Silk: 2013 Year of Call: 1997

*"He's a brilliant advocate who offers good judgment and good analysis. Judges like him and he pitches the case just right."... "Is able to cut through the most complex disputes with ease."*

Chambers & Partners (Commercial Dispute Resolution)

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## Practice Overview

Jonathan Adkin was amongst the first of his generation to take Silk. His practice covers all aspects of commercial and chancery dispute resolution, with a strong emphasis on substantial and complex multi-jurisdictional disputes. He has often had cases listed in The Lawyer's top 20 cases of the year and has previously been named by The Lawyer as one of their "Hot 100" lawyers.

Jonathan has acted in some of the largest such cases in recent times, including *Berezovsky v Abramovich*, *Patarkatsishvili v Anisimov*, the *Pugachev* litigation, the *Madoff* litigation and the actions arising out of the collapse of *Halliwells* and *Glasgow Rangers*. He regularly appears in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division and has appeared as advocate in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Privy Council. Jonathan is also an acknowledged specialist in arbitration, both domestic and international.

Much of Jonathan's work is international in nature. In addition to his English practice, he has substantial experience as an advocate in offshore jurisdictions, and has been called *ad hoc* to the bars of Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, and Gibraltar. He is also registered as an advocate before the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, in which he has appeared in the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal.

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## Areas of Expertise

### Commercial Litigation

## Recent cases include:

*Kupeli v Kibris Turk Hava Yollari Sirketi* [2016] EWHC 930

Lead counsel for the defendant airline in a major class action arising out of the collapse of the national airline of Northern Cyprus.

*T v Bank H* [2016]

Lead counsel for the Claimants in a \$120 million LCIA arbitration concerning the alleged breach of an SPA for the sale of a Ukrainian bank.

*H v Z* [2016]

Lead counsel for the Claimants in a \$40 million LCIA arbitration concerning the alleged breach of an SPA for the sale of a Georgian bank.

*JAS Financial Products LLP v ICAP PLC* [2016] EWHC 591 (Comm)

Lead counsel for the Claimant in a multi-million pound financial services contract claim.

*Gudavadze v Anisimov* [2014] (Commercial Court)

Acting with Michael Brindle QC in a multi-billion dollar oligarch dispute involving issues of Russian and Georgian law. One of The Lawyer magazine's top 20 cases of 2014.

*Berezovsky v Abramovich, Berezovsky v Hine & Ors* [2012] EWHC 2463 (Comm)

Lead counsel for one of the Defendants at the trial of the multi-billion dollar claim by Boris Berezovsky against Roman Abramovich and others. One of The Lawyer magazine's top 20 cases of 2010.

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## Banking and Financial Services

### Recent cases include:

*T v Bank H* [2016]

Lead counsel for the Claimants in a \$120 million LCIA arbitration concerning the alleged breach of an SPA for the sale of a Ukrainian bank.

*H v Z* [2016]

Lead counsel for the Claimants in a \$40 million LCIA arbitration concerning the alleged breach of an SPA for the sale of a Georgian bank.

*Central Bank of Ecuador v Conticorp*

Lead counsel for the defendants in a \$150 million claim against the former senior management of a collapsed bank.

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## Civil Fraud

### Recent cases include:

*Tatneft v Bogolyubov & Ors* [2016] (Commercial Court)

Lead counsel for one of the principal defendants in a \$380 million fraud claim by a Russian state oil company against Ukrainian oligarchs.

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*JSC Mezhdunarodniy Promyshlenniy Bank v Pugachev* [2016] 1 WLR 160

Lead counsel for third party respondents in a multi-billion pound fraud claim by the liquidator of a Russian bank against a former senior manager.

*Orb ARL v Ruhan* [2015] EWHC 262 (Comm)

Lead counsel for the principal protagonist in a multi-million pound dispute concerning the alleged fraudulent breach of a property sale and development agreement.

*Chevron v DeLeon & Ors* [2015] (Gibraltar)

Counsel for one of the principal defendants in a multi-billion dollar conspiracy claim arising out of an allegedly fraudulently obtained Ecuadorian judgment.

*Madoff Securities International Ltd v Raven* [2014] (Commercial Court)

Lead counsel for one of the defendants in multi-million pound claims against the former directors of the London branch of the Madoff operation. One of *The Lawyer* magazine's top 20 cases of 2013.

