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Rupert Reed KC

Year of Silk: 2014 Year of Call: 1996

“Extremely bright, hardworking and a team player. A true specialist in the Middle East and a speaker of Arabic. There are few like him...”

“Rupert is, for good reason, widely renowned as one of the foremost advocates in the Middle East, not only because of his Arabic ...skills but also because of his profound expertise in common and civil law principle and practice...”

“Rupert Reed is amazing. He’s super smart, has very high emotional intelligence and is an excellent oral advocate.”

Legal 500 UK Bar & Chambers and Partners UK Bar
2024

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Practice Overview

[Rupert](#) took silk back in 2014, having won 'Chancery Junior of the Year' at the Chambers Bar Awards in 2013. In the same year, he was included in the Chambers 100: UK Bar' list of the top 100 junior barristers across all fields. Since 2014, he has been consistently identified as a leader of the Bar across various fields in Chambers Global, Chambers UK Bar, Legal 500 and other directories.

He has a broad commercial and financial dispute practice, with a focus on agreements arising out of property investment, finance, development, and management, as well as wider fraud, banking, and shareholder disputes. In his UK practice, he has recently led trial teams in one of the Lawyer's 'Top 20' cases in each of 2022 (*Aurium*) and 2023 (*Asturion*).

His practice in England is primarily in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division of the High Court and the Court of Appeal. He has a substantial overseas practice before arbitral tribunals and in the courts of offshore jurisdictions, in particular, the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) Courts. His international work commonly involves issues as to interim injunctive relief, jurisdiction, applicable law and cross-border enforcement.

Rupert has an established reputation in cases in the Middle East and in London involving parties from the Gulf and wider MENA region. He is fluent in French and has a working knowledge of Arabic, and has significant experience of issues of law and practice arising in Saudi Arabia, as well as the UAE, Egypt and other civil law jurisdictions. He is the co-founder and Chair of BarMENA, a network of London lawyers with an interest in better understanding the laws of the Middle East.

He co-edits and contributes to the DIFC Courts Practice, now in its second edition, the leading text-book on DIFC substantive and procedural law, to which a number of members of Chambers have contributed. In his foreword to the first edition, the Chief Justice of the DIFC Courts generously commented of the editors that 'few have made as great a contribution to the development of the laws and rules'.

He is regularly appointed as an arbitrator in commercial, banking and property matters in the Middle East and has significant experience as co-arbitrator, chairperson and sole arbitrator in DIAC and DIFC-LCIA arbitrations. He has even wider experience as counsel in LCIA, LICA-DIFC, ICC, DIAC and LMAA arbitrations seated in Europe and the Gulf.

He is a member of both the DIAC Rules Task Force and the DIFC Court's Arbitration Working Group, and was appointed in 2023 as a member of the DIAC Court.

Rupert accepts professional negligence and indemnity work for both claimants and defendants across a broad range of professionals, including solicitors, barristers, IFAs, company directors and property professionals.

Rupert's work and reputation have been widely recognized: in Chancery Commercial practice and Middle East Commercial practice in Chambers Global; in Chancery Commercial, Real Estate Litigation, and Professional Negligence in Chambers UK Bar; in Commercial Litigation in London and the Middle East, Property Litigation and Banking and Finance in the Legal 500; and in Civil Fraud and Real Estate in Who's Who Legal: UK Bar.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Rupert appears in Chambers UK Bar in Band 2 for Chancery Commercial. Client comment includes that "*Rupert is very smooth and very good at persuading judges. He is really smart and charming.*" "*Rupert gets into the weeds of*

a case. He is brilliant and good on his feet with the judges.”

Rupert is listed in Chambers UK Bar in Band 4 for Commercial Dispute Resolution. Clients describe his strengths in the following terms: *“Rupert has a deep knowledge of commercial disputes, particularly those relating to the Middle East. He has got real experience and gravitas, but wears it lightly.” “He works extremely well with the client and solicitor team.” “Rupert Reed is really the father figure of the DIFC bar. He is an excellent and smooth advocate.”*

Rupert is listed in Legal 500 2026 in Tier 3 of the London Bar for Banking and Finance: *‘Rupert is an exceptionally persuasive and incisive advocate with a commanding presence in both a court room and an arbitral setting. His advocacy is marked by surgical precision, strategic foresight, and an ability to distill complex financial and legal concepts into compelling arguments that resonate with tribunals and judges alike.’*

Legal 500 further noted client comment with respect to his Banking and Finance practice that Rupert Reed KC is *‘a persuasive advocate on his feet, and a trusted voice by the courts on the most complex of matters’.*

He is also listed in Legal 500 2026 for Commercial Litigation in London: *‘Rupert’s advocacy skills are excellent.’*

Rupert is listed in Legal 500 2026 in Tier 1 of UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East: *‘One of his strongest qualities lies in producing clear, strategic advice and presenting arguments in a calm but persuasive way. In arbitration, he is particularly effective at simplifying technical points for the tribunal, and in court proceedings his written advocacy is consistently of a high standard. His written work is always outstanding – succinct, well-structured, and tailored to the client’s needs.’* He was short-listed for the Legal 500 Award of Commercial Silk of the Year in the Middle East in 2026.

Rupert was listed in Legal 500 2025 in Tier 1 of UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East: *‘An excellent assured advocate with superb judgment. He is client friendly and works extremely well with the solicitor team’;* *‘Rupert is extremely knowledgeable on issues that concern the conflict of jurisdiction between the DIFC Courts and other courts of the UAE. Rupert is extremely user friendly and provides prompt turnaround.’*

He is also listed in Legal 500 for his work as a Leading Silk in Commercial Litigation at the London Bar. The 2024 and 2025 editions have noted client comment that: *‘Rupert is an extremely measured and forensic advocate who commands utter respect from judges as well as his opponents. A powerhouse in the field and at the Bar.’*

Rupert is also listed in Legal 500 2025 in Tier 3 for Banking and Finance: *‘Rupert is highly intelligent, hard working and a pleasure to work with. Despite his seniority and experience he still gets involved with the detail of a case, getting his hands dirty in the documents and the fact. He also has a very fine legal mind.’*

Chambers UK Bar 2025 lists Rupert for Commercial Chancery (Band 2) and Commercial Dispute Resolution (Band 4).

It reports the following market comment on his Commercial Chancery practice: *‘Rupert is an extremely polished and persuasive advocate, who is measured and effective. He is an extremely charming personality, who knows the law and procedure really well’;* *“Rupert is very smooth. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of cases and always has something interesting to say”;* *“Rupert is a cerebral barrister, who is incredibly impressive”.*

Respondents to Chambers UK Bar 2025 said of his work in Commercial Dispute Resolution: *“All over the details and very knowledgeable, he’s well regarded by judges”;* *“He is a very effective cross-examiner”;* *“If you have a difficult case that raises novel issues or difficult questions, he is the barrister for you”.*

As for his DIFC Court practice, Chambers UK Bar notes client comment that: *“Rupert is an expert in DIFC litigation. He understands procedures and understands the law, and how it interplays with local law in the Middle East”;* and *“Rupert is an expert on DIFC laws and has a really good knowledge of UAE customs and laws”.*

Rupert was listed by Chambers UK 2024 for Commercial Chancery – UK (Band 2) and Commercial Dispute Resolution (Band 5). His strengths were identified by clients in the following terms: *‘He is very willing to roll up his sleeves and good at distilling complex issues into simple concepts’; ‘Rupert Reed is amazing. He’s super smart, has very high emotional intelligence and is an excellent oral advocate’.*

Rupert was listed in Legal 500 2024 in Tier 1 of the UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East: *‘Rupert is an astute, articulate and above all personable barrister, who combines a profound technical knowledge of commercial issues with an advocacy style that is both understated and brilliant.’*

Legal 500 UK Bar 2024 further noted comment on his Commercial litigation practice: *‘Rupert is extremely bright, hardworking and a team player. A true specialist in the Middle East, and a ...speaker of Arabic. There are few like him.’*

Rupert appeared in Chambers Global 2023 as a leading silk in Dispute Resolution: English Bar in the UAE (Band 1), Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery – UK (Band 2) and Dispute Resolution: Commercial – UK (Band 5). It explained that he *‘acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains very active as arbitrator in various arbitration centres. His varied client base includes major energy companies, hospitality brands and well-known financial institutions’.* It cited client comment from Chambers UK Bar 2023 (as below) and further comment: *‘Rupert was impressive, had great attention to detail, and a great knowledge of case law’; ‘Rupert is excellent on his feet and makes a real difference to the case’; ‘He is very intellectual and highly strategic in his approach’.*

Chambers UK Bar 2023 listed Rupert as a leading silk in both Chancery Commercial (Band 2) and Commercial Dispute Resolution. It his Rupert’s strengths as follows: *‘Extremely considered in his approach and excellent on his feet’; ‘Strategic in his thinking and someone with a pleasant manner, he is responsive and has a good eye for presenting complex matters in an appealing way’; ‘Rupert is very good with clients. He’s a smooth operator but can roll his sleeves up and fight the good fight when needed’.*

Rupert appeared in Legal 500 2023 as a leading silk in Commercial Litigation: *‘Enormously impressive grasp of Middle Eastern politics and business, his ability to manage complex issues and produce detailed submissions has been remarkable. As an Arabic speaker, he is somewhat unique.’*

Rupert appeared in Chambers Global 2022 as a leading silk in Dispute Resolution: English Bar in the UAE (Band 1), Dispute Resolution: Commercial – UK (Band 5) and Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery – UK (Band 4). Clients reported that *“Rupert is a phenomenally good DIFC advocate. He understands the brief, he is measured in his delivery and he knows which points to pursue”*; *“He is very methodical and meticulous, but also so approachable and just a delight to deal with”.*

He is similarly identified in Legal 500 2022 as a leading silk both in Commercial Litigation and in Banking and Finance and in Chambers UK Bar 2022 as a leader at the Bar in Chancery Commercial litigation.

Legal 500 2021 and 2022 ranked him in Tier 1 of the Leading Silks working in the Middle East: *“Arabic- speaking Rupert Reed QC is held in high esteem in the DIFC”*, and reported client comment that: *“Rupert is extremely calm under pressure, personable and has strong analytical and drafting skills. His oral advocacy skills are also strong and he is able to think on his feet and he has in-depth knowledge of English and DIFC law and DIFC Court procedural issues”.*

Legal 500 2022 further identified him as a Leading Silk in Commercial Litigation: *“Rupert is a commercially focused and astute barrister, with a profound understanding of the Middle East, particularly the DIFC”.*

Chambers UK Bar 2022 noted of his Commercial practice that he is *“one of the most pre-eminent barristers appearing before the DIFC. His experience in that regard is almost unmatched, and he always garners respect from*

the bench".

Of his Chancery Commercial practice, Chambers UK Bar 2022 noted comments by clients: *"Someone who is really carving out a practice in Middle East disputes, he spends a lot of time in the DIFC and has a real reputation for doing the commercial chancery side of those disputes. He is very user-friendly and very slick in his presentation of cases"*.

He was described in Legal 500 2021 as: *"a go to QC for international complex fraud and dispute resolution – he brings long-standing experience and a diligent approach to his cases, giving considered and practical advice to achieve the very best outcome for his clients"*.

Chambers Global and UK Bar 2021 observed his strengths as a Chancery Commercial silk: *"He has a brilliant bedside manner with clients and is very sympathetic and patient. He's a really good advocate and his written work is excellent. A class act."* *"He is an absolute mine of information and is technically and intellectually strong."*

Chambers Global 2021 further includes Rupert in its 'Spotlight Table' for UK barristers active in the UAE and notes that he *"acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts... His varied client base includes major energy companies, hospitality brands and well-known financial institutions. Sources comment: "He is highly regarded for DIFC Court litigation and knowledgeable about the legal systems in the Middle East.""*

Chambers UK Bar and Chambers Global 2020 put him in Band 3 for Chancery Commercial Litigation, and identified him as: *"A noted leader in both commercial and pure chancery matters. His highly respected practice is focused on commercial agreements. He is a particularly fine choice of counsel for Middle Eastern work"*

Sources said that: *"He's a good guy who has a terrific grasp on tactics. He remains a good team-player and collaborates well with his juniors and the solicitor's team."*

Chambers Global 2020 also listed him among the six Leading Silks in Dispute Resolution, UAE (Expertise Based Abroad): *"Based in London, respected barrister Rupert Reed QC is noted as very active in the region, and is commended not least for his knowledge of Arabic. He advocates on a broad range of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and also acts in arbitration, representing clients from sectors such as banking and real estate"*.

Chambers Global and UK Bar 2019 said of him as follows: *"A respected silk who is described by sources as pleasant, polished and smooth. His commercial chancery practice has an international thread running through it, and he has particular specialism in work with a Middle Eastern aspect to it."* *"His knowledge of DIFC court law is excellent"*.

Chambers Global and UK Bar 2018 noted the following views of him: *"Very user-friendly and gets down to the detail of a case. He knows what the clients want and is a team player. He is commercial and offers good options based on sound legal principles."* *"Thorough, well reasoned, approachable, young and dynamic."*

Legal 500 EMEA 2019 lists him as a leading Commercial silk in its UAE directory: *"He stands out because of his unique ability to cross-linguistic and cultural gaps in cases connected to the region."*

In early Commercial practice, he was involved in long-running Commercial Court proceedings including the *Equitable Life* and *Patarkatsishvili / Berezovsky* litigation. Much of his commercial practice is now focused on contracts relating to property development, investment, and finance.

Most of his work has an international dimension, for example in relation to international commercial arbitration and in dealing with disputes relating to investments from the Middle East in property and related funds in Europe and the UK. His work commonly involves allegations of fraud, corruption, breach of AML regulations, conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty, and negligence. He is often instructed on the interim applications, including for urgent freezing injunctions and anti-suit relief, that arise in such litigation.

He has significant experience in disputes within companies, partnerships, and other joint ventures, often concerned with property development projects. His years of prosecuting company directors' disqualification cases while on the Treasury panel gave him related expertise in directors' duties, and he has acted in many shareholder disputes.

