

# Marc Delehanty

Year of Call: 2011

"Marc doesn't take the easy option. His determination and tenacity is excellent and a real bonus in hard-fought commercial fraud litigation."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

mdelehanty@serlecourt.co.uk clerks@serlecourt.co.uk



# **Practice Overview**

Marc was called to the Bar in 2011 following First Class degrees in Mathematics and in Law. His practice covers a wide range of **Commercial** and **Civil Fraud** disputes. He has significant experience of undertaking oral advocacy in heavy commercial litigation: on interim applications, at trial and at appellate level (including in the Supreme Court). His cases are often international in nature or have a cross-border aspect, giving rise to jurisdiction challenges and issues of foreign law. Marc has handled matters involving the laws of the UAE, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Quebec. He is regularly instructed in litigation with an insolvency element and on applications for injunctions, especially in the asset recovery context. He has acted in many cases involving gambling and has experience of crypto-related disputes.

Marc is currently instructed for the defendant companies in a US\$3billion+ commercial fraud claim, *PrivatBank v Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, Teamtrend Ltd & others*, which was one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 cases of 2022".

Marc is ranked as a leading junior barrister by Chambers and Partners (2025 edition) for three different practice areas: Commercial Dispute Resolution, Civil Fraud and Gambling Disputes. He is described as "extremely able and brilliant on his feet", "a very gifted technical lawyer, who works extremely hard", "great to work with", "astute and very responsive" and as counsel who is "commercially minded and gives great advice".

In previous editions he has been described as "very bright, with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law", as a barrister whose "determination and tenacity is excellent and a real bonus in hard-fought commercial fraud litigation" (2024 edition), who is "very thorough, very precise", "great on his feet" and "skilfully provides strategic and commercial input to augment his excellent technical advice" (2023 edition). He is regarded as "incredibly bright, very tactically astute" and a "well-prepared, understated advocate who is very measured" and it was noted that "judges respond well to his advocacy style" (2022 edition).

The Legal 500 directory (2025 edition) recommends Marc as one of the country's leading junior barristers for both Commercial Litigation and Civil Fraud law, in which he is described as "an engaging advocate, who is very organised and logical in his thinking" and a "natural advocate who makes persuasive submissions seemingly effortlessly". He received the following recommendations in previous editions: "extremely thorough and his attention to detail is invaluable. Moreover, he has a good depth of knowledge of the law in this practice area, and he is strong on his legal analysis" (2024 edition); "extremely capable, bright and commercially minded" and "great to work with" (2023 edition); "a very good strategist and tactically astute. An impressive advocate and very good on his feet", "very approachable, courteous and personable. Also incredibly thorough and comprehensive on paper" (2022 edition).

The following is a flavour of his work:

- *PrivatBank v Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, Teamtrend Ltd and others* junior counsel representing corporate defendants in a US\$3billion+ claim for alleged misappropriation of monies from Ukraine's largest bank prior to its nationalisation. One of The Lawyer's "Top 20 cases of 2022".
- *Invest Bank v El-Husseini and others* [2024] KB 49 junior counsel in the Supreme Court conducting oral advocacy on appeal on behalf of the respondent UAE bank seeking to enforce Abu Dhabi court judgments and for relief under s.423, Insolvency Act 1986 to recover real estate, shares and cash transferred away by the judgment debtor and his companies.
- *Gray v Hurley* [2020] 1 CLC 43 junior counsel in the Court of Appeal represented a claimant in a jurisdiction dispute in relation to claims of resulting trusts, undue influence and unjust enrichment for recovery of high value real estate, shares and hypercars located abroad (including the Ferrari F1 that Michael Schumacher drove to the 2003 World Championship title).

- Condair v Price [2021] EWHC 2461 (QB) as sole counsel in the High Court secured urgent without notice freezing injunction and extensive disclosure orders in support of 7-figure claim for embezzlement by a company's financial controller.
- JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov and Khrapunov [2020] AC 727 as junior counsel in the Supreme Court represented the Second Defendant, challenging jurisdiction for \$500m+ claim for unlawful means conspiracy based on alleged breaches of freezing orders.

# **Areas of Expertise**

# **Commercial Litigation**

Invest Bank PSC v El-Husseini and others: as junior counsel in the Commercial Court, succeeded, on a preliminary issues trial which engaged expert evidence of UAE law, in establishing that final Abu Dhabi court judgments were enforceable in England at common law notwithstanding that local Abu Dhabi courts had recently refused to enforce them ([2024] 1 WLR 2132). Separately, succeeded in resisting applications for security for costs ([2022] EWHC 3008 (Comm)).

**ME** v TalkTalk (2022): as sole counsel in Commercial Court proceedings, acting for claimant in dispute over termination of long-running services contract and substantial claim in debt & damages.

*Credico Marketing v Lambert and others* (2021): as junior counsel in High Court (Queen's Bench) proceedings, acting for a 'face-to-face' marketing company in its claims against rival companies and their directors for the torts of procuring breach of contract, misrepresentation, and causing loss by unlawful means.