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## Company

### Recent cases include:

*Smithton v Naggar* [2014] 1 BCLC 602

Acted for the Claimant in a multi-million pound director's misconduct claim concerning issues of de facto and shadow directorship.

*DeLiefde Inc v Katzman & Ors* [2012] (Jersey)

Acted for the Claimant in a \$1.6 billion derivative action against directors and shareholders of a property investment fund in respect of a cancelled rights issue.

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## Insolvency

### Recent cases include:

*Glasgow Rangers Football Club plc (in liquidation) v Collyer Bristow & Ors* [2015]

Lead counsel for one of the Defendants in a multi-million pound dispute arising from the collapse of Glasgow Rangers football club. One of *The Lawyer* magazine's top 20 cases of 2013.

*Belltrey v Victor Chandler Ltd* [2014] (Chancery Division)

Lead counsel for the Claimant in a multi-million pound corporate insolvency dispute concerning the well-known gaming business.

*Hill Insurance Ltd (in liquidation) v KPMG* [2014] (Gibraltar)

Lead counsel for the Claimants in a complex multi-million pound dispute arising out of the collapse of an offshore insurance business.

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## Partnership and LLP

### Recent cases include:

*Fennel v Haliwells LLP* [2014] EWHC 2744

Lead counsel for the Claimant in a complex dispute concerning the collapse of the well-known Manchester law firm.

*W v S* [2014] 21 IoM

Lead counsel for the Defendants in a multi-million pound dispute concerning the operation of an Isle of Man limited partnership.

*Berwin v Schneider* [2013] (Chancery Division)

Lead counsel for the Claimant in a high value solicitors' partnership dispute arising out of an allegedly fraudulent partnership agreement.

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## Private Client Trusts and Probate

### Recent cases include:

*Williams v Central Bank of Nigeria* [2014] AC 1189

Lead counsel for the Claimant in the leading Supreme Court authority on the applicable limitation period for accessory liability in breach of trust claims.

*Abdulla v Abdulla* [2013] EWHC 4281 (Ch)

Counsel for the Defendant in one of the leading authorities on the costs of trust proceedings.

*Page v West* [2010] WTLR 1811

Counsel for the Defendant in one of the leading authorities on variation of trust applications.

*Cawdron v Merchant Taylors School* [2010] WTLR 775

Counsel for one of the Defendants in one of the leading authorities on the proper characterisation of charitable trusts.

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## International and Offshore

### Recent cases include:

*Al-Mojil v Protiviti* [2015] CFI 020

Lead counsel acting for the Claimant in a multi-million pound jurisdiction dispute before the DIFC Court.

*Trustee 1 & Ors v Attorney General & Ors* [2015] SC (Bda) 41 Com (Bermuda)

One of the lead counsel for the Defendant trustees in a multi-billion dollar Bermuda purpose trust dispute.

*Estate of Edward St George v Sir Jack Hayward & Ors* [2014] (Bahamas)

Counsel for the estate in probate litigation arising out of the death of one of the Bahamas' leading industrialists.

*Re: Q Trusts* [2013] (Bermuda)

Counsel for the Claimants in multi-billion dollar Bermuda trust proceedings.

*Miselva v Kay* [2012] (Gibraltar)

Counsel for the Claimants, with Lord Goldsmith QC, in a multi-million pound fraud claim.

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## Chancery

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## Professional Negligence

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### Arbitration

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#### Recommendations

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

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

Commercial Dispute Resolution, Chancery: Commercial, Fraud: Civil, Offshore (*Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019 & 2018*)

Dispute Resolution: Commercial, Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery, Offshore (*Chambers Global 2019 & 2018*)

Commercial litigation, Fraud: civil, Company, Partnership, Private client: trusts and probate (*The Legal 500 2017*)

Civil Fraud, Private Client (*Who's Who Legal UK Bar 2017*)

The Legal 500 UK 2017 Silk (London) of the Year - Private client: trusts and probate

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#### Quotes

*"Indefatigable. He gets to grips with all the details of a complex case very quickly and has a no-nonsense advocacy style which is clear and concise." "A very fine draftsman and a powerful advocate." (Chambers Global, 2019)*

*"An accomplished silk" who is "very polished and someone who delivers very smooth and articulate advocacy." (Chambers Global, 2019)*