Rupert does a significant amount of Banking and Finance work, extending to trade finance and Islamic finance written in London and the Gulf region. Much of this work requires detailed knowledge of the relevant financial services and regulatory regimes.

He regularly acts on commercial claims in the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) Courts. He has edited four editions of a Commentary on the Rules of the DIFC Court that is widely used in the Dubai legal community and has become commonly referred to in DIFC Court litigation as the 'Blue Book'.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with Hadeef & Partners on an application for an interim injunction to prevent disposal by a group holding company of shares in a subsidiary in a global waste management group in breach of fiduciary duty and at significant undervalue for the collateral benefit to the majority shareholders, pending the conclusion of an inquiry into the value of the shares pursuant to the Court's appointment of a valuer: [2025] DIFC CFI 090.

Acting with Al Tamimi & Company and Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer for the judgment creditor in first case in which an English judgment was recognized and enforced by the DIFC Courts pursuant to an application made directly under RDC Part 45 and without the issue of a claim form (typically the first requirement in commencing any claim in the DIFC Courts), pursuant to an earlier decision of the Chief Justice in which it had been suggested there may be two parallel enforcement procedures: [2025] DIFC ENF 053 (30 April 2025).

Acting with Al Tamimi & Company and Freshfields for a global automobile manufacturer in having dismissed a challenge to the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts and application to have set aside an Order for the recognition and enforcement of a partial award in an LCIA arbitration seated in London on the basis that the granting of anti-suit injunctive relief in the form of a peremptory order already made by the Tribunal did not constitute an award for the purposes of Articles 42 and 43 of the Arbitration Law: [2024] DIFC ENF 027 (15 May 2025).

Acting with NHB Legal on an urgent application by a leading Dubai hotel chain, pending the Claimant's submission to DIAC of a related request for arbitration, for an interim injunction against further breaches of certain commercial terms in the relevant SPA that had been included to protect the Claimant's brand reputation, where the Respondent had failed to offer any undertaking or indeed respond at all to the Claimant's notice of breach; [2025] DIFC ARB 012 (27 March 2025).

Acting with Reed Smith for the Claimant financial advisory business at the trial of claims in the DIFC Court of procurement of breaches of confidentiality and duty, conspiracy to do the same, and breach of confidence arising out of the 'team move' of all of the senior members of the Claimant's 'wealth advisory division' to the Defendant competing business and related claims of data theft: *AES Middle East Insurance Broker LLC & Ors v. GSB Capital Ltd* [2023] DIFC CFI 060.

Acting with Primecase and BLK Partners before the DIFC Court of Appeal in successfully upholding the judgment below of Justice Shamlan al Sawalehi against the appeal of a leading UAE bank, which had failed to pay the Claimant some AED 160 million on guarantees provided under substantial construction contracts. The bank appealed the Judge's order for the recognition and enforcement of a relevant arbitral award on the basis of an alleged public policy of avoiding any inconsistency between relevant DIFC and Dubai judgments: *Nael v. Niamh Bank* [2024] DIFC CA 115 (9 January 2025).

Acting with Hadeef in seeking to set aside Part 50 Orders for the examination of alleged officers of a judgment debtor pursuant to an order for the recognition and enforcement of a DIFC-LCIA arbitration award on the basis that the

relevant individuals, past shareholders and directors, did not satisfy the relevant test established by the Court of Appeal in *China State* (below): [2023] DIFC ENF 269 (31 January 2025); acting on the appeal against the Judge's refusal to set aside the relevant Part 50 Orders or to stay those orders.

Acting with Eversheds Sutherland for the successful Appellants in having set aside certain examination orders made by the DIFC Courts under RDC Part 50 (the equivalent of CPR Part 71): *China State Engineering Corporation (Middle East) LLC v. Zaya Living Real Estate Development LLC* [2024] DIFC CA 009 (30 October 2024). In his leading judgment, Chief Justice Martin held that the term “*officer*” in Part 50, which provides for officers of a corporate judgment debtor to be required to attend court for examination, should be given a functional rather than a technical meaning. Further acting for the judgment creditor at the examination of the relevant officers of the Judgment Debtor.

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright on an expert determination of financial disputes that had arisen on the operation by a major UAE conglomerate of substantial government-owned Saudi infrastructure under a 30-year contract. The disputes raised issues of Saudi civil and administrative law, in particular as to whether certain fees payable by the operator had been reasonably adjusted to give the operator a reasonable share of revenues from the infrastructure. The operator was successful in establishing that the share was not discretionary but had to be determined by reference to a financial model.

Acting with DWF for certain judgment debtors in seeking to set aside orders made by the DIFC Courts for the recognition and enforcement of a judgment of the Dubai Court of Cassation and the examination of those debtors as to their assets: *Skatteforvaltningen v. Shah & Ors* [2023] DIFC ENF 285. The case raises issues as to the statutory provisions for the enforcement by the DIFC Courts of the onshore Dubai Courts.

Acting with Charles Russell Speechlys for the trustees of two Guernsey trusts in obtaining litigation funding and then obtaining an injunction in the DIFC Courts to prevent the Defendant that owed USD 97 million of deferred consideration to the trustees from paying further dividends to its shareholders: [2024] DIFC ARB 010 (25 June 2024).

Acting with Simmons & Simmons and Lalive in one of the Lawyer's 'Top 20' Cases of 2023 for a wife of the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the striking out and successful defence at trial in the Chancery division of restitutionary and other claims made in the English Courts by a Liechtenstein foundation to London assets on grounds that the transfer of those assets was invalid as a matter of Liechtenstein, Saudi and Shari'a law: *Asturion Fondation v. Princess Al Jawharah al Ibrahim* [2019] EWHC 274 (Ch); *Alibrahim v. Asturion Fondation* [2020] EWCA Civ 32; and *Asturion Fondation v. Alibrahim* [2023] EWHC 3305 (Ch); [2024] 1 WLR 2947 and [2024] EWHC 757 (Ch).

Acting with Eversheds Sutherland for an award creditor in opposing an application in the DIFC Courts for the setting aside of the award rendered in an LCIA arbitration in circumstances where the arbitration agreement had provided for DIFC-LCIA arbitration prior to the abolition of the DIFC-LCIA arbitration Centre in 2021 and the LCIA and DIAC had agreed that the arbitration should continue to be administered by the LCIA: [2024] DIFC ARB 016.

Acting with the Sanad Law Group in Jordan in association with Eversheds Sutherland in advising the Kuwaiti seller of shares in a regional telecoms group as to whether it could treat the relevant SPA as having been frustrated by reason of the supervening illegality of the relevant share transfer, which rights would survive that discharge of the SPA, and whether the seller could be required to continue negotiations for a new SPA.

Acting with DWF for a major French-owned precious metals refiner in a dispute as to whether the DIFC Courts have jurisdiction to determine whether significant losses from an industrial accident were covered by a refinery insurance policy fronted by a Dubai insurer and reinsured in London: *Union Insurance Company PJSC v. International Precious Metal Refiners LLC* [2022] DIFC CFI 064 (15 September 2023); further acting with DWF on an appeal from the Court's decision in denying a challenge to the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts, including in seeking an extension of time for the filing of the Appellant's Skeleton Argument in its application for permission to appeal the finding of DIFC Court jurisdiction: *Union Insurance Company PJSC v. International Precious Metals Refiners LLC* [2022] DIFC

CFI 064 (16 January 2024).

Acting with KBH in pursuing claims for USD 33 million by a former senior executive in the Liberty Steel Group for unpaid bonus payments and payments under the Long-Term Incentive Plan arrangements in various complex letter agreements made in persuading him to move from his previous position as regional CEO in the Arcelor Mittal steel group: *Kahlon v. (1) Liberty Steel Group Ltd (2) Liberty FE Trade DMCC* [2022] DIFC CFI 070.

Acting with Akin Gump in successfully resisting an application for an interim injunction preventing the enforcement in the US District Court of Southern New York of Kuwaiti judgments on certain lender claims against a Middle East government for USD 490 million sought in aid of ICC arbitral proceedings seated in the DIFC in which the relevant government was seeking a permanent injunction: [2023] DIFC ARB 002 (26 June 2023).

Acting with DAC Beachcroft for a BVI investment entity in pursuing in LCIA arbitral proceedings substantial loss of profit claims arising out of the exclusion of a foreign investor from a joint venture with a GCC sovereign entity that was primarily engaged in the installation of intelligence equipment in civil and military aircraft.

Acting with DWF and Burford Capital in obtaining a worldwide freezing order in the DIFC Court against the directors and shareholders of a UAE conglomerate in support of New York proceedings against them as the “alter egos” of the UAE holding company, alternatively in setting aside a fraudulent transfer to them and others of company assets intended to frustrate enforcement of the award of an ICC arbitration seated in New York; further obtaining a committal for contempt in what is now the leading DIFC Court judgment on the contempt jurisdiction of that court: *Lateef v. Laamih* [2021] DIFC Arb 021 (29 July 2021); (24 March 2022).

Acting with DWF and Burford Capital in obtaining a worldwide freezing order in the Chancery Division against a director and shareholder of a UAE conglomerate in support of the same New York proceedings: *(1) Cesfin Ventures LLC (2) Cessna Finance Corp v. Ghaith al Ghaith* [2020] EWHC 3337 (Ch); [2020] EWHC 3683 (Ch).

Acting with DWF and Burford Capital in obtaining an order for the recognition of a foreign arbitration award for USD 43 million and a related worldwide freezing order against the holding company of a major UAE conglomerate on the basis of evidence of its gifting substantial real estate to its shareholders and other dissipation of assets: *Lateef v. Liela* [2020] DIFC Arb 017 (22 July 2020); (13 December 2021); (24 March 2022).

Acting with Kennedys in obtaining an order for the recognition of a London arbitration award, a worldwide freezing order and the first notification order made by the DIFC Court against a UAE resident entrepreneur on the basis of his attempts to use an opaque corporate structure to frustrate enforcement of the award and dishonest statements made in the course of foreign enforcement proceedings: [2020] DIFC ARB 014 (17 June 2020).

Acting with Clyde & Co for a major Dutch bank in obtaining the first worldwide freezing order against various entities in the troubled NMC Group and their personal guarantor, notwithstanding the absence of any assets in the DIFC: *Credit Europe Bank (Dubai) Ltd v. (1) NMC Trading LLC (2) NMC Healthcare LLC (3) Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty* [2020] DIFC CFI 031 (14 April 2020); (8 July 2020).

Acting with Trowers & Hamblins in advising a major UAE conglomerate that was subject to a worldwide freezing order obtained by lenders in the wake of the financial difficulties of a related group of companies.

Acting with Watson Farley & Williams in advising a leading Saudi chemical manufacturing group on a challenge to an expert share valuation arising out of various joint venture agreements made with a European chemical group.

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright for a Canadian ‘unicorn’ in defending and having struck out claims for USD 90 million based on fraud allegations made in DIFC proceedings relating to equity commitment letters filed in support of a ‘go private’ bid to acquire a global internet gaming company, Amaya Inc: *KBC Aldini Capital Ltd v. (1) David Baazov (2) Canaccord Genuity Corp* [2017] DIFC CFI 002 (14 October 2018) (12 February 2020) (23 February 2020).

Acting with Herbert Smith Freehills LLP on the appeal by an oil trading company of the decision of Justice Field in refusing to grant a freezing order to prevent disposal of assets to the value of USD 755 million on the basis of conduct by the Respondent bank showing an 'unacceptably low standard of commercial reality' in terminating a facility while retaining a related deposit of USD 1 billion: *IMMS Ltd v. BankMed SAL* [2019] DIFC CA 013 (16 December 2019).

Acting with Al Tamimi on a jurisdiction challenge and the subsequent appeal of the decision of Justice Field that the DIFC Courts had jurisdiction over the Appellant by reason of its having been recognised by the DFSA: *First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC & Anor v. Larmag Holdings NV* [2019] DIFC CFI (25 September 2019); [2019] DIFC CA 010 (23 March 2020).

Acting with Clyde & Co in successfully challenging jurisdiction of DIFC Courts by reason of an agreement for LCIA arbitration in Singapore and further resisting the joinder of the parent company of the Second Defendant: *Grand Valley General Trading LLC v. GGICO Sunteck Ltd* [2018] DIFC CFI 044 (12 September 2019).

Acting with Al Tamimi in challenging the jurisdiction of the DIFC Court said to arise because the Defendant, an Abu Dhabi bank, had been 'recognised' by the DFSA for the purpose of its trading on NASDAQ Dubai: *Larmag Holdings BV v. First Islamic Bank PJSC & Anor* [2019] DIFC CFI 030 (19 July 2019) (4 August 2019).

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright in the long-running dispute as to the management of a leading hotel in Dubai in persuading Justice Field that the DIFC Court did not need to recognise as *res judicata* a decision of the Dubai Court of Cassation that conflicted with an order of the DIFC Court and was in breach of the New York Convention: *YYY Ltd v. ZZZ Ltd* [2017] DIFC ARB 005 (17 November 2019).

Acting with Al Tamimi in defending claims made by a Sri Lankan conglomerate against the DIFC subsidiary in an Indian financial advisory group in respect of its alleged breaches of fiduciary duty or negligence in failing to prevent a cyberattack against the joint venture company incorporated in Sierra Leone: [2019] DIFC CFI 042 (6 October 2020) (28 October 2020).

Acting with Clyde & Co in obtaining the setting aside of default judgment for the winding-up of a JAFZA-registered joint venture company incorporated for a substantial commercial property development in onshore Dubai: *Grand Valley General Trading LLC v. GGICO Sunteck Ltd* [2018] DIFC CFI 044 (27 December 2018) (19 May 2019).

Acting with Dentons for the State Bank of Mauritius in obtaining a worldwide freezing order to freeze funds in the account of various corporate entities used in a trade finance fraud and subsequently in securing a decision of the JJC that the DIFC Court had jurisdiction over the matter in seeking disclosure from a Kuwaiti bank in onshore Dubai: *SBM (Mauritius) Ltd v. Renish Petrochem FZE & Ors* [2018] DIFC CFI 054 (27 September 2020) (21 October 2020); JJC, Cassation No. 5/2018.

