



## Oliver Jones

Year of Call: 2014

*"Brilliant"; "A rising star"*

Chambers and Partners; Legal 500

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## Practice Overview

Ollie practises across Chambers' core areas of commercial chancery work, with a particular emphasis on civil fraud, commercial litigation and trust and probate disputes. The Legal 500 lists him as a "rising star" in each of these areas.

In addition to being instructed as sole counsel in commercial and trust disputes in the High Court, Ollie has significant experience of working as part of large teams of barristers on substantial commercial litigation (e.g. as part of a team of six members of Serle Court, led by Liz Jones QC, in the long-running 'Spartan' fraud litigation).

In 2019 Ollie was admitted to the BVI Bar. He is currently being led by Philip Marshall QC in one of the largest disputes before the BVI Commercial Court, *Renova Industries Ltd & ors v Emmerson International Corporation & ors*. He is also instructed in a *Public Trustee v Cooper* application concerning the restructuring of two very substantial BVI trusts (led by Richard Wilson QC).

Before coming to the Bar, Ollie spent four years working as a management consultant in the financial services, energy, and public sectors.

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## Areas of Expertise

### Civil Fraud

*Sir Owen Glenn and Kea Investments Limited v Watson and Ors* (2016 - ): acting for Sir Owen Glenn KNZM ONZM and Kea Investments Limited. The trial of the action took place over twelve weeks in 2017 before Nugee J. and judgment was handed down on 31 July 2018. Kea succeeded in establishing its entitlement to set aside agreements relating to a joint venture between Sir Owen and Eric Watson on the basis of (i) fraudulent misrepresentations made on behalf of Mr Watson, (ii) the rules against bribes and secret commissions, and (iii) breach of Mr Watson's fiduciary duty to Kea. The court gave an important decision on equitable interest, awarding interest at 6.5% compounded annually. Litigation continues as Kea seeks to enforce its judgment against Mr Watson's assets in the UK and internationally, including in further related proceedings against alleged nominees of Mr Watson. Led by Elizabeth Jones QC; instructed by Farrer & Co. See e.g. [2018] EWHC 2016 (Ch) (trial judgment); [2018] EWHC 2483 (Ch) (consequential); [2019] EWHC 309 (Ch) and [2020] EWHC 472 (Ch) (enforcement proceedings).

*Renova Industries Ltd & ors v Emmerson International Corporation & ors* (BVI) (2018 - ): acting for the Defendants and Claimants by way of Counterclaim and Ancillary Claim in a dispute worth circa US\$1 billion between two prominent Russian businessmen and associated parties concerning a joint venture in relation to various power generation and distribution assets in Russia. The proceedings involve contractual claims and claims for breach of trust and dishonest assistance, deceit, conspiracy to injure and other economic torts. There have been myriad interlocutory applications, including successful applications for freezing and disclosure orders; applications for anti-suit injunctions; applications and cross-applications for security for costs; and a number of pending jurisdiction and service challenges brought by defendants to the fraud claims. The case has provided the first major decision in the BVI on disclosure to assist a decision whether to apply for a freezing order. Instructed by Walkers, led by Philip Marshall QC.

*Berkeley Square Holdings & ors v Lancer Property Asset Management & ors* (2021): acting for the Claimants in bringing bribery and related claims against their former property asset managers in relation to a portfolio of 'super-prime' Mayfair property. Led by Philip Marshall QC, instructed by Eversheds Sutherland. See e.g. [2021] EWHC 750 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 818 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 849 (Ch).

