



serle court

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## Nicholas Harrison

Year of Call: 1988

*"He is just so reliable. He writes like a dream and is good fun to work with in these stressful situations. He is a good team player, who comes up with some novel theories, and works with the facts extremely well."*

Chambers & Partners

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## Practice Overview

For the last 15 years, Nicholas has specialized in large and complex commercial fraud and international trust cases, many of them offshore and/or with a multi-jurisdictional element. He is highly experienced in freezing injunctions and tracing remedies, as well as jurisdiction disputes. He has practiced in many different jurisdictions, including Bermuda, the Isle of Man, Jersey, the BVI, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. Nicholas's practice is unusual in that he undertakes very few cases and will generally work on only one case at a time, sometimes over a period of several years. However he will also from time to time also undertake smaller cases.

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## Areas of Expertise

### Civil Fraud

Nicholas has been instructed in a number of the most substantial commercial fraud and international trust cases of recent times. Cases of note include:

Acting for the claimants in *Kyrgyz Mobil Tel Ltd and Ors v BITELE and Ors*, the largest case ever to be litigated in the Isle of Man. This immensely complex fraud case concerned the fraudulent misappropriation of shares in a leading mobile telephone company and involved an associated arbitration and litigation in BVI and Kyrgyz Republic. A prolonged jurisdiction dispute was eventually decided by the Privy Council in what is now one of the leading authorities on foreign judgments [2011] UKPC 7. Thereafter a ground-breaking worldwide freezing injunction and a whole series of unusual and hotly contested interlocutory applications eventually led eventually to a trial in the summer of 2013. (*Instructed by Appleby Global and Squire Sanders*).

*AremisSoft* litigation: Litigation in the Isle of Man concerning allegations of fraud against senior executives arising out of the collapse of Nasdaq-listed company, and claims to recover some \$200 million from international trusts (*Instructed by Dickinson Cruickshank and Peters & Peters*).

The *Jahre* litigation: Acting in England and the Cayman Islands in relation to a substantial fraud claim against defendants in numerous jurisdictions, relating to the validity and operation of an international trust, jurisdiction disputes and conflicts of laws, and a variety of issues of Cayman and Bahamian law (*Instructed by Clifford Chance*).

*Safe Harbor v Lloyds Bank*: Acting for two US investment companies in ancillary proceedings in England for the purpose of locating and freezing assets misappropriated in an international investment fraud (*Instructed by Peters & Peters*).

*DEG v Koshy; GVDC v Koshy*: Litigation involving allegations of fraud relating to Zambian exchange control transactions, a worldwide freezing injunction and numerous associated interlocutory applications (*Instructed by Baker & McKenzie*).

*Facia Footwear v Hinchliffe*: Acting for Stephen Hinchliffe in a claim made against him arising out of the collapse of the Facia Group involving a freezing injunction, allegations of wrongful abstraction of company assets and company and insolvency law (*Instructed by Peters & Peters*).

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### Private Client Trusts and Probate

Nicholas has been instructed in a number of the most substantial commercial fraud and international trust cases of recent times. Cases of note include:

Acting for the First Defendant in *Alhamrani v Alhamrani*, the largest trial ever to take place in Jersey, involving numerous claims for breach of trust against the trustees and protector of 3 Jersey trusts. *(Instructed by Crill Canavan)*.

*Thyssen v Thyssen*: Bermuda's largest ever case, this long-running litigation involved a claim to set aside a multi-billion international trust, numerous allegations of fraud and very substantial associated personal claims. Nicholas was resident in Bermuda for some 2½ years during the duration of the trial. *(Instructed by Clifford Chance)*.

The *Blickle* litigation in Bermuda and the BVI, concerning an ownership dispute between rival trusts in Jersey and Bermuda, the fraudulent misappropriation of trust assets, and various associated tracing claims *(Instructed by Speechly Bircham, Cox Hallett Wilkinson)*.

The *Weissfisch* litigation, in which Nicholas acted for a senior Bahamian politician in his capacity as trustee of an international trust. The case involved litigation in England and the Bahamas concerning allegations of fraud, receivership applications, and related arbitration proceedings *(Instructed by Withers, Taylor Wessing, and Graham Thompson & Co)*.

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## Chancery

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## Commercial Litigation

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## International and Offshore

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## Group Litigation

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## Recommendations

Fraud: Civil, Offshore *(The Legal 500)*

Fraud: Civil; Offshore *(Chambers & Partners)*

Fraud (Asset recovery) *(Legal Experts)*

Offshore *(Chambers Global)*

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## Quotes

"Nicholas is an exceptional tactician on complex international litigation." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2024)

"Nicholas is a tremendous lawyer and has amazing stamina." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2024)

"Nicholas is a very good advocate." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"He is very knowledgeable in this area." (Chambers & Partners UK Bar, 2023)

"An authoritative source on conflict of law issues." "He efficiently prepares first-rate written submissions and masters

*complex factual patterns.*" (Chambers Global, 2019)

*"Accessible, responsive and able to quickly grasp difficult facts and novel legal issues. His written and oral advocacy is also exemplary."* (Chambers & Partners, 2019)

*"He's bright, he's very punchy and he gives strong advice."* (Chambers & Partners, 2019)

*"A top-notch civil fraud senior junior."* (The Legal 500, 2019)

*"His work includes difficult Manx matters."* (The Legal 500, 2019)

*"Excellent to work with, he efficiently prepares first-rate written submissions and masters complex factual patterns."* (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

*"Bright and very punchy. He gives strong advice." "A brilliant senior junior. One of our top picks."* (Chambers & Partners 2018)

*"He's bright, he's very punchy and he gives strong advice."* (Chambers & Partners, 2018)

*"Brilliant and very bright." "He is wonderful to work alongside and his written work is exemplary."* (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

*"Efficiently prepares first-rate written submissions, and masters complex factual cases."* (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

*"He is wonderful to work alongside if you're a solicitor, and his written work is exemplary."* (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

*"He is just so reliable. He writes like a dream and is good fun to work with in these stressful situations. He is a good team player, who comes up with some novel theories, and works with the facts extremely well."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He is totally dedicated and is particularly good on large cases which allow him to apply creative strategies." "He drafts like a dream and can truly make bricks without straw."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He has particular strong grasp of how the offshore world works. He is very punchy in court and a brilliant draughtsman."* (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

*"He is a brilliant strategist on complex international trust and fraud disputes." "He is very bright and hard-working, and completely immerses himself in his cases."* (Chambers & Partners, 2015)

*"If you have a very complex fraud case that will go on for years then you want Nicholas Harrison on your team." "He's remarkable for his ability to focus in-depth on one case and get to the bottom of the law and the facts."* (Chambers & Partners, 2015)

*"He really cares and is a real fighter. He pushes it along and is very imaginative."* (Chambers & Partners, 2015)

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## **Education & Qualifications**

Brasenose College, Oxford - BA (First Class)

**Memberships**

Chancery Bar Association

Commercial Bar Association

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