Acting with Al Tamimi in defending claims to USD 36 million of lost revenue to a Dubai company owned by a Lebanese healthcare group alleged to have been caused by breaches by an Omani insurer of a third party administration agreement under which the insurer's UAE book was to be administered: *Globemed Gulf Healthcare Solutions LLC v. Oman Insurance Company PSC* [2017] DIFC CFI 051; [2020] DIFC CFI 011 (21 September 2020).

Acting with Freshfields for a major Saudi conglomerate in successfully resisting FedEx's application for an Anti-Suit Injunction to prevent the Saudi conglomerate from pursuing \$1782 proceedings in the US for document disclosure and witness deposition: *Federal Express International Inc v. Abdul Latif Jameel Transportation Co Ltd* [2018] DIFC CFI 038 (15 July 2018).

Acting with Dentons for a Saudi retail group in the Commercial Court in challenging the validity of service of English proceedings in Saudi Arabia, in resisting an order for substituted service, and in defending claims for USD 5 million made on the basis that, by entering certain invoicing arrangements to make use of an existing credit line, the Saudi parent had become the purchaser of goods supplied to various of its subsidiaries: (1) *Peter Black Footwear and*

Accessories Ltd (2) Visage v. Fawaz Abdullah Alhokair & Co SJSJ [2018].

Acting with Al Tamimi for an Indian educational entrepreneur and the holding company of a school in Ajman in obtaining and defending urgent injunctive relief against actions taken by the shareholder who was the local partner in that company: (1) *Vinod Sharma (2) Avalon Global Education Services Ltd (3) Avalon Heights World Private School LLC v. Sheikh Khaled Saeed Humaid al Nuaimi* [2018] DIFC CFI 022 (24 April and 7 June 2018).

Acting with Cooke Young & Keidan for the former head of the family office of the late Prince Fahd bin Salman of Saudi Arabia in proceedings in the Chancery Division in which the Claimant claimed over £6 million in unpaid remuneration, expenses and commission owed on various Knightsbridge property developments pursued for the benefit of the family: *Hussein v. Her Highness Princess Nouf Bint Khalid bin Abdullah al Saud* [2018].

Acting with Sherrards for the two principal groups of European investors in the North Kensington Gate property development project in successfully obtaining summary judgment after a three-day hearing in the High Court on fraud claims brought against the former promoters of the project: *Aurora Developments Ltd & Ors v Delta Holdings Limited & Ors* [2018] EWHC 1047 (Ch).

Acting with KBH Kaanuun for the liquidators of various DIFC and US companies in successfully resisting a jurisdiction challenge brought by a Swiss bank in resisting claims by the liquidators to have certain pledges made by fraudulent directors declared invalid: (1) *Orion Holdings Overseas Ltd (2) Orion Global Financial Services LLC (3) Orion Capital Ltd v. (1) Mohammed Abdel Khaleq Mohammad (2) Nidal Abdel Khaleq Mohammad (3) Privatbank Ihag Zurich AG* [2015] DIFC CFI 033 (8 February 2018).

Acting with Brown Rudnick for a major Saudi bank against a European bank on claims for breach of an agreement under which certain technical and advisory services were provided to the Saudi bank [2018].

Acting for the Air Tanzania and the Government of Tanzania in the Commercial Court in successfully obtaining relief from sanction to permit the defence of 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: *Wallis Trading Inc v. (1) Air Tanzania Company Ltd (2) The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania* [2018].

Acting with Shakespeare Martineau for an asset management company in the Noé Group in pursuing Commercial Court claims for £12 million from the vendor of the Winnersh Triangle business park for breaches of its obligations of good faith, of reasonable endeavours in assisting the Claimant's due diligence, and of exclusivity relating to the Claimant's intended acquisition of the business park: *Capreon (UK) Ltd v. Winnersh Holdings LP* [2018].

Acting for a major Middle East retail group in DIFC-LCIA arbitral proceedings at the trial of claims brought under an alleged parent company guarantee of purchases made by its Spanish and UAE subsidiaries [2018].

Acting with Clyde & Co for a joint venture party in obtaining and defending in the DIFC Court an injunction restraining an escrow agent from releasing Shares worth USD 85m under the terms of an escrow agreement; and successfully resisting a challenge by the other joint venture party to the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts: *Sunteck Lifestyles Ltd v. (1) Al Tamimi and Company Ltd and (2) Grand Valley General Trading LLC* [2017] DIFC CFI 048 (15 November 2017).

Acting with DWF for an angel investor in successfully resisting a freezing injunction and summary judgment of claims of his vicarious liability for the alleged fraud of another shareholder in the sale of a sports advertising company to US investors: (1) *BHSC Global LLC and (2) BHSC Global Holdings LLC v. (1) Griffith (2) McKechnie* [2017] EWHC 2035.

Advising a major Dubai reinsurer as to the grounds on which it could decline policy cover to an Omani insurer for non-disclosure under a quota share treaty relating to the reinsured's MENA energy portfolio by reference to the claims history on certain underlying policies within that portfolio [2017].

Acting with Pepper Hamilton in successfully obtaining a worldwide freezing order in the DIFC Courts to freeze assets up to USD 80 million in value to secure an Indian arbitral award that was to be enforced in the DIFC and Dubai Courts [2016] DIFC CFI 034 (6 October 2016).

Acting with CMS Cameron McKenna on a damages claim arising out of delayed performance of a contract for the sale of a shopping centre in circumstances where the claimant had relied on a condition precedent in declining to complete the sale: *British Overseas Bank Nominees Ltd v Analytical Properties Ltd* [2014] EWHC 802; [2015] EWCA Civ 43; [2015] PLSCS 38.

Advising reinsurers in the London Market on the construction under English and Qatari law of an exclusion, LEG 2/96, in a common Construction All Risks policy, and as to claims arising from the defective water-proofing of underground car parks around a Doha marina [2015].

Acting for a UK asset manager against a US investment firm in denying alleged breaches of their asset management and joint venture agreements and in defending claims that the asset manager had forfeited its entitlement to a £15 million profit share [2016].

Acting for the same UK asset manager against the same US investment firm in claiming that its best internal estimate of the value of the relevant assets for the purpose of calculating the asset manager's profit share undervalued them by £90 million by wrongfully excluding information of an open market offer made for those assets by a third party [2016].

Acting with Field Fisher for the victim of an identity fraud in suing the fraudster's representatives for breach of their express and implied warranties of authority and for breach of trust in transferring the purchase monies to the bank account of the fraudster: *Rees v Walter Saunders* [2016].

Acting with Field Fisher for the purchasers of a development property in London Fields in obtaining an order freezing the vendor's assets up to £2 million to secure their claims against the seller for fraudulent misrepresentations after evidence had emerged of assets being transferred to an entity in Cyprus: *Sledkova & Ors v Sidworth Street Ltd* [2016].

Acting with King & Wood Mallesons and Gately for a Belgian dry bulk ship owner in obtaining before Justice Sir John Chadwick a worldwide freezing order against the assets of a Dubai charterer in seeking to enforce arbitral awards totalling USD 110 million and orders of both the London Commercial Court and the DIFC Court recognising those awards: *Bocimar International NV v Emirates Trading Agency LLC* [2015] DIFC CFI 008 (31 January 2016).

Acting with King & Wood Mallesons for the Meydan Group in resisting the enforcement in the DIFC Court of an arbitral award for AED 1.1 billion in arguing that the Court should not accept jurisdiction in view of significant defects in the award on issues of UAE law that went to the underlying jurisdiction of the tribunal: *WCT Berhad (Dubai Branch) v Meydan Group LLP* [2015] DIFC ARB 003 [2016].

Acting with DLA Piper for an Egyptian labour supply company at the trial in the Dubai World Tribunal of claims for USD 50m on claims that DP World had incited the Claimant's workers in Sokhna Port to cease working for it, causing strikes and ultimately the transfer of the Claimant's workers to a government-owned entity: *Platinum Services Company EJS v DP World Ltd* [2015] DWT 005.

Acting for a global litigation funder in obtaining and defending a preservation order that over US\$10 million of its Kuwaiti client's interim recovery on mis-selling claims against Bank Sarasin be paid into court pending an arbitral determination of the funder's entitlement: *Vannin Capital PCC plc v Khorafi & Ors* [2015] DIFC CFI 036 (11 February 2015 and 18 February 2015).

Acting for the DAMAC Group in the DIFC Court of Appeal on a successful appeal in which the Chief Justice confirmed the contractual validity of property reservation agreements and a commercial approach to the

construction of the related credit agreements: *Damac Park Towers Company Ltd v Ward* [2015] DIFC CA 006 (14 December 2015).

Acting for DAMAC in the DIFC Court in having struck out various agency, negligence and misrepresentation claims relating to the purchase of various units in a development: *First Rand Property Holding (Middle East) Ltd v Damac Park Towers* [2014] DIFC CFI 030 (2 April 2015).

Acting for DAMAC in the DIFC Court of Appeal in appealing findings that various units of a development had not been ready for occupation within the terms of the relevant SPAs: *Damac Park Towers Company Ltd v Dattani* [2014] DIFC CA 007 (10 November 2015).

Acting in resisting the enforcement by the English Courts of an order of the Druze Courts of Lebanon on grounds that it had not been ratified by the Civil Courts in Lebanon and was therefore not enforceable there: *El Tarabey v Kade* [2014].

Advising a major litigation funder on arbitral claims for US\$118m arising from a conspiracy by a Central Asian crude oil supplier and a Middle Eastern refinery to exclude from the supply chain under their joint venture a Cayman trading company [2014].

Acting with Eversheds in obtaining a judgment in the Commercial Court on claims for the repayment of Euros 148 million of Islamic finance provided by a Qatari bank to fund a property development in Luxembourg: *Aquarelle Etoile II SA v Etoile Développement I SA* [2014].

Acting with Clyde & Co in obtaining the settlement before trial in the DIFC Court of fraud claims for US\$24m against Barclays relating to its involvement in providing finance for the supply of pipes by a Greek manufacturer to an Omani oil company: *Corinth Pipeworks v Barclays* [2014] DIFC CFI 024.

Acting with CMS Cameron Mckenna in obtaining arbitral declarations as to the contractual operation of a change model used to allocate risk and impose charges relating to cash flows arising under the historic sale and lease back by a telecoms operator of its national property portfolio [2013].

Acting with DAC Beachcroft for various Saudi, Anguillan and English entities involved in the development of the Pinnacle tower in the City in defeating claims in fraud, conspiracy and breach of an investment agreement: *Abbar v SEDCO* [2013] EWHC 2132 (Ch) 2013.

Acting with Linklaters for the Administrators of a Lehman subsidiary against Northern Rock on warranty claims for £8.5m arising from the sale for securitisation of a mortgage portfolio *LCMC v Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc* [2013].

Acting with KBH Kaanuun on misselling claims in the DIFC Court against a Credit Suisse subsidiary in respect of its advice to transfer assets into a high-risk account from an ABN Amro account: *Mana v Clariden Leu Asset Management (Dubai) Ltd* [2013] DIFC CFI 030.

Professional Negligence

Rupert has been recommended in Chambers & Partners as a leading practitioner in the field of professional negligence. His work, both for claimants and for defendants' insurers, extends right across his areas of practice, with a strong focus on solicitors, barristers, company directors, tax advisers, IFAs, accountants, and other property and pension professionals.

He has particular experience in cases raising issues of the responsibility of professionals, in particular solicitors and

conveyances, for failures to identify frauds perpetrated on clients and their counter-parties, and the relevance to those issues of their breaches of anti-money laundering obligations.

He also has significant experience in *SAAMCo* issues relating to the scope of the professionals' duty and the alleged causation of financial loss.

His work on lawyers' negligence claims arises principally both from drafting or advisory errors on major commercial and corporate transactions and from the alleged mishandling of litigation. In a number of recent cases, he has acted for the victims of identity fraud in property transactions in suing their solicitors and licensed conveyancers who paid money out to fraudsters without complying with their relevant professional and regulatory rules and guidelines.

His directors' negligence practice has followed his involvement in successfully defending one of the non-executive directors of Equitable Life from the Society's claims. He has a particular interest in the definition of the scope of the duty of directors by reference to their particular functions.

His work on advisory claims against financial services professionals builds on his related expertise in banking and financial services regulation. The scope of the relevant duty of care is commonly informed by the defendant's regulatory responsibilities in the FCA Handbook or DFSA Rulebook.

His accountants' negligence practice arises not only from core audit, assurance, and advisory work but also from financial due diligence carried out on the sale and acquisition of significant businesses.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with Field Fisher for an offshore property developer in the trial of claims for £48m against an international law firm for advisory negligence in failing to advise as to the merit of tenant's claim that the development scheme was in breach of a covenant in the tenant's lease: *Aurium Estate London Ultra Prime Ltd v. Mishcon de Reya LLP* [2022] EWHC 1253 (Ch) (one of the Lawyer's 'Top 20' Cases of 2022).

Acting with Al Tamimi for an Indian financial advisory group in defending claims by a Sri Lankan joint venture party of negligence arising out of its failure to prevent a cyberattack by which the joint venture company was defrauded of significant sums; [2019] DIFC CFI 042 (6 October 2020) (28 October 2020).

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright for a Canadian internet gaming entrepreneur in defending claims for USD 90 million by an asset investment management company of negligence in filing an equity commitment letter purportedly provided by the claimant but said by it to have been forged: *KBC Aldini Capital Ltd v. (1) Baazov (2) Canaccord Genuity Corp* [2017] DIFC CFI 002 (14 October 2018) (12 February 2020).

Acting for a waste management and haulage company in suing its former solicitors for negligent advice in respect of their failure to withdraw a Part 36 offer where disclosure significantly improved the merits of its claims against Renault Trucks in respect of a defective fleet of vehicles: *George Killoughery Ltd v Cubism Law* [2017].