*Petroserv v Uglad Nordic Shipping* (2020 - 2021): acting unled for the Defendant shipping company in Commercial Court proceedings brought by the Defendant's former agent in Brazil for commission which had not been paid because of allegations raised in the context of the long-running bribery investigation by the Brazilian authorities known as 'Operation Car Wash'. Instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

*Entertainment One Ltd & ors v Monex Europe Limited & ors* (2019 - 2021): acting for the Claimant in a claim to set aside a series of forex contracts on the grounds of bribery of an agent. Led by Elizabeth Jones QC; instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

Advised the former director of the fund of hedge funds business Liongate Limited in relation to claims for his costs of legal proceedings under his D&O insurance policy, where insurers sought to resist the claim on the grounds that the legal proceedings involved allegations of fraud. Attended successful mediation in 2020. Instructed by Bedell Cristin Cayman Partnership (2018 - 2020).

*Principal Global Investors & anr v Dillard & ors* (2015 - 2018): acted for the Second Defendant and his trustees in defending Commercial Court proceedings worth over £60m for breach of warranty and in deceit arising out of the sale of the fund of hedge funds Liongate Capital. The case settled on confidential terms. Instructed by Farrer & Co and Clifford Chance; led by John Machell QC from 2017.

Acted for the claimant firm of solicitors in proceedings against two employees who had defrauded the firm over a period of several years by the creation of false invoices for third party supplies and services

Acted for the respondent to an application for a freezing injunction made after she had admitted defrauding her employer over several years.

Acted for a non-party applicant to obtain a variation to freezing injunctions obtained by various parties in the wake of the Timothy Sammons art fraud, so that she could obtain the release from storage of various valuable works of art which belonged to her.

Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in obtaining freezing and disclosure orders on behalf of a victim of a "boiler room"

diamond scam, and subsequently in drafting and pursuing the substantive claim.

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## Commercial Litigation

*Renova Industries Ltd & ors v Emmerson International Corporation & ors* (BVI) (2018 - ): acting for the Defendants and Claimants by way of Counterclaim and Ancillary Claim in a dispute worth circa US\$1 billion between two prominent Russian businessmen and associated parties concerning a joint venture in relation to various power generation and distribution assets in Russia. The proceedings involve contractual claims and claims for breach of trust and dishonest assistance, deceit, conspiracy to injure and other economic torts. There have been myriad interlocutory applications, including successful applications for freezing and disclosure orders; applications for anti-suit injunctions; applications and cross-applications for security for costs; and a number of pending jurisdiction and service challenges brought by defendants to the fraud claims. Instructed by Walkers, led by Philip Marshall QC.

*Sir Owen Glenn and Kea Investments Limited v Watson and Ors* (2016 - ): acting for Sir Owen Glenn KNZM ONZM and Kea Investments Limited. The trial of the action took place over twelve weeks in 2017 before Nugee J. and judgment was handed down on 31 July 2018. Kea succeeded in establishing its entitlement to set aside agreements relating to a joint venture between Sir Owen and Eric Watson on the basis of (i) fraudulent misrepresentations made on behalf of Mr Watson, (ii) the rules against bribes and secret commissions, and (iii) breach of Mr Watson's fiduciary duty to Kea. The court gave an important decision on equitable interest, awarding interest at 6.5% compounded annually. Litigation continues as Kea seeks to enforce its judgment against Mr Watson's assets in the UK and internationally, including in further related proceedings against alleged nominees of Mr Watson. Led by Elizabeth Jones QC; instructed by Farrer & Co. See e.g. [2018] EWHC 2016 (Ch) (trial judgment); [2018] EWHC 2483 (Ch) (consequential); [2019] EWHC 309 (Ch) and [2020] EWHC 472 (Ch) (enforcement proceedings).

*Eddie Jordan v Sunseeker London Limited* (2021 - ): acting for the Defendant distributor of luxury yachts defending a claim for unpaid commission based on an alleged oral agreement. Instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

*Berkeley Square Holdings & ors v Lancer Property Asset Management & ors* (2021): acting for the Claimants in bringing bribery and related claims against their former property asset managers in relation to a portfolio of 'super-prime' Mayfair property. Led by Philip Marshall QC, instructed by Eversheds Sutherland. See e.g. [2021] EWHC 750 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 818 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 849 (Ch).

