



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
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Practice Overview

Simon has a broad general commercial and chancery practice, with particular experience of litigation involving civil fraud and breach of fiduciary duty, banking and finance disputes, regulatory and disciplinary proceedings (in particular those related to financial services) 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.

Simon has been recommended for a number of years in Chambers UK as a leading junior in the fields of Banking and Finance, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Civil Fraud, Commercial Chancery, and Financial Services and in The Legal 500 for Banking and Finance, Commercial Litigation, Civil Fraud, and Financial Services Regulation. He is ranked in the top tier for Banking and Finance (both The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners), Commercial Litigation (The Legal 500) and Civil Fraud (The Legal 500).

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Litigation

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

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-)

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-)

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.

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

C v D (2019-)

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

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

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.

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.

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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

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 a very calm and tremendously experienced barrister who thinks really strategically and doesn't waste time. He's economical in his use of time, both in writing and on his feet." (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)

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

"He is excellent, very thorough and very good at writing. He is pragmatic and does not miss anything." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

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

"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 can hold his own, and he's thorough and great to work with. His advocacy is very good; he can be measured or feisty if he needs to. He works through things systematically to get the judge on side." (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)

"He's very good analytically and good at coming up with arguments even in the most difficult cases." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

"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 always responsive, and produces clear and compelling advocacy." "His City background puts him in pole position on investment disputes. Few are so adept at putting clients at their ease." (Chambers Global, 2023)

"He is very bright, thorough and knowledgeable." (Chambers and Partners, 2023)

"Simon is always responsive and produces clear and compelling advocacy." (Chambers and Partners, 2023)

"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)

"He is incredibly thorough, and is able to master large volumes of material and tease out problems and opportunities. He is also an absolute pleasure to work with - he does not stand on ceremony and treats all team members as equals." "He is really measured, clear and sensible in his advocacy, and is also very good on paper." (Chambers and Partners, 2021)

"Diligent, thorough and clear - he has a good written style and is a persuasive advocate." (The Legal 500, 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)

"His great strengths are a real ability to comprehensively digest material and to find the cracks. He's one to choose when you have a forensic fraud case and need someone to pick out inconsistencies." (Chambers Global, 2020)

"He is extremely hard-working and has real energy and tenacity." "He is really strong with a real ability to comprehensively digest material and find the cracks." (Chambers & Partners 2020)

"He has an excellent ability to get straight to the heart of the case and writes in a persuasive and academic manner." (Chambers & Partners 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 has an excellent written style, with his pleadings in particular being accurate, precise and considered." (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