Advising a firm of solicitors on its defence to an application for committal for alleged civil contempt in making collateral use of disclosed documents: (1) *Grosvenor Chemicals Ltd* (2) *Whyte Chemicals Ltd* (3) *Melvyn Whyte v (1) UPL Europe Ltd* (2) *UPL Deutschland GmbH* (3) *Mishcon de Reya LLP* (4) *Herzog* [2017] EWHC 1893 (Ch).

Acting with Field Fisher for the victim of an identity fraud in pursuing claims against a firm of licensed conveyancers that had acted for the fraudster on the purported sale of a house in Fulham for breach by that firm of its express and implied warranties of authority and for breach of trust in paying the purchase monies to the fraudster: *Rees v Walter Saunders* [2016].

Acting for a property developer in the DIFC Court in having struck out claims that the developer had assumed, and was in negligent breach of, a duty of care in respect of representations said to have been made to purchasers: *First*

Rand Property Holding (Middle East) Ltd v Damac Park Towers [2014] DIFC CFI 030 (2 April 2015).

Acting with Clyde & Co in defending claims for £2.5m against a firm of solicitors which had drafted contractual documentation in assuming that the relevant transaction was the assignment of a lease of commercial and residential premises, when what was contractually required was the grant of a sub-lease: *F&M (Investment Holdings) Ltd v Seabourne Lawleys Ltd* [2015].

Acting with William Sturges against solicitor administrators in respect of alleged gross negligence in the administration of the high-value estate and various will trusts: *Eley v Magwells & Ors* [2015].

Acting with Clyde & Co in defending a national firm of solicitors on the basis that an admitted drafting error in an overage agreement was not causative of any loss because the agreement could still be read to require the market value underpin to be determined at the date of exchange and not completion [2014].

Acting on claims of audit and advisory negligence against Grant Thornton both in its auditing of a UK company and for its corporate finance advice on the acquisition of that company for over £16m: *Wilson & Go Plant Ltd v Grant Thornton UK LLP* [2014].

Acting successfully with Clyde and Co for a firm of solicitors at trial in the Chancery Division and on appeal to the Court of Appeal in defending claims arising out of a failure to ensure that certain shares were charged as security for a substantial commercial loan: *Clack v Wrigleys Solicitors LLP* [2013] EWHC 413 (Ch); (2013) 163 NLJ 17; [2013] All ER(D) 127 (Mar).

Acting successfully with Mills & Reeve for a barrister in securing the withdrawal of negligence claims in respect of the barrister's advice, while on holiday, that a chargee could exercise immediately its power of sale without any valid exclusion of the statutory requirement of notice [2013].

Acting with Linklaters for a Lehman subsidiary in pursuing claims that Northern Rock had been negligent in servicing loans pursuant to the transfer of a portfolio of 68 mortgages: *LCMC v Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc* [2014].

Acting with DAC in a lengthy trial and subsequent appeal on claims by the owner of Britannia Hotels against his former solicitors on their advice as to the value of his earlier claim against a firm of accountants and as to the merits of a settlement: *Langsam v Beachcroft LLP* [2011] EWHC 1451 (Ch); [2011] 3 Costs LO 380; [2012] EWCA 1230; [2013] 1 Costs LO 112 [2012].

Property

Rupert is consistently recognized as a leading practitioner in Property and Real Estate litigation in all of Chambers UK Bar, The Legal 500 and Who's Who Legal: UK Bar. Since 2022, he has been recognized as one of the world's leading property practitioners, a 'Global Leader', in WWL's Real Estate Reports.

Chambers UK Bar 2026 lists Rupert in Band 3 for his Real Estate Litigation practice and notes in its editorial that "*Rupert is well known for his extensive property practice. He regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle East clients, concerning property in London*".

It further notes client comment as to his strengths: "*Rupert oozes charm and wins over judges. He is very engaging, effective, tenacious and knows his stuff.*" "*Rupert is excellent at what he does. He has a wealth of regional knowledge and is particular excellent on matters of DIFC Law.*" "*He is very good – totally across the detail and a*

pretty commanding advocate.”

Legal 500 2026 lists Rupert as a Leading Silk in the field of Property Litigation: *‘a tremendous advocate who commands the courtroom when he is in action.’*

Client comment in Legal 500 2026 further included that *‘Rupert is extremely bright, all over the detail of a case, but also fantastic on his feet. His ability to spin a persuasive narrative out of the available evidence is quite brilliant.’*

Chambers UK Bar 2025 notes the following client comment in that field:

“Rupert is adept at handling fiendishly complex cases and is unfailingly courteous. He is very smart and absolutely on top of the law and the facts”; “Rupert is meticulous in cross-examination and has a real courtroom presence. His advice is always commercially focused and has the right balance of pragmatism and commerciality”.

Legal 500 2025 lists Rupert as a Leading Silk in Property Litigation, noting client comment that: *‘He has real intellectual and strategic acuity and knows exactly how to pitch a case, whether to a judge, opponent or witness.’*

Chambers UK Bar 2024 noted of his practice in Real Estate Litigation: *“Well known for his extensive property practice, he regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly well known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle East clients, concerning property in London.”* It further noted client comment as to his strengths: *‘Rupert is a fantastic operator at the top of his game’.*

Legal 500 2024 listed him in Tier 3 of the Leading Silks in Property Litigation, noting his leading role in the *Asturion* case and the following client comment: *‘He is a strategic thinker, which clients value. His preparation and legal analysis are meticulous. In court, Rupert is authoritative and commands the confidence of the judge.’*

Legal 500 2023 listed him in the same tier and reported client comment on his Property practice: *“A measured, fiercely intelligent and thorough silk; Rupert is commercially astute and analyses the details to leave no angle unexplored. He has a very user-friendly manner and builds a great rapport with solicitors and clients alike.”*

Chambers UK Bar 2023 reported client comment that he is *‘very user-friendly and knowledgeable’.*

Legal 500 2022 listed him as a Leading Silk in Property Litigation: *“Rupert Reed QC has a diverse practice with a particular emphasis on commercial, financial, and joint venture disputes, and led the representation of Al Jawhara bint Ibrahim Al Ibrahim, a widow of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in resisting claims to her property, Kenstead Hall in Highgate, by Asturion, a Liechtenstein entity”.*

Chambers UK Bar 2022 reported client comment that *“Rupert is super-bright and incisive”* and *“is particularly good at cases with a property fraud crossover”.*

Who’s Who Legal 2022 recommends him as a National Leader in its ‘UK Bar – Real Estate – Silks’ category. It notes that *“Rupert Reed QC is “on top of the detail” and “extremely thorough” with “an extremely professional approach to cases”.* One respondent adds, *“He knows how to turn up the volume in court.”*

Who’s Who Legal 2021 recommends him as a Global Leader in Real Estate.

Legal 500 2021 ranks him in Tier 3 of the leading silks in Property Litigation: *“Super-bright and always able to focus in on the key points of the case in question”.*

Chambers UK Bar 2021 further noted the following client comment: *“Super bright and able to focus on the key points in the case in question.” “He is very easy to work with, his advice is always very prompt and he has excellent organisational skills and is a very strong advocate in court.” “His written work is excellent. He is very diligent and*

thinks quickly on his feet."

Chambers UK Bar 2020 also ranked him as a leading barrister in Real Estate Litigation and noted the comments of clients: *"He is so user-friendly and is exceedingly proactive in driving cases forward." "He has an easy-going light touch and gets the balance just right in Court."*

Legal 500 2020 identified him as being a leading silk in Property Litigation: *"Oozes experience, very calm under extreme pressure with deadly accuracy in the court room."*

Chambers UK Bar 2019 noted the comments of clients on his work in the Property field: *"He is exceptionally bright and extremely impressive on his feet."*

Legal 500 UK Bar 2019 ranked him as a leading junior in Property Litigation and noted that he is *"[e]ntirely on the point with advice that is relevant and advances the case."*

Chambers UK Bar 2018 noted the comments of sources: *"Always contactable and extremely approachable, he's a lawyer whose analytical skills are amazing." "He's very good at getting his head around very complex problems and working with the more difficult clients."*

Legal 500 UK Bar 2017 noted further that: *"He is very client-friendly in his approach and provides creative solutions to complex legal disputes."*

Who's Who Legal: UK Bar 2016 reported that *"Rupert Reed QC is a "superb" property development, management and finance barrister, with an "enviable client list".*

Who's Who Legal: UK Bar 2015 noted that *"the "chancery star" Rupert Reed QC is "fiercely intelligent" in complex financing and real estate transactions. Reed has a high profile client base and receives positive feedback from clients who say he is "excellent on his feet, with a fluid style of advocacy, which resonates well with clients and judges"."*

In 2017 and 2018, he won Property Barrister of the Year in the Finance Monthly Global Awards.

He combines a strong academic interest in the law of Real Property with significant experience of contractual disputes arising out of the transfer, development, financing, and management of commercial property. In recent years, he has built a substantial practice in advising on and litigating disputes relating to business and industrial parks.

While his core property practice is in England, Rupert is a registered advocate before the courts of the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) and has acted in a number of property disputes arising there and heard in the DIFC Courts, including a number of matters in which he has acted for DAMAC.

Many of his arbitrations also concern issues of English, UAE, Dubai and English law arising from contracts for the sale, reservation and development of land in the DIFC, Dubai, and wider UAE.

He further has some experience of the principles of the laws of planning and compensation and acts in cases requiring knowledge of both those principles and the law of Real Property.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with NHB Legal for seller entity in major Dubai development group in seeking urgent interim injunction to prevent continuing breaches of covenants against short-term letting of an apartment and against use for holiday home letting of property agent other than entity within the group: [2025] DIFC ARB 012 (27 March 2025).

Acting with Simmons & Simmons for a wife of the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in defending and on the striking out of claims made by a Liechtenstein foundation to ownership of a substantial London property transferred to the wife by the foundation on the instructions of King Fahd: *Asturion Foundation v Her Highness Princess Al Jawharah bint Ibrahim Abdulaziz al Ibrahim* [2019] EWHC 274 (Ch); *Alibrahim v. Asturion Fondation* [2020] EWCA Civ 32; and *Asturion Foundation v. Alibrahim* [2023] EWHC 3305 (Ch); [2024] 1 WLR 2947; and [2024] EWHC 757 (Ch). The case raised significant issues as to the scope of the protection afforded to transferees of registered title under section 26 of the Land Registration Act 1925.

Acting with Baker & McKenzie LLP for the lessee of a major West End hotel in the arbitration under an underlease in the arbitration of a dispute as to whether the lessor of the property was unreasonably withholding or delaying the provision of its consent to a proposed charging of the property, in circumstances where there were express conditions in the lease for such a withholding *not* to found reasonable and where the relevant lending was not for the purposes of the hotel.

Acting with Field Fisher for an offshore property developer on claims for £48m against an international law firm for its failure to advise as to the merit of the claim by a tenant of part of the development site that the development scheme was in breach of the landlord's covenant to keep the structure of the existing building in good repair: *Aurium Estate London Ultra Prime Ltd v. Mishcon de Reya LLP* [2022] EWHC 1253 (Ch) (one of the Lawyer's 'Top 20' Cases of 2022).

Acting with DWF in obtaining a freezing order to freeze various high-value residential properties in London and Surrey in support of New York proceedings against the director of a UAE company on the basis of his procurement of the the company's gifting of Dubai properties to frustrate the enforcement of an ICC award against the company: (1) *Cesfin Ventures* (2) *Cessna Finance Corp v. Ghaith al Ghaith* [2020] EWHC 3337 (Ch); [2020] EWHC 3683 (Ch).

Acting with Shakespeare Martineau for a property management company within the Noé Group in claiming damages from the intending vendor of the Winnersh Triangle business park for breaches of its duties of good faith, of reasonable endeavours in assisting the purchaser's due diligence, and of exclusivity pursuant to the ultimate sale of the park to a Frasers Property group subsidiary: *Capreon (UK) Ltd v. Winnersh Holdings LP* [2019].

Acting with Cooke Young & Keidan for the former head of the family office of the late Prince Fahd bin Salman of Saudi Arabia in pursuing contractual and restitutionary claims for commission owed on various Knightsbridge property developments: *Hussein v Her Highness Princess Nouf Bint Khalid bin Abdullah al Saud* [2018].

Acting with Sherrards for two groups of European investors in successfully obtaining declarations as to their company's beneficial ownership of part of the North Kensington Gate development site pursuant to a deed executed on its acquisition, and successfully obtaining summary judgment on fraud claims relating to the promotion of the development site: *Aurora Developments Ltd & Ors v Delta Holdings Limited & Ors*: [2018] EWHC 1047 (Ch).

Advising the owners of development land in Hampshire whether the purchaser of the land could prevent the making of an application for planning permission and the consequential termination of the sale agreement by failing to appoint a director of the property holding company [2018].

Advising a property fund owning development land in Northamptonshire on its exposure on an indemnity provided in its long lease of the land for the costs of complying with a section 106 agreement relating to a specific grant of outline planning permission that was likely to have expired [2018].

Advising the property fund owning a major business park in Hampshire as to whether it could continue to provide a shuttle bus service within the 'sweeper clause' in the provision for estate services in its management deed and whether certain occupants were paying a fair and reasonable proportion of the cost of that provision [2018].

Acting for a developer in the North East on claims against the other members of a consortium of landowners seeking planning permission for the redevelopment of green belt land around Durham who acted in breach of their

original partnership and option agreements in secretly entering a new partnership with Durham County Council: *Galaxy Land Ltd v. Corney & Ors* [2017].

Acting in the Property Chamber of the First Tier Tribunal for the registered proprietor of the North Kensington Gate development in defending claims to the registered title by a Guernsey entity controlled by the original promoters of the development: *Delta Holdings Ltd v Aurora Developments Ltd* [2017].

Acting with Browne Jacobson for a leading UK businessman on a boundary dispute affecting his principal residence in Nottingham: *Nathu Ram Puri v. John Michael Gibney* [2017].