*Petroserv v Uglad Nordic Shipping* (2020 - 2021): acting unled for the Defendant shipping company in Commercial Court proceedings brought by the Defendant's former agent in Brazil for commission which had not been paid because of allegations raised in the context of the long-running bribery investigation by the Brazilian authorities known as 'Operation Car Wash'. Instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

*Entertainment One Ltd & ors v Monex Europe Limited & ors* (2019 - 2021): acting for the Claimant in a claim to set aside a series of Forex contracts on the grounds of bribery of an agent. Led by Elizabeth Jones QC; instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

*Principal Global Investors & anr v Dillard & ors* (2015 - 2018): acted for the Second Defendant and his trustees in defending Commercial Court proceedings worth over £60m for breach of warranty and in deceit arising out of the sale of the fund of hedge funds Liongate Capital. The case settled on confidential terms. Instructed by Farrer & Co and Clifford Chance; led by John Machell QC from 2017.

*Bowes v Panareti* [2018]: appeared with Professor Jonarthan Harris QC (Hons) on an application in the Commercial Court relating to a jurisdiction dispute concerning alleged misselling of properties in Cyprus. The application also dealt with an issue as to the appropriate costs order in circumstances where the Appellants had withdrawn their appeal as a result of certain amendments made by the Respondents to their Particulars of Claim which had rendered the a number of the Grounds of Appeal redundant. Instructed by Gateley PLC.

Instructed for Air Tanzania and the Government of Tanzania in the Commercial Court in defending claims for USD 30 million under the lease of an Airbus A320 and a guarantee on the grounds that they were executed without authority and in breach of Tanzanian procurement law. Led by Rupert Reed QC; instructed by Shakespeare

Martineau (2018)

*Hussein v Her Highness Princess Nouf Bint Khalid bin Abdullah al Saud* [2018]: Acted for the former head of the family office of the late Prince Fahd bin Salman of Saudi Arabia in claiming unpaid remuneration, expenses and commission owed on various Knightsbridge property developments pursued for the benefit of the family. The claim settled following mediation in January 2019. Led by Rupert Reed QC; instructed by Cooke Young & Keidan) (2017 - 2018).

Instructed for the Claimants in bringing claims for breach of confidence and breach of contract concerning an online-payments system business. The instruction involved preparing an inter partes injunction application (undertakings were obtained on the day of the hearing), issuing proceedings, and attending the mediation. The claim settled following mediation. Led by Hugh Norbury QC; instructed by Boodle Hatfield LLP.

Advised the former director of the fund of hedge funds business Liongate Limited in relation to claims for his costs of legal proceedings under his D&O insurance policy, where insurers sought to resist the claim on the grounds that the legal proceedings involved allegations of fraud. Attended successful mediation in 2020. Instructed by Bedell Cristin Cayman Partnership (2018 - 2020).

Advised a European commodity futures trader on the merits of bringing a claim for breach of contract against their London-based broker.

Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz, led by Lance Ashworth QC, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal on behalf of the director of a company who at first instance had been committed to prison for eight months for contempt of court in respect of his company's breach of the terms of a freezing order. The appeal concerned inter alia the proper interpretation of the "ordinary and proper course of business" exception to freezing orders (*Michael Wilson and Partners Ltd v Emmott* [2015] EWCA 1028).

Assisted Matthew Morrison, led by Philip Marshall QC, in a six-day trial in the Chancery Division before Mr Justice Sales, acting for a Russian businessman and his offshore company in a claim for over £100m under a loan agreement and guarantee (*Avonwick Holdings Ltd v Webinvest Ltd* [2014] EWHC 3661 (Ch)).

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## Company

Instructed in relation to a dispute between corporate shareholders in a property joint venture vehicle (instructed by Farrer & Co, led by Richard Walford).