[Importer & Reseller] v [Luxury New York Fashion Accessories Brand] (2021): as sole counsel in mediation, acting for defendant in a dispute following termination of a long-term agency relationship. Engaged issues of novation / assignment, business valuation and availability of compensation under the Commercial Agents Regulations.

*Hussein family v Ahmed family* [2021] EWHC 2213 (Ch): as sole counsel in the High Court (Chancery), succeeded for defendants in applications for strike-out, reverse summary judgment and stay of various claims for misrepresentation and unjust enrichment in connection with the sale of restaurant businesses in London.

[Professional Property Lessors] v [International Property Services Provider] (2020): as sole counsel in High Court (Chancery) proceedings, acted for defendant in claim arising from termination of a services contract. Engaged issues of contractual interpretation, effective notice of termination, renunciation / repudiation and illegality of performance. Also involved procedural issues concerning effective service out of the jurisdiction, alternative service and default judgment.

Allergy Therapeutics (UK) Ltd v Inflamax Research Inc (2018): as junior counsel in the Commercial Court, acted for a Canadian medical trial services provider defending a claim for breach of contract and misrepresentation concerning its conduct of a trial of a new allergy treatment drug and counterclaiming for unpaid fees. This case involved complex factual and scientific evidence, relating to drug trial processes and statistical analyses of medical data.

## **Civil Fraud**

*PrivatBank v Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, Teamtrend Ltd and others: as* junior counsel, representing corporate defendants in a US\$3billion+ claim for alleged misappropriation of monies from Ukraine's largest bank prior to its

nationalisation. Claims heard over a 13-week trial in 2023; judgment awaited. One of <u>The Lawyer's "Top 20 cases of 2022"</u>.

*Invest Bank PSC v El-Husseini and others* (2021-24): as junior counsel in the Commercial Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, representing a claimant UAE bank seeking to enforce Abu Dhabi court judgments in England and bringing claims under Section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to challenge transfers of properties and other assets to the judgment debtor's family members.

Condair v Price [2021] EWHC 2461 (QB): as sole counsel in the High Court (Queen's Bench), secured ex parte freezing injunction and extensive disclosure orders in support of 7-figure claim for embezzlement by a company's financial controller (engaging issues of proprietary relief, unjust enrichment, constructive trust, deceit, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract).

Hussein family v Ahmed family [2021] EWHC 2213 (Ch): as sole counsel in High Court (Chancery), succeeded for the defendants in applications for strike-out, summary judgment and stay of various claims of fraudulent misrepresentation and unjust enrichment in connection with the sale of restaurant businesses in London.

*Gray v Hurley* [2019] EWCA Civ 2222: as junior counsel in the Court of Appeal, representing a claimant in a jurisdiction challenge and anti-suit injunction application in relation to claims of resulting trusts, undue influence and unjust enrichment for recovery of high value real estate, shares and hypercars located abroad (including the Ferrari F1 that Michael Schumacher drove to the 2003 World Championship title).

*F v Persons Unknown* (2019): as sole counsel in the High Court, secured urgent ex parte freezing injunction for victim of a sophisticated fraud, where the true identity of the fraudster was unknown and had transferred misappropriated funds into Bitcoin.

JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov and Khrapunov [2020] AC 727: as junior counsel in the Supreme Court, represented the Second Defendant, challenging jurisdiction for a claim of over US\$500m+ for unlawful means conspiracy based on alleged breaches of freezing orders.

#### International and Offshore

*Invest Bank PSC v El-Husseini and others*: as junior counsel in the Commercial Court, succeeded, on a preliminary issues trial which engaged expert evidence of UAE law, in establishing that final Abu Dhabi court judgments were enforceable in England at common law notwithstanding that local Abu Dhabi courts had recently refused to enforce them ([2024] 1 WLR 2132). Separately, succeeded in resisting applications for security for costs which had been pursued on the basis of difficulties in enforcing English costs orders in the UAE ([2022] EWHC 3008 (Comm)).

*PrivatBank v Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, Teamtrend Ltd and others* [2020] Ch 783: *as* junior counsel in the Court of Appeal, representing corporate defendants incorporated in the BVI in challenging the English Court's jurisdiction for a US\$3billion+ claim for alleged misappropriation of monies from Ukraine's largest bank prior to its nationalisation.

*JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov and Khrapunov* [2020] AC 727: as junior counsel in the UK Supreme Court, represented the Second Defendant resident in Switzerland, in dispute concerning jurisdiction for unlawful means conspiracy.

## Insolvency

Invest Bank v El-Husseini and others [2024] KB 49 - junior counsel in the Supreme Court - representing the claimant

UAE bank seeking to enforce Abu Dhabi court judgments and for relief under s.423, Insolvency Act 1986 to recover real estate, shares and cash transferred away by the judgment debtor and his companies.

# **Gambling Disputes**

**[Private Individual] v Paddy Power** (2024): acting unled for a customer in a contractual dispute (engaging aspects of the Consumer Rights Act 2015) against one of the UK's biggest gambling operator relating to pay out of 6-figure winnings on football accumulator 'acca' bets.