Acting with Gowling for a Jersey property company against Hewlett-Packard in obtaining a statutory extension of Hewlett-Packard's lease of its UK premises in Warrington for a new term of sufficient length to give reasonable commercial certainty to the landlord: *Lamont Property Acquisition Company (Jersey) IV Ltd v Hewlett-Packard Limited* [2016].

Acting with Field Fisher for the victim of a vendor identity fraud in suing the firm of licensed conveyancers which had acted for the fraudster, who had impersonated the owner of a valuable property in Fulham, for breach of the firm's warranties of authority, alternatively breaches of trust in paying the purchase monies to the fraudster: *Rees v Walter Saunders* [2016].

Advising the Hong Kong purchaser of a property in Canary Wharf worth £130 million on the implications of a challenge to the sale by a shareholder of the vendor and the risks of the forfeiture of the purchaser's deposit or of constructive trust claims being advanced [2016].

Acting with Brecher for the freehold owner of retail premises on Guildford High Street in compelling a national supermarket chain to enter a new agreement for lease and pay damages and costs under its guarantee of the original lessee which had been put into administration [2016].

Advising a property fund owning a significant part of the apron of a major UK motor-racing circuit whether a land exchange agreed with the circuit owner was enforceable and had been repudiated by the circuit owner's refusal to execute the required documents [2016].

Acting for the UK asset manager of a portfolio of industrial sites around Heathrow in a contractual dispute with a leading US investment firm as to the forfeiture of the asset manager's £15 million profit share under its asset management agreement for alleged bad faith, breaches of a restrictive covenant, and the breach of a key executive provision [2016].

Acting for the same UK asset manager against the same US investment firm in claiming that its 'best internal estimate' of the value of the relevant assets for the purpose of calculating the asset manager's profit share undervalued them by £90 million by wrongfully excluding information of an open market offer made for those assets by a third party [2016].

Acting for DAMAC in the DIFC Court of Appeal on a successful appeal in which the Chief Justice confirmed the contractual validity of property reservation agreements and a commercial approach to the construction of those agreements: *Damac Park Towers Company Ltd v Ward* [2015] DIFC CA 006 (14 December 2015).

Acting with CMC McKenna on a claim for damages for the purchaser of a shopping centre for late completion by the purchaser on the Court's finding that the production of certain certificates was a condition precedent only to the purchaser's obligations: *BOBN Ltd v Analytical Properties Ltd* [2014] EWHC 802 (Ch); [2015] EWCA Civ 43; [2015] PLSCS 38 [2015].

Acting for DAMAC in the DIFC Court of Appeal in appealing findings that a developer had not given 'possession and occupation' within the terms of the relevant SPAs: *Damac Park Towers Company Ltd v Dattani* [2014] DIFC CA 007

(10 November 2015).

Acting for DAMAC in the DIFC Court in having struck out various purchaser claims relating to changes in the floor layout of office units in a tower built in the DIFC: *First Rand Property Holding (Middle East) Ltd v Damac Park Towers* [2014] DIFC CFI 030 (2 April 2015) CFI 030/2014 [2015].

Acting with King & Wood Mallesons for a Dubai developer in defending contractor claims for in excess of AED 1 billion in a DIAC arbitration in respect of a major infrastructure development by a former member of a joint venture [2015].

Acting for members of a leading Saudi family in claiming their late father's beneficial ownership under a presumed resulting or constructive trust of various London properties: *El Seif & Anor v Tavina Holdings Inc & Ors* [2015].

Acting with Linklaters for the administrators of Lehmans on claims for breach of warranty and of the servicing obligations under the transfer from Northern Rock of a mortgage portfolio: *LCMC v Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc* [2014].

Acting with Berwin Leighton Paisner for National Grid on the appeal of a decision by the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) awarding a developer compensation on the grant of a wayleave for the injurious affection of land arising on the loss of a contract: *Arnold White Estates Ltd v National Grid Electricity Transmission plc* [2014] EWCA Civ 216; [2014] Ch 385; [2014] 2 WLR 1055.

Acting for a developer and purchaser of land in Durham on an indemnity provided by the vendor that it would rectify an option to which the land was subject so as to exclude from the option part of the purchased land: *Galaxy Investments Ltd v North of England Estates Ltd* [2014].

Acting with DLA Piper in obtaining a settlement of claims for £18m for deferred consideration on the sale of an interest in a major business park in the North East, for damages for the diversion of profits from relevant plots, and for a declaration that another plot was held on constructive trust [2013].

Acting with CMC Cameron McKenna for a national telecoms operator in obtaining arbitral declarations on the construction of complex effective sale and lease-back arrangements involving the operator's entire property portfolio, and in particular as to the calculation of compensation payable on the early vacation of subject premises [2013].

Acting with DAC Beachcroft for the Anguillan SPVs holding the freehold and long leasehold estates in the Pinnacle Tower in the City in defeating claims by a Saudi equity investor that he had a beneficial interest in those estates: *Abbar v SEDCO & Ors* [2013] EWHC 1414 (Ch) [2013].

Acting for the purchaser of a DIFC property off-plan in claims against the developer with issues as to the delay in handover, the registration of the property, and the developer's failure to provide an SPA: *Dorsey v Union Properties* [2013] DIFC CFI 05.

Advising on a US\$1 billion claim by the owner of a development property in Dubai in respect of the alleged unlawful enforcement of a security over the land [2012].

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Rupert has significant experience of trust and contentious probate litigation, with a particular emphasis on commercial and property claims involving trust and fiduciary claims by or against nominees, trustees or personal representatives.

Much of his commercial work involves proprietary and personal claims arising from the fiduciary roles of company directors, partners, and agents in a wider business context.

Rupert has a particular interest in the imposition of fiduciary duties by Islamic finance instruments that may be said to create trust and agency relationships.

He has been called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the Cayman Islands and advised in litigation with significant trust elements in the Channel Islands and British Overseas Territories.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with Lalive and Simmons & Simmons for a wife of the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in defending trust claims made in the Chancery Division by a Liechtenstein foundation in respect of a high-value London property on alleged grounds that the transfer of those assets was invalid as a matter of the law of Liechtenstein foundations as well as Saudi and Shari'a law of succession: *Asturion Foundation v Her Highness Princess Al Jawharah bint Ibrahim Abdulaziz al Ibrahim* [2019] EWHC 274 (Ch); [2024] 1 WLR 2947.

Acting with Boodle Hatfield for the trustees of a charitable foundation in agreeing with the joint administrators of its founder's estate the terms of a Beddoe order authorising proceedings in Jersey in respect of transfers out of the estate: *In the Estate of James Donald Hanson Deceased* [2017].

Acting with William Sturges for the administrators of a high-value estate in pursuing claims against the previous executors of a will trust and a beneficiary overpaid by them: *Eley v Magwells & Ors* [2015].

Acting for the younger siblings in a Saudi family in claiming that certain London properties held by Panamanian companies were beneficially owned by their father and fell into his English estate to be distributed on his intestacy: *El Seif & Anor v Tavina Holdings Inc & Ors* [2015].

Acting with Marcus Sinclair for the interim administrators of Arkadi Patarkatsishvili ('Badri') in collecting US\$45m in funds held for Badri's estate by various interpleading parties, and defending claims made by Boris Berezovsky against the estate: *Berezovsky v Abramovich; Berezovsky v Hine & Ors* [2010] EWHC 2044 (Ch).

Acting with Marcus Sinclair for the Interim Administrators of Badri's estate in obtaining directions as to the interim distribution of funds to permit the defence of the estate by certain family beneficiaries under Badri's intestacy: *Hine & Ors v Gudavadze & Ors* [2011].

Advising on trust litigation that could be pursued in the Channel Islands in seeking to secure funds paid into a trust structure used by an aggressive film finance scheme to avoid tax [2010].

Acting with DAC in obtaining judgment for US\$12m deposited with a Kuwaiti bank by a Lebanese bank under various Islamic Finance agency agreements on the basis that the relevant deposits had been held by the agent on express or resulting trust: *BLOM v The Investment Dar* [2010].

Arbitration

A significant part of Rupert's property and commercial practices, both in England and the Middle East, is in arbitration, both as lead counsel and as arbitrator, in particular under the LCIA, ICC, DIFC-LCIA, DIAC and LMAA Rules and seated in London, Paris and the Middle East. He is a member of both the DIAC Rules Task Force and the DIFC Court's Arbitration Working Group and in 2023 was appointed as a member of the Court of DIAC.

Chambers Global 2023 puts Rupert in its Band 1 for Dispute Resolution: The English Bar in the United Arab

Emirates, noting in particular that ‘*London-based barrister Rupert Reed KC acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains very active as arbitrator in various arbitration centres...*’.

Chambers Global 2021 included Rupert in its ‘Spotlight Table’ of members of the UK Bar active in dispute resolution in the UAE, noting that he “*acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains very active as arbitrator in DIAC and DIFC-LCIA arbitration centres*”. Much of his work as an advocate before the DIFC and English Courts is in obtaining interim relief, including freezing and related injunctive relief in support of arbitral proceedings.

Early in his career he assisted in the long-running arbitral claims in *Bankers Trust v City of Moscow*, arising from the Respondent’s failure to repay loans of some 200m Swiss francs.

More recently, he acted in the long-running DIAC arbitration between the Meydan Group and the Dubai branch of WCT Berhad in respect of contractor claims arising from the construction of the Meydan race-course and leisure complex in Nad al Sheba in Dubai, and in proceedings in the DIFC Court in resiting recognition and enforcement of the award in the DIFC. He further acted as lead advocate at the evidentiary hearing of a major DIFC-LCIA arbitration in Dubai of debt and guarantee claims pursued by a Chinese group against a major Saudi conglomerate.

Rupert has a working knowledge of the Civil Codes of the Middle East derived from the Egyptian Civil Code of Professor Al Sanhoury. He has significant experience of working on the underlying texts and in particular the French *Code Civil* and *Al Waseet fi Sharh al Qunoun al Madani al Jadid*, often with the assistance of experts from the UAE and other Arab jurisdictions.

He has advocated on issues of UAE law both in international arbitrations and, following the adoption by the DIFC Courts of the international approach of presenting issues of foreign law, in advancing submissions on UAE law, both in writing and orally, as for example in *WCT Berhad (Dubai Branch) v Meydan Group LLP* [2016] DIFC, ARB 003.

Rupert has also acted in relation to the conduit jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts used by successful claimants to enforce their awards and judgments first in the DIFC and then, pursuant to the reciprocal enforcement mechanisms between the DIFC and Dubai Courts, against property and assets in Dubai, as for example in *Bocimar International NV v Emirates Trading Agency LLC* (31 January 2016) CFI 008/2015 [2016].

More recently, he acted in obtaining a worldwide freezing order in the DIFC Courts in support of an award rendered in an LCIA India arbitration even before his client, the award creditor, had been able to apply for the recognition and enforcement in the DIFC of the award.

He regularly advises lawyers and clients in London as to the relative merits of their enforcement options in a number of jurisdictions in particular in the Gulf and wider Middle East.

Rupert was part of a working group that assisted the Chief Justice of the DIFC Courts in drafting a practice direction, Practice Direction No. 2 of 2015, which provides a model arbitration clause to allow parties to refer to DIFC-LCIA arbitration any issues arising on the enforcement of judgments by the DIFC Courts. This development has been the subject of widespread discussion among both academics and practitioners in the field of international arbitration.

He has been appointed and acted as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and Chairperson in a number of LCIA, DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, and ad hoc arbitrations in hearing financial, commercial and property disputes, often in the Middle East and involving issues of English, DIFC, UAE, Dubai and Saudi law.

Over the course of 2018 to 2021 he has served on the Tribunal in some 10 arbitrations (3 DIFC-LCIA, 4 DIAC, 3 LCIA and one ‘ad hoc’). The value of many of the claims he has arbitrated significantly exceeds USD 100 million.

Recent Cases as an Arbitrator Include:

ICC arbitration – Co-arbitrator of claims by an Asian electronics manufacturer against a distributor (seat Dubai, UAE law)

DIAC arbitration – Co-arbitrator of claims against a bank in respect of the acquisition of a bond (seat DIFC, DIFC law)

LCIA arbitration – Chair in dispute arising out of agreement for chemical distributorship (seat London, Saudi law)

LCIA arbitration – Co-arbitrator in consolidated claims on guarantees under facility agreement (seat London, English law)

DIAC arbitration – Co-arbitrator in dispute arising out of the financing of a shipping vessel (seat DIFC, law not indicated)

DIFC-LCIA arbitration – Co-arbitrator in dispute between shareholders in UAE company (seat Dubai, UAE law).

DIAC arbitrations – Co-arbitrator of cross-claims by developer and purchaser of plots (seat Dubai, UAE law).

DIFC-LCIA arbitration – Co-arbitrator of claim against investor for alleged bad faith (seat DIFC, UAE law).

DIFC-LCIA arbitration – Sole arbitrator of claim for sums under a management agreement (seat DIFC, English law).

LCIA arbitration – Co-arbitrator of claim for alleged unpaid loan principal and interest (seat London, English law).

Ad hoc arbitration – Chair of Tribunal in dispute between employer and contractor (seat Dubai, DIFC law).

LCIA arbitration – Co-arbitrator in partnership dispute (seat London, English law).

DIAC arbitration – Co-arbitrator in dispute between property developer and purchaser (seat Dubai, UAE law).

DIAC arbitration – Co-arbitrator in dispute between developer and contractor (seat Dubai, UAE law).

LCIA arbitration – Sole arbitrator in dispute between investor and investment adviser (seat London, DIFC law).

Recent cases as counsel in arbitration and related proceedings include:

Acting with Eversheds Sutherland for an award creditor in opposing an application in the DIFC Courts for the setting aside of the award rendered in an LCIA arbitration in circumstances where the arbitration agreement had provided for DIFC-LCIA arbitration prior to the abolition of the DIFC-LCIA arbitration Centre in 2021 and the LCIA and DIAC had agreed that the arbitration should continue to be administered by the LCIA: [2024] DIFC ARB 016.