Acted for the personal representatives of an estate in defending a Part 20 claim based on an alleged partnership with the Deceased concerning the management of a property portfolio. Instructed by Boodle Hatfield LLP.

Assisted Matthew Morrison, led by Hugh Norbury QC, in advising the liquidators of a company on the merits of bringing claims against the former directors for breach of duties and/or negligence in connection with the improper issue of loan notes in the company to potential investors in the United States.

Assisted Matthew Morrison in bringing an unfair prejudice petition in a dispute between the three shareholders in a pharmacy business, and in defending a cross-claim for breach of director's duties.

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## Insolvency

*Marwaha v Entertainment One Ltd* (2021): acting for Entertainment One in response to an application to set aside a statutory demand for monies due under an assigned loan agreement. Instructed by Mayer Brown LLP.

*Re Arrinera Automotive Holdings Limited* [2016]: argued successfully for the dismissal of the petition against the company, on the basis that the alleged debt was disputed genuinely and on substantial grounds. Instructed by Rooks Rider.

Advised on various matters relating to the bankruptcy of Mr Shlosberg in the aftermath of the *Avonwick v Webinvest*

litigation. Instructed by Enyo Law.

Acting for the respondents to a liquidator's application under s.238 Insolvency Act 1986 in relation to payments totalling c. £500,000 which they received in relation to certain 'concierge lifestyle services'.

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## Professional Negligence

Acting for a successful entrepreneur and his family (instructed by Womble Bond Dickinson; led by Richard Wilson QC) in relation to failed tax planning and possible claims against the tax advisers (2020 - ).

Assisted Dominic Dowley QC in advising a solicitor concerning allegations of breach of fiduciary duty arising out of the solicitor's conduct of the sale of a residential property in Bermuda.

Assisted Giles Richardson, led by Philip Jones QC, in a class action against the promoters of an investment scheme and the firm of property valuers which valued the underlying assets in the scheme.

Assisted Giles Richardson in proceedings against Isle of Man property valuers in connection with the negligent valuation of residential property.

Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in bringing proceedings against a firm of solicitors for the negligent drafting of an LLP Members Agreement in connection with a firm's conversion from traditional partnership to LLP status.

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## Private Client Trusts and Probate

*Re O & P Trusts* (2021 - ) (BVI): acting for the trustees of two very substantial BVI trusts in a *Public Trustee v Cooper* application concerning a proposed restructuring. Led by Richard Wilson QC; instructed by Withers Worldwide LLP.

*Re Scherbakov* (2020 - ): acting for the administrators of the very substantial cross-border estate of a prominent Russian businessman. Led by Richard Wilson QC; instructed by Farrer & Co.

Acting for a successful entrepreneur and his family (instructed by Womble Bond Dickinson; led by Richard Wilson QC) in relation to failed tax planning, bringing a claim for rescission of the relevant agreements on the basis of equitable mistake (2020 - ).

*Sir Owen Glenn and Kea Investments Limited v Watson and Ors* (2016 - ): acting for the Claimants in this large-scale piece of litigation, the trial of which took place over twelve weeks in 2017. The first claimant was the settlor of two Nevis trusts and the second claimant was a company held under the trusts. Issues arose as to (i) whether it was possible for the first defendant to owe fiduciary duties to the first claimant notwithstanding that the first claimant had put forward the second claimant company to enter into the relevant transactions and was not a beneficiary of the trusts which held that company, (ii) whether a transfer of the second claimant from one trust to another, allegedly for US tax reasons, had been in breach of trust, and (iii) whether the first claimant had a legitimate expectation of consultation in relation to the affairs of the second claimant. See e.g. [2018] EWHC 2016 (Ch); [2018] EWHC 2483 (Ch). Currently instructed in relation to steps being taken by Kea to enforce its judgment debt, including in further related proceedings against alleged nominees of Mr Watson. Led by Liz Jones QC; instructed by Farrer & Co.

