



serle court

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7242 6105

Simon Hattan

Year of Call: 1999

“Absolutely brilliant – a real all-rounder who you can totally trust on a range of commercial and financial litigation.”

The Legal 500

shattan@serlecourt.co.uk
clerks@serlecourt.co.uk



Practice Overview

Simon has a broad general commercial and chancery practice, with particular experience of litigation involving civil fraud and/or breach of trust/fiduciary duty, banking and finance disputes and trusts litigation. He is regularly instructed in significant cases in these areas and is comfortable either as sole counsel or as part of a team. He was part of the team acting for the Defendants in the RBS Right issue litigation in the Chancery Division. Before coming to the Bar, Simon spent a number of years in the financial markets, principally in fixed income capital raising and derivatives, and is well accustomed to dealing with disputes involving complex financial issues.

Simon has for many years consistently been recommended in the legal directories as a leading junior in the fields of Banking and Finance, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Civil Fraud and Commercial Chancery. Most recently, Chambers & Partners noted that “*His understanding and advocacy skills are very much at KC level*” and he was described in Legal 500 as “*Simply one of the best: thorough, intelligent, able to see the bigger picture, and a real fighter.*”

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Various Investors v Equiti Capital UK (ongoing): Acting for the Claimants in claim for accessory liability arising from a fraudulent foreign exchange investment scheme. Trial listed for summer 2027.

X v Y (ongoing): Acting for the Claimant in LCIA arbitration arising out of contract relating to the promotion of blockbuster exhibitions in Europe. Trial listed for November 2026.

Simon Bonney (as liquidator of NDL Ltd) v Lars Clausen and another (2024-2025): Acting for the liquidators in claim against previous directors of property development company. Settled in 2025.

X v Y (2023-2024): Acting for Defendant Jersey trustees in claim arising from the purchase of a substantial property in London.

Various Investors v RSA plc (2021-2022): Acting for RSA in defence of claim by various shareholders under s.90A FSMA 2000 in which it was alleged that RSA published Annual Reports and other financial information containing untrue or misleading statements.

Noksel Celik A.S v Bemaco Steel Limited (2019-2023)

Acting for the Defendant / Counterclaimant in a multi-million pound claim arising out of a contract for the supply of steel piping.

Cossac Holdings Ltd v Preferred Management Ltd & Others (2019- 2023)

Acting for the Claimant on an ‘unfair prejudice’ petition under s.994 of the Companies Act 2006.

Public Institute for Social Security v Multiple Defendants (2019-2023)

Acting for one of multiple defendants in very high value and complex proceedings involving allegations that to valuable banking relationships were tainted by the payment of secret commissions worth many millions. Client successfully challenged the court’s jurisdiction.

A v B (2019)

Acting (led by Dominic Dowley QC) for the Defendant in substantial arbitration involving allegations that valuable industrial contracts were obtained as a result of bribes paid by the Defendant’s agent.

X v Y (2019)

Acting for the Claimant in proceedings in the Civil & Commercial Court in the Qatar Financial Centre.

Toucan Energy & Others v Wirsol & Others (2019)

Acting (led by John McGhee QC) for the Claimants in a dispute arising out of the purchase of a portfolio of solar farms in 2017.

Terry v Watchstone (2018)

Acted for the company defending claims by previous owner and director in relation to sums said to be due under an indemnity granted by the company prior to its sale to the present owners.

RBS Rights Issue Litigation (Settled summer 2017) - Acting for RBS and the other Defendants in claims arising out of the £12 billion rights issue undertaken by RBS in 2008.

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2013 & 2014) - Acting for the Claimant in successful appeals before the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and the Privy Council.

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2012) - Seven week trial in the BVI Commercial Court concerning the ownership of BVI registered company.

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2008/2009): US\$120 million claim for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty in the context of two large Jersey trusts. Settled in August 2009 after 8 months in trial.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Winterthur (2008): Claim for breach of warranty and fraudulent misrepresentation arising out of the sale of Churchill Insurance. Settled during trial in 2008.

Financial Services Authority v Legal & General (2004): Financial Services and Markets Tribunal proceedings relating to the mis-sale of mortgage endowment policies. Culminated in six week trial before the Tribunal in October 2004.

ABTA v Nardi (2004): Litigation relating to the proceeds of an alleged fraud on ABTA by its former head of legal affairs.