Acting with Charles Russell Speechlys for the trustees of two Guernsey trusts in obtaining litigation funding and then obtaining an injunction in the DIFC Courts, in advance of the commencement of a Dubai-seated DIAC arbitration to prevent the Defendant that owed USD 97 million of deferred consideration to the trustees from paying further dividends to its shareholders: [2024] DIFC ARB 010 (25 June 2024).

Acting with Al Tamimi & Company and Freshfields for a global automobile manufacturer in having dismissed a challenge to the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts and application to have set aside an Order for the recognition and enforcement of a partial award in an LCIA arbitration seated in London on the basis that the granting of anti-suit injunctive relief in the form of a peremptory order already made by the Tribunal did not constitute an award for the purposes of Articles 42 and 43 of the Arbitration Law: [2024] DIFC ENF 027 (15 May 2025).

Acting with Hadeef & Partners in seeking to set aside Part 50 Orders for the examination of alleged officers of a judgment debtor pursuant to an order for the recognition and enforcement of a DIFC-LCIA arbitration award on the

basis that the relevant individuals, past shareholders and directors, did not satisfy the relevant test established by the Court of Appeal in *China State* (below): [2023] DIFC ENF 269 (31 January 2025); acting on the appeal against the Judge's refusal to set aside the relevant Part 50 Orders or to stay those orders.

Acting with NHB Legal on an urgent application by a leading Dubai hotel chain, pending the Claimant's submission to DIAC of a related request for arbitration, for an interim injunction against further breaches of certain commercial terms in the relevant SPA: [2025] DIFC ARB 012 (27 March 2025).

Acting with Eversheds Sutherland for an award creditor in opposing an application in the DIFC Courts for the setting aside of the award rendered in an LCIA arbitration in circumstances where the arbitration agreement had provided for DIFC-LCIA arbitration prior to the abolition of the DIFC-LCIA arbitration Centre in 2021 and the LCIA and DIAC had agreed that the arbitration should continue to be administered by the LCIA: [2024] DIFC ARB 016.

Acting with Primecase and BLK Partners before the DIFC Court of Appeal in successfully upholding the judgment below against the appeal of a leading UAE bank against the Judge's order for the recognition and enforcement of a relevant final award in DIFC-LCIA proceedings seated in the DIFC on the basis of an alleged Dubai public policy of avoiding any inconsistency between relevant DIFC and Dubai judgments: *Nael v. Niamh Bank* [2024] DIFC CA 115 (9 January 2025).

Acting with DAC Beachcroft for a BVI company in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration in Dubai on claims for over USD 100 million in a dispute arising from the termination of a joint venture in the UAE aerospace sector [2021].

Acting with DWF in obtaining an order for the recognition of an assigned foreign ICC arbitration award and worldwide freezing order against the holding company of a major UAE conglomerate on the basis of evidence of its gifting substantial real estate to its shareholders: [2020] DIFC ARB 017 (22 July 2020).

Acting with Kennedys in obtaining an order for the recognition and enforcement of a London-seated award, and worldwide freezing order and notification order made by the DIFC Court against a UAE resident entrepreneur on the basis of his attempts to use an opaque corporate structure to frustrate enforcement of the award and dishonest statements made in the course of foreign enforcement proceedings: [2020] DIFC ARB 014 (17 June 2020).

Acting with Brown Rudnick for a major Saudi bank against a European bank on claims for breach of an agreement under which certain technical and advisory services were provided to the Saudi bank [2020].

Acting with Dentons in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration in defending claims by a Chinese supply chain management group against a Saudi entity on an alleged parent-company guarantee of the liabilities of a European fashion chain [2018].

Acting with Clyde & Co for a developer in seeking the stay of DIFC Court proceedings brought in breach of a provision for Singaporean arbitration and an anti-suit injunction of the Singaporean High Court: *Grand Valley General Trading LLC v. GGICO Sunteck Ltd & Anor* [2018] DIFC CFI 044.

Acting with Freshfields in the DIFC Court in successfully resisting an anti-suit injunction against US proceedings in support of a DIFC-LCIA arbitration and against Saudi arbitral proceedings: *Federal Express International Inc v. Abdul Latif Jameel Transportation Co Ltd* [2018] DIFC CFI 038 (15 July 2018).

Acting with Dentons on a LMAA arbitration in dealing with issues as to the functionality and performance of a crane and vessel chartered on BIMCO terms [2018].

Advising a major UK clothing retailer on arbitral claims advanced by franchisees in various East European and Middle Eastern jurisdictions in respect of the pricing of the retailer's goods on sale to the franchisees [2016].

Acting for a Belgian ship owner in obtaining the enforcement in the Commercial Court and then the DIFC Court of LMAA arbitral awards for over USD \$114 million; *Bocimar International NV v Emirates Trading Agency LLC*, Claims

No. 2014 Folio 826 and 827 (London); [2015] DIFC CFI 008 (26 January 2016); and obtaining a Worldwide Freezing Order and related injunctions to be enforced in Dubai: [2015] DIFC CFI 008 (31 January 2016).

Acting for the Meydan Group in resisting the enforcement in the DIFC Court of a DIAC arbitral award for AED 1.1 billion in arguing that the Court should not accept jurisdiction in view of significant defects in the award on issues of UAE law going to the underlying jurisdiction of the tribunal: *WCT Berhad (Dubai Branch) v Meydan Group LLP* [2015] DIFC ARB 003 [2016].

Acting with King & Wood Mallesons in a DIAC arbitration for a major infrastructure developer in defending contractor claims for AED 1.1 billion by a former member of a joint venture in circumstances where the joint venture and its claims were severed by agreement and order of the tribunal [2015].

Acting with Clyde & Co in the DIFC Courts in obtaining interim relief in support of a DIFC-LCIA arbitral claim by a funder against its client to recover its investment and return [2014].

Advising a major litigation funder on claims for USD 118m arising from breaches of a chain of crude oil processing agreements being pursued in an arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules in the Cairo Regional Centre for ICA [2014].

Acting with CMS Cameron McKenna in obtaining declarations in a LCIA domestic arbitration as to the construction of contracts for the effective sale and lease-back of a national property portfolio [2013].

Acting in an ICC arbitration against French and Saudi employer entities on claims for SAR 135m arising from the termination of a contract for the construction of four gas treatment centres in Saudi Arabia [2013].

Advising on a DIFC-LCIA arbitration for the main contractor in the construction of an Abu Dhabi hospital in defending claims for US\$10m by a sub-contractor and on related DIFC Court proceedings for a freezing injunction in support of those arbitral claims [2012].

Acting with Ince & Co for a substantial British P&I Club in pursuing LMAA arbitral proceedings for contributions from former ship-owning members of the club [2011].

Civil Fraud

Rupert has a substantial civil fraud practice in London and Dubai arising in particular out of (i) property-related fraud both in London and Dubai and (ii) efforts to freeze and recover the proceeds of fraud that have been transferred to or flowed through bank accounts in both Dubai and the wider UAE.

He has been recognised as a leading practitioner in the field of Civil Fraud in ‘Who’s Who Legal: the UK Bar’ since 2020. Who’s Who Legal 2022, 2023 and 2024 have recommended him as a ‘National Leader’ in the ‘UK Bar – Civil Fraud – Silks’ category.

He is described in Legal 500 2021 as: *“A go to QC for international complex fraud and dispute resolution – he brings long standing experience and a diligent approach to his cases, giving considered and practical advice to achieve the very best outcome for his clients”*.

In recommending his work in Real Estate Litigation, Chambers UK Bar 2022 noted client comment that: *“Rupert is super-bright and incisive”* and *“He is particularly good at cases with a property fraud crossover”*.

He has obtained summary judgment in a substantial fraud case in a landmark judgment in the Chancery Division in the High Court in London, as well as a complex trade finance fraud case in the DIFC Court.

He is instructed in fraud matters by the London and/or Dubai offices of Dentons, Al Tamimi, Herbert Smith Freehills, Norton Rose Fulbright, Clyde & Co, DWF and KWF among others. He has also been used in a number of asset recovery cases by funders including Burford Capital and Deminor.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with Dentons on the trial of complex trade finance fraud claims for USD 30 million relating to global shipments of oil that were to have originated from Iran on the basis of the implied representation of the absconding borrower and its owner that it intended that the relevant finance would be repaid: *SBM v. Renish Petrochem FZE & Mehta* [2018] DIFC CFI 054 (2 August 2018) (27 September 2020) (19 November 2020) (28 February 2020) (31 May 2021) (21 December (2021)); [2022] DIFC CA 011. The Claimant succeeded in obtaining an award of USD 21 million in damages, and seeks further damages by cross-appeal in respect of the last of the relevant advances of finance.

Acting with DWF in obtaining an order for the recognition of a foreign arbitration award and worldwide freezing order against the holding company of a major UAE conglomerate on the basis of evidence of its concealed dissipation of assets to its shareholders: [2020] DIFC ARB 017 (22 July 2020).

Acting with Kennedys in obtaining an order for the recognition of a London arbitration award, a worldwide freezing order and notification order in the DIFC Court against a UAE resident entrepreneur on the basis of circumstances including his dishonest statements to foreign courts: [2020] DIFC ARB 014 (17 June 2020).

Acting with Clyde & Co for a major Dutch bank in obtaining the first worldwide freezing order against various entities in the troubled NMC Group and a guarantor in circumstances where the Defendants sought to allege fraud by senior management and forgery of the guarantor's signature: *Credit Europe Bank (Dubai) Ltd v. NMC Trading LLC & Ors* [2020] DIFC CFI 031 (14 April 2020); see [Financial Times article](#) on case.

Acting with Sherrards in obtaining summary judgment on claims in the Chancery Division for £7 million by Russian and Serbian investors in a £70 million development, the North Kensington Gate: *Aurora Developments Ltd & Ors v. Delta Holdings Ltd & Ors* [2018] EWHC 1047 (Ch); [2018] EWHC 1356 (Ch).

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright in successfully defending claims made against a leading Canadian internet gaming entrepreneur for USD 90 million arising out of his alleged involvement in the filing of forged equity investment letters relating to his bid to take over Amaya Inc: *KBC Aldini Capital Ltd v. (1) David Baazov (2) Canaccord Genuity Corp* [2017] DIFC CFI 002 (14 October 2018) (12 February 2020).

Acting with Dentons for the State Bank of Mauritius in obtaining a worldwide freezing order and related disclosure order to freeze sum believed to have been part of USD 30 million lost by the bank pursuant to a sophisticated trade finance fraud: *SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd v. (1) Renish Petrochem FZE (2) Hiteshkumar Mehta (3) Prime Energy FZE* [2018] DIFC CFI 054 (27 September 2020) (21 October 2020); JJC, Cassation No. 5/2018.

Acting with Al Tamimi in defending claims made by a Sri Lankan conglomerate against the DIFC subsidiary of an Indian financial advisory group in respect of its alleged involvement in a fraudulent cyberattack against the joint venture company incorporated in Sierra Leone: *(1) Brown & Company plc (2) B Commodities ME (3) Grey Reach Investment Ltd v. Faber Capital (DIFC) Ltd* [2019] DIFC CFI 042 (6 October 2020) (28 October 2020) (15 December 2022).

Acting with Al Tamimi for First Abu Dhabi Bank, the largest bank in the UAE and formerly the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, in opposing the making of a proprietary injunction to freeze accounts in which were held certain bonds said to have been transferred by a Dutch property fund pursuant to fraudulent representations that certain funds had been paid: *Larmag Holdings BV v. (1) First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC (2) FAB Securities LLC* [2019] DIFC CA 010 (23

March 2020); [2019] DIFC CFI 030 (19 July 2019) (25 September 2019) (4 August 2019).

Acting with King & Wood Mallesons for a Chinese bank on its application to freeze assets suspected of having been obtained by sending fraudulent payment instructions purporting to come from a director of the bank: *CMOC Sales & Marketing Ltd v. Persons Unknown* [2017] DIFC CFI 052 (15 December 2017).

Acting with KBH Kaanuun for the liquidators of various DIFC and US companies on claims against funds held by a Swiss in seeking to have set aside pledges made fraudulently by relevant directors: (1) *Orion Holdings Overseas Ltd*

(2) *Orion Global Financial Services LLC* (3) *Orion Capital Ltd v. (1) Mohammed Abdel Khaleq Mohammad* (2) *Nidal Abdel Khaleq Mohammad* (3) *Privatbank Ihag Zurich AG* [2015] DIFC CFI 033 (8 February 2018).

Acting with DWF for an angel investor in successfully resisting a freezing injunction and summary judgment of claims of his vicarious liability for the alleged fraud of another shareholder in the sale of a sports advertising company to US investors: (1) *BHSC Global LLC* and (2) *BHSC Global Holdings LLC v. (1) Griffith* (2) *McKechnie* [2017] EWHC 2035.

Acting with Field Fisher for the victim of an identity fraud in suing the fraudster's representatives for breach of their express and implied warranties of authority and for breach of trust in transferring the purchase monies to the bank account of the fraudster: *Rees v Walter Saunders* [2016].

Acting with Field Fisher for the purchasers of a development property in London Fields in obtaining an order freezing the vendor's assets up to £2 million to secure their claims against the seller for fraudulent misrepresentations after evidence had emerged of assets being transferred to an entity in Cyprus: *Sledkova & Ors v Sidworth Street Ltd* [2016].

Banking and Financial Services

Rupert is widely recognized as a London silk who specializes in Banking work in the Middle East and in London involving clients from the Middle East.