*Re the Estate of Lord Jacobs* (2017 - 2020 ): acting for the administrators of this substantial Estate in several sets of proceedings in the High Court. Led by Richard Wilson QC; instructed by Burges Salmon LLP.

*A v Z* (2017 - 2018): advised and represented the adult beneficiaries of a large private trust settled by a successful retail entrepreneur in relation to an application brought under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958 under which it was proposed, among other things, that a transitional serial interest be created in favour of the life tenant's spouse.

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Instructed by Cripps LLP.

*Jackson v Gowar* (2018): acted for the capital beneficiary in a dispute between one of two income beneficiaries and the outgoing trustee in relation to the trustees' use of income to meet capital expenses, in circumstances where the trust's only asset was a valuable freehold interest in commercial land. The case settled following an FDR hearing in the Chancery Division before Roth J.

*Re Al-Kariemy* [2018] EWHC: represented one of three beneficiaries and administrators of his deceased father's UK estate in successfully applying for and obtainign an order for the removal of his siblings as administrators. Both siblings were resident in Saudi Arabia, and the action also involved an interlocutory application for service out of the jurisdiction by alternative method.

*Inchbald v Inchbald* [2016] EWHC 3215 (Ch); [2017] EWHC 616 (Ch): represented the first defendant in a high-profile probate dispute involving a want of knowledge and approval challenge to the last wills of the famous designer, Michael Inchbald. Led by Richard Wilson QC; instructed by Farrer & Co.

Acted for the sole beneficiaries of the deceased's estate defending claims brought by their step-mother and her two children under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975.

Assisted Dakis Hagen who was acting as junior counsel, instructed by Withers LLP in a three week trial before Mr Justice Blair (sitting in the Family Division). The case concerned whether various UK properties were held pursuant to nominee arrangements, and raised inter alia issues concerning the proper law of sham and the applicability of the *Jones v Kernott* "common intention" constructive trust in the context of non-cohabittees.

Assisted Giles Richardson in bringing proceedings against Nevis trustees seeking orders that the trustees vest the trust assets in new trustees, resign from all directorships held as a result of their being trustees, deliver up all documents and papers belonging to the trust, and provide an account in common form.

Assisted Giles Richardson acting for the claimant's estate in a claim for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty against the defendant arising out of a property investment venture between the claimant and the defendant in the United States.

Assisted Thomas Braithwaite in advising an Isle of Man corporate trustee in connection with an application made against it in England, under section 342(1)(d) Insolvency Act 1986, by the trustee in bankruptcy of the trust's settlor.

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## Private International Law

*Berkeley Sqaure Holdings Limited v Lancer Property Assets Management Limited* (2021): acting for the Claimants in bringing bribery and related claims against their former property asset managers in relation to a portfolio of 'super-prime' Mayfair property. The case raised issues concerning the justiciability of the health of a foreign head of state: see, e.g, [2021] EWHC 818 (Ch). Led by Philip Marshall QC, instructed by Eversheds Sutherland

*Koza Ltd v Akcil and Ors* (2018): advised Tasarruf Mevduati Sigorta Fonu, a Turkish public body which has supervisory responsibility for companies in Turkey, as a proposed intervenor in the appeal to the Surpeme Court in this Appeal concerning the scope of Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012. Led by Professor Jonathan Harris QC (Hons); instructed by Stewarts Law.

*Bowes v Panareti* [2018]: appeared with Professor Jonarthan Harris QC (Hons) on an application in the Commercial Court relating to a jurisdiction dispute concerning alleged misselling of properties in Cyprus. Instructed by Gateley PLC.