Westminster City Council v Dame Shirley Porter (2004): Instructed on behalf of the beneficiaries of a number of family trusts in proceedings in which it was alleged that the trusts were shams and/or that they were established with the intention of defrauding creditors.

Safe Harbor v Lloyds Bank and others (2003): Acted for two US investment companies in ancillary proceedings in England for the purpose of locating and freezing assets misappropriated in an international investment fraud.

Philips and Others v Symes [2003] EWCA Civ 1769: Appeal relating to evidence admissible on application for committal for contempt and recusal for the appearance of bias.

Banking and Financial Services

Various Investors v Equiti Capital UK (ongoing): Acting for the Claimants in claim for accessory liability arising from a fraudulent foreign exchange investment scheme. Trial listed for summer 2027.

Various Investors v RSA plc (2021-2022): Acting for RSA in defence of claim by various shareholders under s.90A FSMA 2000 in which it was alleged that RSA published Annual Reports and other financial information containing untrue or misleading statements.

C v D (2019- 2020)

Instructed in high value dispute in Singapore concerning attempts by lending bank to enforce under joint mortgage in relation to liabilities incurred from lending to unrelated companies.

X v Y (2019)

Acting for the Claimant in proceedings in the Civil & Commercial Court in the Qatar Financial Centre.

RBS Rights Issue litigation (settled Summer 2017) – acting for RBS and the other Defendants in claims arising out of the £12 billion rights issue undertaken by RBS in 2008.

Madoff Fraud (2014-2016): Acted in multi-jurisdictional proceedings arising out of the Madoff fraud.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Winterthur (2008): Claim for breach of warranty and fraudulent misrepresentation arising out of the sale of Churchill Insurance. Settled during trial in 2008.

Charter plc v City Index (2005/06) with Alan Boyle QC: Claim in knowing receipt in relation to fraud carried out by company employee. Settled on the first day of trial.

Financial Services Authority v Legal & General (2004): Financial Services and Markets Tribunal proceedings relating to the mis-sale of mortgage endowment policies. Culminated in a six week trial before the Tribunal in October 2004.

Safe Harbor v Lloyds Bank and others (2003): Acted for two US investment companies in ancillary proceedings in England for the purpose of locating and freezing assets misappropriated in an international investment fraud.

Financial Services Authority v Credit Suisse First Boston International (2002): disciplinary proceedings against Credit Suisse First Boston International associated disciplinary proceedings against two members of the firm's management.

Civil Fraud

Various Investors v Equiti Capital UK (ongoing): Acting for the Claimants in claim for accessory liability arising from a fraudulent foreign exchange investment scheme. Trial listed for summer 2027.

Public Institute for Social Security v Multiple Defendants (2019-2023): Acting for one of multiple defendants in very high value and complex proceedings involving allegations that to valuable banking relationships were tainted by the payment of secret commissions worth many millions. Client successfully challenged the court's jurisdiction.

Various Investors v RSA plc (2021-2022): Acting for RSA in defence of claim by various shareholders under s,90A FSMA 2000 in which it was alleged that RSA published Annual Reports and other financial information containing untrue or misleading statements.

A v B (2019)

Acting (led by Dominic Dowley QC) for the Defendant in substantial arbitration involving allegations that valuable industrial contracts were obtained as a result of bribes paid by the Defendant's agent.

X v Y (2019)

Acting for the Claimant in proceedings in the Civil & Commercial Court in the Qatar Financial Centre.

Madoff Fraud (2014-2016): Acted in multi-jurisdictional proceedings arising out of the Madoff fraud.

ABTA v Nardi (2004): Litigation relating to the proceeds of an alleged fraud on ABTA by its former head of legal affairs.

Westminster City Council v Dame Shirley Porter (2004): Instructed on behalf of the beneficiaries of a number of family trusts in proceedings in which it was alleged that the trusts were shams and/or that they were established with the

intention of defrauding creditors.

Safe Harbor v Lloyds Bank and others (2003): Acted for two US investment companies in ancillary proceedings in England for the purpose of locating and freezing assets misappropriated in an international investment fraud.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

X v Y (2023-2024): Acting for Defendant Jersey trustees in claim arising from the purchase of a substantial property in London

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2013 & 2014) - Acting for the Claimant in successful appeals before the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and the Privy Council.

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2012) - seven week trial in the BVI Commercial Court concerning the ownership of BVI registered company.

Alhamrani v Alhamrani (2008/2009): US\$120 million claim for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty in the context of two large Jersey trusts. Settled in August 2009 after 8 months in trial.

