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Ryan Tang

Year of Call: 2022 (Solicitor 2021)

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Practice Overview

Ryan joined Chambers in October 2023 following the successful completion of pupillage, during which he sat with Dan McCourt Fritz KC, Matthew Morrison, Sophie Holcombe, Stephanie Wickenden and Jonathan McDonagh. He is developing a broad commercial chancery practice across Chambers' core practice areas, as well as in intellectual property and charity law, with a particular focus on company and insolvency, commercial litigation, intellectual property and offshore disputes.

Before joining Chambers, Ryan was an associate in Slaughter and May's competition team after completing his training contract at the firm. Ryan therefore has significant experience of large-scale commercial disputes at all stages of the litigation process.

Areas of Expertise

Company

Khan v Mahal and Others: Ryan was instructed as sole counsel, acting for the First Defendant, in an unfair prejudice petition with a stated value of over £1 million in the High Court, and successfully varied a freezing injunction obtained against his client prior to his instruction.

Del Bosque Limited v Shafie and Others (ongoing): Ryan acts as sole counsel for the Second to Fourth Defendants in High Court proceedings involving breach of fiduciary duties and unlawful means conspiracy.

C. Christo & Co Limited v Christoforou [2023] EWHC 1094 (KB): Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Andrew Gurr (acting for the defendants) in a strike-out application against a claim for misuse of confidential information.

Assisted Sophie Holcombe in advising on the disposal of unidentified funds held on trust by a company for untraceable customers.

As a solicitor, Ryan was part of a team that advised a leading London insurer on the transfer of its mature savings business under Part VII of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, in one of the largest Part VII transfers undertaken to date.

Commercial Litigation

Município de Mariana and Others v BHP Group Plc and BHP Group Ltd (ongoing): Acting for 700,000 Brazilian claimants (including municipalities, individuals, businesses, religious institutions, indigenous peoples and utilities) in the largest group action litigation in English legal history following the collapse of the Fundão dam in 2015, which remains one of the worst environmental disaster in Brazilian history (instructed by Pogust Goodhead).

Commission Recovery Limited v Marks & Clerk LLP: Acted for the Defendants (led by John Machell KC) in a group litigation claim against a firm of intellectual property attorneys in a claim involving breach of fiduciary duty and secret commissions (instructed by Clifford Chance and Cooke, Young & Keidan).

Gilbert v Broadoak Private Finance Ltd (ongoing): Ryan continues to act for the Claimants (led by Max Marenbon) in a £3.3 million debt claim. As sole counsel, he successfully appeared in a High Court enforcement hearing raising a novel point of law as to whether a final charging order can be obtained over a registered charge in land (instructed by Keidan Harrison).

Bayleaf Facilities Management v Waterstones Booksellers (2023): Assisted Max Marenbon (acting for the Claimant) on proceedings brought by a supplier against a national chain of bookstores for recovery of unpaid fees.

As a solicitor, Ryan advised on the proposed acquisition of a software company by one of the world's largest social media platforms with competition proceedings in multiple jurisdictions, including the USA, UK, EU and Germany.

Intellectual Property

Ryan is developing a broad practice in all aspects of “soft” IP, including trade marks, passing off, copyright, design right and confidential information. Such cases often originate in a commercial or chancery context, but involve an intellectual property element. Since commencing tenancy, Ryan has been instructed as sole counsel in proceedings in the IPEC and UK IPO: Highlights of recent work include:

Easygroup v Easy Live (Services) [2024] EWHC 2282 (Ch): Assisting Michael Edenborough KC and Stephanie Wickenden in a claim for trade mark infringement brought by easyGroup against an online auction site, where permission to appeal has recently been granted.

Acting for Aldi in a claim for registered design infringement brought by Jellycat involving soft toys, which has been extensively reported in the mainstream press.

EasyGroup Limited v Nuclei Limited and Others [2022] EWHC 901 (Ch): Assisted Stephanie Wickenden in the ongoing appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim for trade mark infringement brought by easyGroup.

EasyGroup Limited v EasyLive (Services) Limited and Others [2022] EWHC 3327 (Ch): Assisted Michael Edenborough KC and Stephanie Wickenden in successfully resisting an application for permission to appeal in a trade mark and passing off dispute.

Professional Negligence

As sole counsel, Ryan successfully struck out a claim in professional negligence brought against a firm of solicitors (instructed by Clyde & Co).

International and Offshore

Ryan is developing a practice in the Middle East and offshore jurisdictions, focusing on the DIFC and Caribbean. Recent work includes:

Advising on proceedings in the Cayman Islands for breach of trust.

Advising on proceedings in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, involving applications for anti-suit injunctions and contempt of court, in a claim concerning the ownership of shares in a BVI company.

Civil Fraud

Carey Street Investments Ltd (In Liquidation) and Another v Brown [2023] EWHC 968 (Ch): Assisted Hugh Norbury KC and Dan McCourt Fritz KC in successfully defending a claim brought against an ex-director for breach of trust

following a six-day trial.

Insolvency

Hunt v Ubhi [2023] EWCA Civ 417: Assisted John Machell KC and Dan McCourt Fritz KC in a successful appeal to the Court of Appeal, representing the Defendant, to dismiss a freezing order originally obtained by the provisional liquidator of an insolvent partnership.

Re Bulb Energy Ltd [2022] EWHC 3105 (Ch): Assisted Jonathan Adkin KC and Matthew Morrison in British Gas' opposition to the application by the joint liquidators of Bulb Energy Ltd for the High Court to appoint an effective time for the transfer of Bulb's energy business to the Octopus.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Since starting tenancy, Ryan has been instructed as sole counsel in probate proceedings under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975. He has also assisted other members in contentious probate proceedings, including *Bond v Bond* [2023].

Charities

Ryan is developing a burgeoning charities practice, including advising the trustees of the newly-founded UK Afghan Veterans Community on a *pro bono* basis.

Assisted Jonathan Fowles in advising a charity connected to a religious institution on amending its objects.

Publications

[*"Directors' duties: where does an executive director stand in relation to their duties while on garden leave"*](#), Practical Law, 30 November 2022. Co-authored with Matthew Morrison.

"Unjust enrichment, what's liquidated", New Law Journal, Vol. 173, January 2023. Co-authored with Wilson Leung

Scholarships and Prizes

Academic Scholar, Pembroke College, Oxford

Gibbs Prize in History, University of Oxford

Joan Thirsk Prize, University of Oxford (awarded for the best thesis in pre-modern history)

Education & Qualifications

History and Politics (MA, *Oxon*): awarded Gibbs Prize for the one of the top First Class marks in the year