## Banking and Financial Services

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### Chancery

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#### Recommendations

'Rising Star', Civil Fraud, Legal 500 2022 Guide

'Rising Star', Commercial Litigation, Legal 500 2022 Guide

'Rising Star', Private Client: Trusts and Probate, Legal 500 2022 Guide

Chancery: Traditional (Band 4), Chambers UK Bar 2022 Guide

'Rising Star', Civil Fraud, Legal 500 2021 Guide

Chancery: Traditional (Band 4), Chambers UK Bar 2021 Guide

Chancery: Traditional (Band 4), Chambers High Net Worth (2021)

'Up and Coming', Chancery: Traditional, Chambers High Net Worth (2020)

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#### Quotes

"A really excellent junior. Brilliant with clients. Completely on top of the detail. Very strong on the law and a huge asset to any team." (Legal 500 2022 Guide)

"A superb lawyer and a huge asset to any team. Great with clients, very clever, very hard-working and efficient." (Legal 500 2022 Guide)

"Extremely impressive. He is intelligent, diligent and reliable. Thorough and forensic in his approach, he has very sound judgement." (Legal 500 2022 Guide)

"A really wise head on young shoulders who's a complete team player." (Chambers UK Bar 2022 Guide)

"He is a total star in my opinion. He is excellent on big, complex cases, nothing is ever too much trouble for him, and he has a commercial and practical approach. He gets to grips with things so quickly, and is incredibly proactive." (Chambers High Net Worth, 2021)

"A rising star in this area - he is very strong on the law; his grasp of complex equitable and asset tracing issues is very impressive. He takes a collaborative approach that makes him a delight to work with. His advice is considered, mature and tactically aware." (Legal 500 2021 Guide)

"Brilliant" (Chambers UK Bar, 2021)

"The standout thing is his drafting skill. He's amazing at turning around documents at high speed - really clever and such a nice man." (Chambers UK Bar, 2021)

#### Client Testimonials

*"...razor sharp, very strong technically, tactically astute and always has his eye on the wider commercial context."*

*“Ollie has been a great addition to the team. He is very strategically minded considering his level of call. He is easy to work with, does not hesitate to express an opinion, but remains open-minded and is willing to give unconventional ideas a try.”*

*“Serle Court is a market leader and a go-to set for contentious trust and offshore work. Over the years, we have worked with a number of different silks and juniors on both litigation and arbitration matters, often with a cross jurisdiction aspect. This has included Alan Boyle QC, Dominic Dowley QC, John Machell QC, Richard Wilson QC, Dakis Hagen QC, Sophie Holcombe, and Oliver Jones. The quality of their work has been consistently excellent, and their commercial nous and practical advice certainly sets them out from the pack. Head Clerk, Steve Whitaker, runs a tight ship and is always a pleasure to deal with.”*

Jeremy Kosky and Maxine Mossman (Clifford Chance LLP)

## **Scholarships and Prizes**

Hubert Greenland Scholarship, Lincoln’s Inn  
Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln’s Inn  
Lord Brougham Scholarship, Lincoln’s Inn  
Hardwicke Entrance Award, Lincoln’s Inn  
Buchanan Prize, Lincoln’s Inn  
Best Student Prize, Kaplan Law School

## **In the Press**

*Media Co. Tries To Rope Execs Into £18M Forex Bribery Suit*, Law 360, 12 November 2020

*Media Giant Expands £18m Forex Bribery Suit*, Law 360, 2 March 2020

*Media Giant Wins £18m Freezing Order in Forex Case*, Law 360, 25 October 2019

*Sir Owen Glenn KNZM ONZM and Kea Investments Limited v Eric Watson, Novatrust Limited and others [2018] EWHC 2016 (Ch)*, The Barrister, 5 October 2018

*Glenn v Watson Trust Dispute*, STEP Journal, 2nd August 2018

*Property Investor Gets OK To Drop £129m Deal in Fraud Case*, Law 360, 1st August 2018

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## **Education & Qualifications**

Kaplan Law School: BPTC (Outstanding; ranked first in the year).

Kaplan Law School: Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction; ranked third in the year).

University of Leeds: BA (Hons), International History and Politics (First Class; ranked first in the year).

## **Appointments**

?Admitted to Bar in the British Virgin Islands in 2019

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