Legal 500 identifies Rupert as a Leading Silk in Banking and Finance (Tier 3): '*Rupert Reed KC is noted for his cross-border banking practice in the Middle East and London, with significant experience of cases involving Islamic finance.*

That directory further notes client comment on his Banking practice: '*Rupert is, for good reason, widely renowned as one of the foremost advocates of the Middle East, not only because of his Arabic-speaking skills but also because of his profound expertise in common and civil law principle and practice and amiable user-friendly approach. Rupert has an unparalleled knowledge of Middle East civil law and the quirks of DIFC common law and is an incredibly hard-working, astute and technically superb lawyer.*'

He was earlier identified in Legal 500 2023 as a Leading Silk in Banking: "*Rupert is extremely hard-working, conscientious and effective lawyer, as well as a highly impressive advocate. Rupert combines a deep working knowledge of complex legal and technical law (in what is sometimes a very dense area) with an amiable user-friendly approach which makes him a pleasure to work with and very persuasive on his feet.*"

Legal 500 2022 reported the following client comment; "*A class act. Very knowledgeable on DIFC law and practice. Excellent cultural awareness and knowledge of local law (with some knowledge of Arabic). Charm personified, a courteous and persuasive advocate*".

He was earlier recognized in Legal 500 2021 as a leading silk in Banking and Financial Services: “*Our go-to silk for DIFC Court matters – he is pre-eminent in the UAE and DIFC*”. It notes that he “*is often silk for Middle East financial disputes, such as (1) First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC (2) FAB Securities LLC v. Larmag Holdings BV before the DIFC Court and Court of Appeal*”.

Chambers Global 2021 included him in its ‘Spotlight Table’ of UK barristers active in dispute resolution in the UAE and notes that his varied client base in the region includes “*well-known financial institutions*”.

Much of his work arises out of attempts to freeze and recover funds as they pass through the banking system of the UAE and other Gulf states. The cases often require a familiarity with the banking law and regulatory regime in the UAE and wider GCC. They may also require some knowledge of the principles of Islamic finance.

With the advantage of reading Arabic, Rupert is able to navigate to the relevant legal rules or principles and to understand the sensitivities, for example as to jurisdiction and confidentiality, that apply in relevant jurisdictions.

He further has significant experience of the disputes that arise on the third party administration agreements under which many financial institutions in the Middle East are managed.

Recent Cases Include:

Acting with Primecase and BLK Partners before the DIFC Court of Appeal in successfully upholding the judgment below against the appeal of a leading UAE bank, which had failed to pay the Claimant some AED 160 million on various guarantees provided under substantial construction contracts. The bank appealed the Judge’s order for the recognition and enforcement of a relevant arbitral award on the basis of an alleged public policy of avoiding any inconsistency between relevant DIFC and Dubai judgments: *Nael v. Niamh Bank* [2024] DIFC CA 115 (9 January 2025).

Acting with Dentons for the State Bank of Mauritius in recovering USD 22 million on the trial of claims of fraud relating to trade finance provided by the bank to a significant oil-trading company in the UAE in financing its sale of substantial Iranian oil cargos: *SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd v. (1) Renish Petrochem FZE (2) Mehta* [2018] DIFC CFI 054 (29 December 2021); further acting on appeal and cross-appeal in seeking further USD 9 million in damages in respect of earlier advance by SBM: [2022] DIFC CA 011.

Acting with Clyde & Co for a major Dutch bank in obtaining a worldwide freezing order against various entities in the troubled NMC Group and their personal guarantor, notwithstanding the absence of any assets in the DIFC: *Credit Europe Bank (Dubai) Ltd v. (1) NMC Trading LLC (2) NMC Healthcare LLC (3) Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty* [2020] DIFC CFI 031 (14 April 2020); see [Financial Times article on the case](#).

Acting with London and Dubai disputes teams from Herbert Smith Freehills LLP on the appeal of a global oil trader against the decision of Justice Sir Richard Field in declining to grant a worldwide freezing order to freeze assets of up to USD 755 million pursuant to the failure of BankMed during the Lebanese banking crisis to repay a deposit which secured a trading facility that BankMed had terminated: *IMMS Ltd v. BankMed SAL* [2019] DIFC CFI 079; [2019] DIFC CA 013 (16 December 2019).

Acting with Al Tamimi & Co for First Abu Dhabi Bank in resisting a freezing order and disclosure order relating to bonds held in an account in Abu Dhabi in denying the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts said to arise from the fact of the bank’s having been passporting into the DIFC as a financial institution authorized by the UAE Central Bank: *(1) First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC (2) FAB Securities LLC v. Larmag Holdings BV* [2019] DIFC CFI 030; [2019] DIFC CA 010 (16 December 2020).

Acting with Al Tamimi & Co for an Indian financial advisory firm in defending claims by a Sri Lankan conglomerate under an investment management agreement including allegations of breaches of the rules of the DIFC financial regulator, the Dubai Financial Services Authority: *(1) Brown & Company plc (2) B Commodities ME (3) Grey Reach*

Investment Ltd v. Faber Capital (DIFC) Ltd [2019] DIFC CFI 042 (6 October 2020) (28 October 2020) (15 December 2022).

Acting with Dentons for the State Bank of Mauritius in obtaining a worldwide freezing order and pursuing claims to funds advanced under a trade finance fraud to an account in the Dubai branch of the National Bank of Kuwait in a landmark decision in which the DIFC Court made a disclosure order notwithstanding UAE law of banking confidentiality: *SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd v. (1) Renish Petrochem FZE (2) Hiteshkumar Chinubha Mehta (3) Prime Energy FZE* [2018] DIFC CFI 054 (27 September 2020) (21 October 2020); Dubai JJC, Cassation No. 5/2018.

Acting with Norton Rose Fulbright for a Canadian internet gaming entrepreneur in defending claims including that he and the Canadian investment bank had acted negligently and in breach of relevant US and Canadian financial regulatory law in filing with the SEC a forged equity commitment letter purportedly from a firm licensed in the DIFC: *KBC Aldini Capital Ltd v. (1) David Baazov (2) Canaccord Genuity Corp* [2017] DIFC CFI.

Acting with KBH Kaanuun for the liquidators of DIFC-regulated entities in establishing the jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts to determine the validity of pledges of assets held in the accounts of a Swiss bank that were made in breach of fiduciary duty: *(1) Orion Holdings Overseas Ltd (2) Orion Global Financial Services LLC (3) Orion Capital Ltd v. (1) Mohammed Abdel Khaleq Mohammad (2) Nidal Abdel Khaleq Mohammad (3) Privatbank Ihag Zurich AG* [2015] DIFC CFI 033 (8 February 2018).

Acting with Brown Rudnick for a major Saudi bank against a European bank on arbitral claims for breach of a third party services agreement under which the Saudi bank was managed by the European bank.

Acting with Linklaters for the Lehman Administrators on claims for breach of warranty arising from Lehman's purchase shortly before the global financial crisis of part of the mortgage book of Northern Rock: *Lehman Commercial Mortgage Conduit Ltd v. Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc* [2014].

Acting with Eversheds for entities related to Qatar National Bank in obtaining by summary judgment in the Commercial Court the repayment of sums advanced under a credit facility for commercial property development in Luxembourg: *Aquarelle Etoile II v. Etoile Développement 1 SA*.

Acting with Clyde & Co on claims arising out of the involvement of Barclays in misstatements made as part of complex trade finance fraud in Dubai: *Corinth Pipeworks SA v. Barclays Bank plc* [2010] DIFC CFI 024.

Acting in Commercial Court in resisting an application for summary judgment by Dubai Islamic Bank on a security agreement in relying on an argument that Dubai Islamic Bank had colluded with relevant authorities in preventing the debtor from repaying sums owed in order that it could exercise its security rights over a valuable property development: *Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC v. PSI Energy Holding Co BSC* [2011] EWHC 2718 (Comm).

Acting with DAC in obtaining summary judgment on an Islamic agency agreement in the face of arguments that the agreement was invalid as having been *ultra vires* the Defendant insofar as Shari'a non-compliant: *BLOM Development Bank SAL v. The Investment Dar Co* [2009] EWHC 3545 (Ch).

Company

Partnership and LLP

Insolvency

Insurance and Reinsurance

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Chancery

International and Offshore

UAE & DIFC Litigation

Recommendations

Banking and Finance (*Legal 500 UK Bar 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026*) (Band 3)

Civil Fraud (*Who's Who Legal / Lexology Index: UK Bar 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025*)

Commercial Litigation (*Legal 500 UK Bar 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026*)

Commercial Dispute Resolution (*Chambers UK Bar and Chambers Global 2022, 2023 and 2024*) Commercial: Middle East: The English Bar (*Legal 500 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026*) (Band 1)

Chancery: Commercial (*Chambers UK Bar 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024*) (Band 2) and *Chambers Global 2022 and 2023*)

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (*Chambers Global 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023*) (Band 2)

Dispute Resolution: The English Bar – United Arab Emirates (*Chambers Global 2021, 2022 and 2023*) (Band 1)

Dispute Resolution: United Arab Emirates: Expertise Based Abroad (*Chambers Global 2020*)

Property Litigation (*Legal 500 UK Bar 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026*)

Real Estate (*Who's Who Legal/ Lexology Index*): UK Bar 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025)

Real Estate: 'Global Leader' (*Who's Who Legal: Global Guide 2021, 2022 and 2023*)

Real Estate Litigation (*Chambers UK Bar 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024*) (Band 3)

Property Barrister of the Year (*Finance Monthly Global Awards 2017 and 2018*)

Quotes

Rupert is listed in Legal 500 2026 in Tier 1 of UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East: *'One of his strongest qualities lies in producing clear, strategic advice and presenting arguments in a calm but persuasive way. In arbitration, he is particularly effective at simplifying technical points for the tribunal, and in court proceedings his written advocacy is consistently of a high standard. His written work is always outstanding – succinct, well-structured, and tailored to the client's needs.'* He was short-listed for the Legal 500 Award of Commercial Silk of the Year in the Middle East in 2026.

Rupert appears in Chambers UK Bar in Band 2 for Chancery Commercial. Client comment includes that *"Rupert is very smooth and very good at persuading judges. He is really smart and charming."* *"Rupert gets into the weeds of a case. He is brilliant and good on his feet with the judges."*

Rupert is listed in Chambers UK Bar in Band 4 for Commercial Dispute Resolution. Clients describe his strengths in the following terms: *"Rupert has a deep knowledge of commercial disputes, particularly those relating to the Middle East. He has got real experience and gravitas, but wears it lightly."* *"He works extremely well with the client and solicitor team."* *"Rupert Reed is really the father figure of the DIFC bar. He is an excellent and smooth advocate."*

Chambers UK Bar 2026 also lists Rupert in Band 3 for his Real Estate Litigation practice and notes in its editorial that *"Rupert is well known for his extensive property practice. He regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle East clients, concerning property in London"*.

It further notes client comment as to his strengths: *"Rupert oozes charm and wins over judges. He is very engaging, effective, tenacious and knows his stuff."* *"Rupert is excellent at what he does. He has a wealth of regional knowledge and is particular excellent on matters of DIFC Law."* *"He is very good – totally across the detail and a pretty commanding advocate."*

Rupert is listed in Legal 500 2026 in Tier 3 of the London Bar for Banking and Finance: *'Rupert is an exceptionally persuasive and incisive advocate with a commanding presence in both a court room and an arbitral setting. His advocacy is marked by surgical precision, strategic foresight, and an ability to distill complex financial and legal concepts into compelling arguments that resonate with tribunals and judges alike.'*

Legal 500 further noted client comment with respect to his Banking and Finance practice that Rupert Reed KC is *'a persuasive advocate on his feet, and a trusted voice by the courts on the most complex of matters'*.

He is also listed in Legal 500 2026 for Commercial Litigation in London: *'Rupert's advocacy skills are excellent.'*

He is also listed in Legal 500 2026 as a Leading Silk in London for Property Litigation: *'a tremendous advocate who commands the courtroom when he is in action.'*

Client comments with regard to Rupert's Property litigation practice further included that *'Rupert is extremely bright, all over the detail of a case, but also fantastic on his feet. His ability to spin a persuasive narrative out of the available evidence is quite brilliant.'*

Rupert is listed in Chambers UK Bar for Commercial Chancery (Band 2), Commercial Dispute Resolution (Band 4).

It reports the following market comment:

'Rupert is an extremely polished and persuasive advocate, who is measured and effective. He is an extremely charming personality, who knows the law and procedure really well'; "Rupert is very smooth. He has an

encyclopaedic knowledge of cases and always has something interesting to say”; “Rupert is a cerebral barrister, who is incredibly impressive.” (Chancery Commercial)

“All over the details and very knowledgeable, he’s well regarded by judges”; “He is a very effective cross-examiner”; “If you have a difficult case that raises novel issues or difficult questions, he is the barrister for you.” (Commercial Litigation)

Chambers UK Bar 2025 notes comment on Rupert’s particular expertise and experience in DIFC Court litigation: *“Rupert is an expert in DIFC litigation. He understands procedures and understands the law, and how it interplays with local law in the Middle East”; “Rupert is an expert on DIFC laws and has a really good knowledge of UAE customs and laws”;*

Rupert is also listed in Chambers UK Bar 2025 for his Real Estate Litigation practice: *“Rupert is well known for his extensive property practice. He regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle East clients, concerning property in London’.*

Chambers UK Bar 2025 notes the following client comment in that field:

“Rupert is adept at handling fiendishly complex cases and is unfailingly courteous. He is very smart and absolutely on top of the law and the facts”; “Rupert is meticulous in cross-examination and has a real courtroom presence. His advice is always commercially focused and has the right balance of pragmatism and commerciality”.