Condair v [various gambling operators] (2022-24): as sole counsel, representing company whose ex-employee stole money from it and gambled 6-figure sums at various operators. Company seeks recovery of the money from the operators, alleging breaches of gambling licences (anti-money laundering and social responsibility code provisions) in permitting the ex-employee to gamble with them.

[Individual] v [Online gambling operator] (2021-24): as sole counsel, representing claimant who alleges a gambling addiction and seeks recovery of 6-figure sums gambled online over a period of a few weeks.

[Individual] v [Offshore gambling website] (2020): as sole counsel, advising individual gambler in dispute with offshore company in respect of disputed 'win' on online casino game.

[SME company] v [various bookmakers] (2017): as sole counsel, advising company whose ex-employee gambled 6-figure sums of the company's misappropriated cash at high street bookmakers. Case concerned breach of gambling licences in allowing the ex-employee to gamble notwithstanding problem gambling and source of money concerns.

[High Net Worth Middle Eastern businessman] v [London casinos] (2017): as junior counsel, led by Clive Freedman QC, advising 'high roller' in respect of potential claim for recovery of 7-figure sums gambled, on the basis of gambling addiction.

Ritz Hotel Casino v Al Geabury [2015] EWHC 2294 (QB) (2015; led by Clive Freedman QC). Successfully represented the casino at a six day High Court trial in a claim for unpaid roulette losses against a 'high roller' which raised detailed evidential issues about alleged gambling addiction and legal issues concerning the regulation of casinos and their obligations towards their patrons. In finding for the Ritz, Mrs Justice Simler relied upon documentary evidence which had been "painstakingly analysed by Mr Delehanty" (see judgment at para. 16). The defendant's compliance with his disclosure obligations was scrutinised across a number of hotly contested pre-trial High Court hearings at which Marc, as sole counsel, secured orders for specific disclosure. The case was extensively reported in: The Mirror, The Guardian, The Express, The Mail and The Evening Standard.

#### Recommendations

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

- Fraud: Civil, Band 3
- Commercial Dispute Resolution, Band 4
- Gambling Disputes, Band 1

Chambers & Partners Global 2025 Dispute Resolution: Commercial, Band 4

Legal 500 2025

- Fraud: Civil, Band 2
- Commercial Litigation, Band 3

Lexology Index - Asset Recovery, England: 'Recommended'

#### Quotes

"Marc is very good. He's a very clever guy. I was impressed by him." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Marc Delehanty has a great bedside manner; he is very good at hand-holding. He's also very good at being involved in the team. He is commercially minded and gives great advice." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Marc is a fantastic junior to have on a complex case. He is a very gifted technical lawyer, who works extremely hard." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Extremely able and brilliant on his feet. He turns written work around very quickly, which is always a help when running matters." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Marc has a maths background and it really shows in the way he approaches problems – he is very logical." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Marc is a superb junior. Great to work with, he's astute and very responsive." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"An engaging advocate, who is very organised and logical in his thinking." (Legal 500 2025)

"Marc's ability to distil complicated information into a user-friendly document is second to none. He is a natural advocate who makes persuasive submissions seemingly effortlessly." (Legal 500 2025)

"very bright, with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law" (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Marc doesn't take the easy option. His determination and tenacity is excellent and a real bonus in hard-fought commercial fraud litigation." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Marc is extremely thorough and his attention to detail is invaluable. Moreover, he has a good depth of knowledge of the law in this practice area, and he is strong on his legal analysis." (Legal 500 2024)

"Marc skilfully provides strategic and commercial input to augment his excellent technical advice." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"Marc is bright beyond his year of call and always seems to be a couple of steps ahead of the opposition." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"A well-prepared, understated advocate who is very measured - judges respond well to his advocacy style." (Chambers & Partners)

"He's incredibly bright, very tactically astute and his written documents are of really high quality." (Chambers & Partners)

"He conducts a forensic analysis of a case and breaks things down very well." (Chambers & Partners)

"A very good strategist and tactically astute. An impressive advocate and very good on his feet." (Legal 500)

"Very approachable, courteous and personable. Also incredibly thorough and comprehensive on paper." (Legal 500)

"very capable junior who takes good points" (Chambers & Partners)

"strong on the law and produces good quality work, both on paper and on his feet" (Legal 500)

"very good at cutting through complex and detailed factual circumstances to find the best practical route though a problem" (Legal 500)

## **Scholarships and Prizes**

Phoenicia Scholarship from the Bar European Group.

Hardwicke Entrance Award and Eastham Scholarship from Lincoln's Inn.

The de Montmorency prize in law from Peterhouse, University of Cambridge.

Cambridge European Trust Bursary - awarded for an 'outstanding academic record'.

#### **Education & Qualifications**

BA (Mod.) in Mathematics at Trinity College, Dublin (2005) – First Class

MA in Legal Studies at University of Bristol (2008) – Distinction

Master of Law (LLM) at Peterhouse, Cambridge (2009) – First Class

Bar Professional Training Course (2011; Advocacy Scholar)

## **Memberships**

Commercial Bar Association

Chancery Bar Association