*"Very responsive and very robust. He's a very strong presence in court and a delight to work with." (Chambers Global, 2019)*

*"Clear-minded in his approach and delightful to work with." "His measured style inspires confidence. He masters complex facts and identifies the key issues. He is an accomplished advocate who establishes a good rapport with the judge." (Chambers & Partners, 2019)*

*"Very responsive and very robust. He's a very strong presence in court and a delight to work with." (Chambers & Partners, 2019)*

*"Indefatigable. He gets to grips with all the details of a complex case very quickly and has a no-nonsense advocacy style which is clear and concise." "A very fine draftsman and a powerful advocate." (Chambers & Partners, 2019)*

*"Extremely capable, never takes a bad point, and highly respected by judges." (The Legal 500, 2019)*

*"A brilliant lawyer and a wonderful team player with great skills." (The Legal 500, 2019)*

"An extremely capable, versatile and much-liked lawyer." (The Legal 500, 2019)

"A very polished and persuasive advocate." (The Legal 500, 2019)

"A very robust advocate who is good on paper, and very powerful and persuasive when on his feet." "He's very charming, and people who instruct him just love working with him." (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

"Makes the complex simple and converts losing cases into winning cases." "He has great commercial acumen." (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

"Extremely able. A very fine draughtsman and a powerful advocate." "An extremely talented barrister who is equally strong on his feet as on paper." (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

"He is an outstanding advocate, a very hands-on silk and an extremely pleasant counsel to work with." "He is very good and a very hard worker." (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

"Highly confident and very able, he can turn his hand to just about anything." "He has a good, robust court manner and takes no prisoners." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"Unflappable and commendably pragmatic when dealing with issues requiring great urgency." "A very fine draftsman and a powerful advocate." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"He's very commercial. He cuts through nonsense and provides very crisp and clear analysis of a case." "Adkin is very effective. He sticks to the issues and puts his case plainly and simply." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"Remarkably confident on his feet and a young silk who punches well above his weight." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"A very good silk" (The Legal 500 2017)

"An extremely robust and persuasive advocate" (The Legal 500 2017)

"He demonstrates a great ability to master complex fraud disputes" (The Legal 500 2017)

"Recommended for offshore trust litigation" (The Legal 500 2017)

"Highly confident and very able, he can turn his hand to just about anything." "He has a good, robust court manner and takes no prisoners." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"Unflappable and commendably pragmatic when dealing with issues requiring great urgency." "A very fine draftsman and a powerful advocate." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"He's very commercial. He cuts through nonsense and provides very crisp and clear analysis of a case." "Adkin is very effective. He sticks to the issues and puts his case plainly and simply." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"Remarkably confident on his feet and a young silk who punches well above his weight." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"A real powerhouse, who stands out from his peers; he is simply brilliant." (The Legal 500, 2016)

"Very effective in large-scale litigation."

(The Legal 500, 2016)

*"Unflappable and commendably pragmatic on issues requiring great urgency."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"He masters the case and the court - at his best in a head-on fight."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"A real heavyweight in insolvency law, who sees the angles quickly."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"Very effective in trusts disputes."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"He's a brilliant advocate who offers good judgement and good analysis. Judges like him and he pitches the case just right." "He inspires confidence at every turn and is able to cut through the most complex disputes with ease."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"His advocacy is just brilliant. He is very punchy but balanced, firm in his advice and incredibly bright."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He is incredibly bright, very good with clients, and excellent on his feet. He is able to speak on the same level as them and be commercially pragmatic."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He's commercially savvy, calm under pressure, and always on top of the law."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"Clients really love him, and he has a brilliant personality." "He is very good at analysing difficult points of law and gives clear answers."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He works at a ferocious pace and his advocacy is sublime."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"He has an impressive and imposing courtroom manner, and is quick to understand his brief."* (The Legal 500, 2016)

*"An excellent advocate, always well prepared, and good on paper and in court"* (The Legal 500, 2015)

*"He is extremely hardworking and an effective and robust advocate."* (The Legal 500, 2015)

*"Very impressive."* (The Legal 500, 2019)

## **Other**

Called ad hoc to the Bars of the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and Bermuda.

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## **Education & Qualifications**

MA (Hons), Balliol College, Oxford

Dip. Law, City University

## **Memberships**

Commercial Bar Association

Chancery Bar Association

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