Legal 500 2025 lists Rupert in Tier 1 for Commercial Silks working in the Middle East: *‘An excellent assured advocate with superb judgment. He is client friendly and works extremely well with the solicitor team.’ ‘Rupert is extremely knowledgeable on issues that concern the conflict of jurisdiction between the DIFC Courts and other courts of the UAE. Rupert is extremely user friendly and provides prompt turnaround.’*

He is also listed in Legal 500 2015 in Commercial Litigation (Tier 4): *‘Rupert is an extremely measured and forensic advocate who commands utter respect from judges as well as his opponents. A powerhouse in the field and the Bar’.*

Legal 500 2025 also lists Rupert in Banking and Finance (Tier 3): *‘Rupert is highly intelligent, hard working and a pleasure to work with. Despite his seniority and experience he still gets involved with the detail of a case, getting his hands dirty in the documents and the facts. He also has a very fine legal mind.’*

Legal 500 2025 also rates Rupert for his work in Property Litigation (Tier 4): *‘He has real intellectual and strategic acuity and knows exactly how to pitch a case, whether to a judge, opponent or witness.’*

Chambers UK Bar 2024 listed Rupert in Chancery Commercial (Band 2) and Commercial Dispute Resolution (Band 5). It noted the following client comment as to his strengths: *‘He is very willing to roll his sleeves up and good at distilling complex issues into simple concepts’; ‘Rupert Reed is amazing. He’s super smart, has very high emotional intelligence and is an excellent oral advocate’.*

Chambers UK Bar 2024 also listed Rupert in Real Estate Litigation (Band 3). It further noted client comment that: *‘Rupert is a fantastic operator at the top of his game’.*

Legal 500 2024 ranked Rupert among the leading UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East (Tier 1), and the leading silks in Banking and Finance (Tier 3), Property Litigation (Tier 3) and Commercial Litigation (Tier 4).

It commented that he is *‘noted for his cross-border banking practice in the Middle East and London, with significant experience of cases involving Islamic finance’* and reports the following client comment:

'Rupert is an astute, articulate and above all personable barrister, who combines a profound technical knowledge of commercial legal issues with an advocacy style that is both understated and brilliant.' (Commercial, the Middle East)

'He is a strategic thinker, which clients value. His preparation and legal analysis is meticulous. In court, Rupert is authoritative and commands the confidence of the judge.' (Property Litigation)

'Rupert is, for good reason, widely renowned as one of the foremost advocates in the Middle East, not only because of his Arabic-speaking skills but also because his profound expertise in common and civil law principle and amiable user-friendly approach. Rupert has an unparalleled knowledge of Middle East civil law and the quirks of DIFC common law and is an incredibly hard-working, astute and technically superb lawyer.' (Banking and Finance)

'Rupert is extremely bright, hardworking and a team player. A true specialist in the Middle East, and a ...speaker of Arabic. There are few like him.' (Commercial Litigation)

Chambers Global 2023 lists Rupert in Dispute Resolution: English Bar in the UAE (Band 1); 'Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery – UK (Band 2); and Dispute Resolution : Commercial – UK (Band 5). It notes that Rupert *'acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains active as arbitrator in various arbitration centres. His varied client basis includes major energy companies, hospitality brands and well-known financial institutions'*. It notes client comment as to his strength as in Chambers UK Bar 2023 (below), but adds the following: *'Rupert was impressive, had great attention to detail, and a great knowledge of case law'; 'Rupert is excellent on his feet and makes a real difference to the case'; 'He is very intellectual and highly strategic in his approach'*.

Chambers UK Bar 2023 lists him as a leading practitioner in both Chancery Commercial and Commercial Dispute Resolution, noting the following strengths: *'Extremely considered in his approach and excellent on his feet'; 'Strategic in his thinking and someone with a pleasant manner, he is responsive and has a good eye for presenting complex matters in an appealing way'; 'Rupert is very good with clients. He's a smooth operator but can roll his sleeves up and fight the good fight when needed'*.

Legal 500 2023 placed Rupert in Tier 1 of the UK Commercial silks working in the Middle East: *'Rupert is an astute, articulate and above all personable barrister, who combines a profound technical knowledge of commercial issues with an advocacy style that is both understated and brilliant.'*

Legal 500 2023 rated him in Commercial Litigation, noting as follows: *'Enormously impressive grasp of Middle Eastern politics and business, his ability to manage complex issues and produce detailed submissions has been remarkable. As an Arabic speaker, he is somewhat unique.'*

Legal 500 2023 also identified him as a Leading Silk in Banking and Finance: *'Rupert is an extremely hard-working, conscientious and effective lawyer, as well as a highly impressive advocate. Rupert combines a deep working knowledge of complex and technical law (in what is sometimes a very dense area) with an amiable user-friendly approach which makes him a pleasure to work with and very persuasive on his feet.'*

Legal 500 2023 also ranked him for Property Litigation, adding the following client comment: *'A measured, fiercely intelligent and thorough silk; Rupert is commercially astute and analyses the detail to leave no angle unexplored. He has a very user-friendly manner and builds a great rapport with solicitors and clients alike.'*

In 2022 and 2023, he has been ranked as one of the world's leading property practitioners across both of the English professions in Who's Who Legal's Real Estate Reports of 2022 and 2023.

Chambers Global 2022 put him as one of only two QCs in Band 1 for Dispute Resolution: The English Bar – UAE, noting that *'London-based barrister Rupert Reed QC acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains very active as an arbitrator in the DIAC and DIFC-LCIA arbitration centres. His varied client base includes major energy companies, hospitality brands and well-known financial institutions.'* Sources commented: *"I think Rupert Reed QC is probably one of the top experts on DIFC law. I find him very easy to work with and very*

user-friendly. He really listens and is a great team player.” “Rupert is a phenomenally good DIFC advocate. He understands the brief, he is measured in his delivery and he knows which points to pursue.” “He is very methodical and meticulous, but also so approachable and just a delight to deal with. He is really strategic and pragmatic, he is always thinking of what is best for the client.”

Legal 500 Middle East: The English Bar: Commercial 2022 listed him in Tier 1 of the Leading UK-based Commercial Silks working in the Middle East: *“Serle Court’s Arabic-speaking Rupert Reed QC is held in high esteem in the DIFC.”* Sources commented: *“Rupert is extremely calm under pressure, personable and has strong analytical and drafting skills. His oral advocacy skills are also strong and he is able to think on his feet and he has in-depth knowledge of English and DIFC law and DIFC Court procedural issues.*

Legal 500 2022 recommended Rupert for Commercial Litigation, noting that he *“is a commercially focused and astute barrister with a profound understanding of the Middle East, particularly the DIFC”*.

Legal 500 2022 further identified him as a leading silk in Banking and Finance: *“A class act. Very knowledgeable on DIFC law and practice. Excellent cultural awareness and knowledge of local law (with some knowledge of Arabic). Charm personified, a courteous and persuasive advocate”*. It notes that Serle Court *“is especially strong on offshore related banking disputes and has also built up a strong reputation for Middle Eastern banking and finance claims before the DIFC, with Rupert Reed QC especially experienced on this front”*.

Legal 500 2022 noted of his Property Litigation practice that he *“has a diverse practice with particular emphasis on commercial, financial and joint venture disputes, and led the representation of Al Jawhara bint Ibrahim, a widow of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in resisting claims to her property ...by Asturion, a Liechtenstein entity”*.

Chambers UK Bar and Chambers Global 2022 list him in Band 3 of the silks recommended in Chancery Commercial, sharing the following client comments: *“Someone who is really carving out a practice in Middle East disputes, he spends a lot of time in the DIFC and has a real reputation for doing the commercial chancery side of those disputes. He is very user-friendly and very slick in his presentation of cases.”*

Chambers UK Bar 2022 also lists him for Commercial Dispute Resolution, adding user comment on his strengths: *“One of the most pre-eminent barristers appearing before the DIFC. His experience in that regard is almost unmatched, and he always garners respect from the bench”*.

Chambers UK Bar 2022 also lists him for Real Estate Litigation, noting that *“well known for his extensive property practice, he regularly undertakes disputes concerning the management and development of commercial properties. He is particularly known for his work on financial and joint venture disputes relating to commercial property for clients in the retail and leisure sectors. He undertakes work for wealthy Middle Eastern clients concerning property in London”*. It notes client comments that *“Rupert is super-bright and incisive”* and *“he is particularly good at cases with a property fraud crossover”*.

Legal 500 2021 recommended Rupert as a leading silk both in Commercial Litigation and in Banking and Finance. It shared the following comments:

“A go to QC for international complex fraud and dispute resolution – he brings long-standing experience and a diligent approach to his cases, giving considered and practical advice to achieve the very best outcome for his clients”.

“Our go to silk for DIFC Court matters – he is pre-eminent in the UAE and DIFC”. Legal 500 2021 further notes that he *“is often silk for Middle East financial disputes, such as (1) First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC (2) FAB Securities LLC v. Larmag Holdings BV before the DIFC Court and Court of Appeal”*

Legal 500 2021 also ranked him among the leading silks in Property Litigation: *“Super-bright and always able to focus in on the key points of the case in question”*.

Chambers Global 2021 includes him in its “Spotlight Table” of three UK silks known for their work in dispute resolution in the UAE: *“London-based barrister Rupert Reed QC acts on a variety of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and remains very active as arbitrator in the DIAC and DIFC-LCIA arbitration centres. His varied client base includes major energy companies, hospitality brands and well-known financial institutions. Sources comment: “He is highly regarded for DIFC Court litigation and knowledgeable about the legal systems of the Middle East.”*

Chambers Global and UK Bar 2021 put him in Band 3 of silks recommended for Chancery Commercial Litigation: *“He has a brilliant bedside manner with clients and is very sympathetic and patient. He’s a really good advocate and his written work is excellent. A class act.” “He is a mine of information and is technically and intellectually strong.”*

Chambers UK Bar 2021 further noted of his practice in Real Estate Litigation: *“Super bright and able to focus on the key points in the case in question.” “He is very easy to work with, his advice is always very prompt and he has excellent organizational skills and is a very strong advocate in court.” “His written work is excellent. He is very diligent and thinks quickly on his feet.”*

Chambers Global and UK Bar 2020 put him in Band 3 of silks recommended for Chancery Commercial Litigation. He is identified as: *“A noted leader in both commercial and pure chancery matters. His highly respected practice is focused on commercial agreements. He is a particularly fine choice of counsel for Middle Eastern work”. “ He’s a good guy who has a terrific grasp on tactics. He remains a good team-player and collaborates well with his juniors and the solicitor’s team.”*

Chambers Global 2020 listed him as one of six practitioners in Dispute Resolution, United Arab Emirates (Expertise Based Abroad): *“Based in London, respected barrister Rupert Reed QC is noted as very active in the region, and is commended not least for his knowledge of Arabic. He advocates in a broad range of commercial disputes in the DIFC Courts and also in arbitration, representing clients from sectors such as banking and real estate.”*

Chambers UK Bar 2020 further ranked him as a leading barrister in Real Estate Litigation and notes client comments: *“He is so user-friendly and is exceedingly proactive in driving cases forward.” “He has an easy-going light touch and gets the balance just right in Court.”*

The Legal 500 2020 identified him as being a leading silk in Property Litigation: *“Oozes experience, very calm under extreme pressure with deadly accuracy in the court room.”*

Publications

‘DIFC Courts Practice’, 1st Edition, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020 (with Tom Montagu-Smith QC)

‘DIFC Courts Practice’, 2nd Edition, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024 (with Tom Montagu-Smith QC)

‘Reciprocal judgment enforcement between the UK and the UAE: legal and institutional developments’, Lexis Middle East E-journal, 9 October 2025 (with Hanya Jones)

‘Commercial Court clarifies issues of litigation and without prejudice privilege’ LexisNexis case note on *Single Buoy Moorings v. Aspen Insurance UK Ltd* [2018] EWHC 1763 (Comm); [2018] BLR 616, 13 July 2018

‘Permission to serve out, good arguable case within gateways’ LexisNexis case note on *Bazhanov v. Fosman* [2017] EWHC 3404 (Comm), 6 February 2018

'Sukuk enforceable even if not Shari'a complaint' LexisNexis case note on *Dana Gas PJSC V. Dana Gas Sukuk Ltd*

[2017] EWHC 2928 (Comm), 22 November 2017

'DIFC court jurisdiction - clarifying an 'opt-in' LexisNexis case note on *Sunteck Lifestyles v. (1) Al Tamimi & Co (2)*

Grand Valley General Trading [2017] DIFC CFI 048

'Islamic finance – an attempt to mitigate Shari'a compliance risk' [2017] Journal of International Banking and Finance Law 553

'Under pressure? New business tenancies' (2017) New Law Journal 29 Sep 2017, p. 11

'The Invisible Export' – a study of competition between the international commercial courts of London and Dubai (2017) 161/24 Solicitors Journal 28

'Rules of the DIFC Courts' Wilberforce Chambers, 1st-4th editions, 2010-2016

'The application of Islamic finance principles under English and DIFC law' (2014) 29 Journal of International Banking and Finance Law 573

'Bad business acquisitions: commercial and professional liability claims' (with Tom Roscoe), Beyond Negligence,

Wilberforce Chambers, 2012

'Company directors: collective or functional responsibility' (2006) 27 Company Lawyer 17

'The Meaning of the Working Classes' (with Sam Millar) (2003) 114 Property Law Journal 14 **'Derivative Claims'** (2000) 21 Company Lawyer 15

In the Press

'Zoom cannot replace the lifeblood of our courts', The Times, 17 December 2020

'Covid-19 fallout: Businesses will soon be testing UAE's legal boundaries', Gulf News, 24 July 2020, [Gregor Hogan](#), Keith Hutchison and Nick Braganza.

'The Tale of Two Cities, Revisited' CDR Magazine, Comments with [Prof. Jonathan Harris KC](#), 21 February 2018

Education & Qualifications

BA Hons (First Class with Distinction) History and Modern Languages (French), Oxford

MA Hons (Double First) Law, Cambridge

LLM Harvard

Scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, and Downing College, Cambridge

Kennedy Scholar at Harvard Law School

Appointments

1996: Called to the Bar of England and Wales

1999: Called (ad hoc) to the Bar of the Cayman Islands

2000-2005: Attorney General's C Panel of Treasury Counsel

2009: Registered as Advocate before the DIFC Courts 2014: Queen's Counsel

2020: Member, DIAC Rules Task Force

2020: Member, DIFC Court's Arbitration Working Group

2023: Member, DIAC Arbitration Court

2024: Chair, Jurisdiction Sub-Committee of the DIAC Arbitration Court

2025: Founder and Co-Chair, BarMENA

Memberships

Chancery Bar Association

Commercial Bar Association