Westminster City Council v Dame Shirley Porter (2004): instructed on behalf of the beneficiaries of a number of family trusts in proceedings in which it was alleged that the trusts were shams and/or that they were established with the intention of defrauding creditors.

Insolvency

Company

Chancery

Arbitration

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Group Litigation

Recommendations

Chambers & Partners

Banking and Finance
Chancery Commercial
Commercial Dispute Resolution
Civil Fraud
Financial Services

The Legal 500

Banking and Finance
Commercial Litigation
Civil Fraud
Financial Services Regulation

Chambers Global

UK, Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery
UK, Dispute Resolution: Commercial

Who's Who Legal

Asset Recovery

Quotes

"He has a wonderfully clear mind and stays calm whatever happens. He is always a very reassuring presence." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Simon is very easy to work with and an excellent advocate." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Simon is very good in his written work; he's pragmatic and doesn't miss anything. He is sensible in court, so people listen to him." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Very calm and tremendously experienced, he thinks really strategically and doesn't waste time. He has very good client-handling skills." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"His understanding and advocacy skills are very much at KC level." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Simon is thorough and great to work with. His advocacy is very good, and by turns he can be measured or feisty as the situation demands." (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

"Simon is a very responsive and shrewd senior junior. He offers sensible, strategic and commercial advice." (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

"Simon is very mature and commercial in his approach." (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

"Simon has a great breadth of expertise and brings a real understanding of significant disputes. His written work is second to none and he is skilled at putting complex legal matters into simple terms." (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

"He is a fantastic team player and treads the line beautifully between counsel and being part of the team." (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

"Very pragmatic, with good judgment. A superb team player who really rolls his sleeves up for someone of his seniority. Good commercial background in banking before being called to the Bar." (The Legal 500, 2025)

"Simply one of the best: thorough, intelligent, able to see the bigger picture, and a real fighter." (The Legal 500, 2025)

"Simon Hattan of Serle Court is a highly adept commercial junior, strongly skilled in a broad array of banking litigation as well as cases involving civil fraud and disciplinary proceedings. His financial practice is bolstered by the added perspective of his previous experience in working in two major investment banks." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

"Simon Hattan is very down to earth. He rolls his sleeves up and gets stuck in. He has good judgement and is a good team player." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

"Simon is extremely strong at getting on top of large amounts of complex material, and identifying how they will be seen by a neutral decision-maker. He is particularly well-suited to work requiring close forensic analysis of evidence. As an advocate, he is able to present that material in a manner that is readily accessible for the tribunal." (The Legal 500 2023)

"He's unflappable, sensible, pragmatic, and someone who provides good, clear advice - he doesn't sugarcoat anything." (Chambers and Partners, 2022)

"He's thorough, diligent and very persuasive in court." "A very bright, thorough and knowledgeable barrister." (Chambers and Partners, 2022)

"A brilliant senior junior who is very strategic. He is great if you have a thorny issue that you want to navigate around." "He knows the law back to front and he pleads his cases thoroughly." (Chambers and Partners, 2021)

"Marvelous - thorough, intelligent, fights a client's case and can be relied upon completely." (The Legal 500 2021)

"His City background puts him in pole position for investment disputes, and few are so adept at putting clients at ease." "Simon is an experienced practitioner with an easy style in court." (Chambers Global, 2020)

"Absolutely brilliant – a real all-rounder who you can totally trust on a range of commercial and financial litigation." (The Legal 500 2020)

"He can grind facts down into dust and then reassemble them into solid and cohesive arguments." (The Legal 500 2020)

"Intelligent, thorough and insightful, he should be a QC." (The Legal 500 2020)

Other Professional Experience

August 2000 - April 2001: Financial Services Authority

Seconded to the Enforcement Division of the FSA, acting as Counsel in the conduct of a wide variety of regulatory disciplinary matters. Involved in FSA's preparations for the coming into force of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

August 1989 - July 1997: West Merchant Bank Limited and HSBC Markets Limited

Assistant Director. Advising asset and liability managers within UK and selected overseas companies on risk management techniques and fund raising in the international capital markets.

Education & Qualifications

BSc, Dip Law (Distinction), City University

Winner - Inns of Court Mooting Competition 1998

Benefactor's Scholarship - Middle Temple

Memberships

Chancery Bar Association

Commercial Bar Association

Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association

Financial Services Lawyers Association
