serle court

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

Stefano Braschi (Stefano Theodoli-Braschi)

Year of Call: 2021

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Practice Overview

Before joining chambers in 2022, Stefano studied History at Yale University, trained at LAMDA and worked as a professional actor for over ten years, performing on screen and stage, including London's West End.

Stefano is interested in a wide range of Commercial and Chancery work, with a particular interest in matters concerning arts, culture and branding. He recently completed (with distinction) the Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice at the University of Oxford and continues to develop a broad practice across Chambers' core areas.

Areas of Expertise

Art & Cultural Property

Martin v Bodegas San Huberto [2025] EWHC 1827 (IPEC): Acted for an internationally-acclaimed artist in her action for infringement of copyright and moral rights, as well as passing off, against an Argentine wine producer and its UK distributors, led by Stephanie Wickenden. The Defendants were found liable at trial in respect of the importation and distribution of wine bottles bearing a label design which was found to have been copied from one of her artworks. In what is thought to be a first in this jurisdiction, the Court also found that the Claimant had goodwill in her artistic style, upon which she could establish a claim in passing off on the basis of false endorsement.

Outer Aspect v Robb (2024): Acted as sole counsel at trial for the Claimant company, which sought to recover sums from an artist for breach of contract alternatively unjust enrichment.

Charities

Re A (2023): Assisted Jonathan Fowles, acting on behalf of a Claimant who sought the Court's approval of a settlement agreement reached with the Charity Commission of England and Wales in relation to historic conduct as director of an educational charity.

Civil Fraud

Isbilen v Turk [2022] EWHC 572 (Ch): Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in a long-running fraud case spanning several jurisdictions. The client had entrusted the Defendant with her personal fortune of around £90 million, almost half of which later went missing. She brought various personal and proprietary claims against the defendant to try and recover her money. The Court agreed to grant a Search Order at an unusually late stage in the proceedings and the case received significant attention in the national press.

Commercial Litigation

A v B (2025)*:* Acted as part of the counsel team in an arbitration offshore (UNCITRAL rules), in which the parties each claimed damages of hundreds of millions of dollars for alleged breach of contract. Declaratory relief was also sought as to the various rights and obligations conferred under the said contract, which has a number or unique

features. The hearing arose in the context of a long-running dispute, the outcome of which is likely to have a direct bearing on the lives of a significant portion of the population within the relevant jurisdiction.

Outer Aspect v Robb (2024): Acted as sole counsel at trial for the Claimant company, which sought to recover sums from an internationally renowned artist for breach of contract alternatively unjust enrichment.

Assisted Gareth Tilly on a case involving the pursuit of a debt related to the sale of diamonds. The case spanned (at least) three jurisdictions, requiring the registration of a foreign judgment in order to secure a Third-Party Debt Order, which related to the sale of artworks allegedly owned by the debtor.

Assisted Matthew Morrison in responding to an application for permission to appeal in a case concerned with the proper construction of a contract for the supply of commercial vehicles.

Assisted Gareth Tilley, instructed to advise a client on whether to pursue a claim for sums owed to him and/or his company in respect of historic dividends and unpaid invoices.

Company

Assisted Matthew Morrison, instructed to present a petition for relief under s. 996 CA 2006, alternatively for the just and equitable winding up of a property-investment company which had been allegedly set up as part of a wider international joint venture involving several interested parties.

Assisted Gareth Tilley in responding to an unfair prejudice petition bought in relation to a jont venture to dveelop and operate a medical practice.

Insolvency

Re BHS Group Ltd (in liquidation) [2024] EWHC 1417 (Ch): Assisted Tim Benham-Mirando (led by Daniel Lightman KC) at pre-trial stage, in a case in which the liquidators of the BHS group had brought a claim against one of the former directors for alleged breach of duty and wrongful trading.

Re Andrea (2023): Acted as sole counsel for the successful respondent to a bankruptcy annulment application.

Loveridge v Loveridge (2021-): Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in an ongoing dispute between members of the same family in respect of several family-run companies and partnerships. Subsequent to the decision of the Court of Appeal in Loveridge (No.2), this involved applying for injunctive relief and advising on the prospects of an administration application against one the companies involved.

Assisted Matthew Morrison (led by Lance Ashworth KC) in relation to a case arising out of the liquidation of several energy companies. The question for consideration was on whom various statutory payment obligations fell.

Assisted Gareth Tilley, instructed to advise the liquidator of a BVI company on matters connected to a proposed private prosecution of the former controllers of the company. Questions arose in respect of the recognition of powers, the scope of those powers and the application of POCA 2002 s.48(2).

Intellectual Property

Martin v Bodegas San Huberto [2025] EWHC 1827 (IPEC): Acted for an internationally-acclaimed artist in her action

for infringement of copyright and moral rights, as well as passing off, against an Argentine wine producer and its UK distributors, led by Stephanie Wickenden. The Defendants were found liable at trial in respect of the importation and distribution of wine bottles bearing a label design which was found to have been copied from one of her artworks. In what is thought to be a first in this jurisdiction, the Court also found that the Claimant had goodwill in her artistic style, upon which she could establish a claim in passing off on the basis of false endorsement.

CyberOcean v Supercraft (2025): Acted for the Defendant company in a claim for copyright infringement brought by one of its former employees. The Defendant brought various counterclaims, including for copyright infringement and unjust enrichment, and a settlement was reached before trial.

ASWAD, OP000438539 (2024): These were two cross-oppositions, both brought under TMA s.5(4)(a), in which each party claimed rights in the name of a well-known reggae band. Stefano assisted Stephanie Wickenden, acting on behalf of the band's sole surviving member, who succeeded in his application to register the band name as a trade mark in the face of opposition by a founding member who had left the group 26 years earlier.

easyGroup v Easy Life (2023): Acted for the claimant in proceedings for trade mark infringement against a well-known indie rock band. The proceedings received widespread attention in the national press and resulted in the band deciding to change its name.

easyGroup Ltd v Easy Live (Services) Ltd [2022] EWHC 327 (Ch): Assisted Michael Edenborough KC and Stephanie Wickenden at trial on behalf of the successful Claimant. This was the first time in which easyGroup established a claim for trade mark infringement in circumstances where there was no use of the signature colour orange. The learned judge's decision to dismiss easyGroup's claim for passing off was successfully overturned on appeal (*easyGroup Ltd v Easy Live (Services) Ltd* [2023] EWCA Civ 1508).

NCSoft Corporation v Fever Labs Inc (BL O/0295/23): Assisted Stephanie Wickenden, acting for a company whose trade mark application was allowed to proceed in respect of the majority of goods and services.

Assisted members on other cases involving a variety of intellectual property rights.

International and Offshore

A v B (2025): Acted as part of the counsel team in an arbitration offshore (UNCITRAL rules), in which the parties each claimed damages of hundreds of millions of dollars for alleged breach of contract. Declaratory relief was also sought as to the various rights and obligations conferred under the said contract, which has a number or unique features. The hearing arose in the context of a long-running dispute, the outcome of which is likely to have a direct bearing on the lives of a significant portion of the population within the relevant jurisdiction.

Re X (2024): Acted for the professional trustees of a Discretionary Settlement in the Channels Islands, in respect of various applications arising from orders made against them in the context of a criminal investigation concerning assets alleged to have been misappropriated by persons interested in the trust.

Kuwait Ports Authority v Port Link GP: Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in preparing submissions for the Cayman Court of Appeal. The respondent client alleged that the general partner of a Caymanian exempted limited partnership conspired with others to cause losses of over £100 million to the fund's LPs.

Assisted Gareth Tilley, instructed to advise the liquidator of a BVI company on matters connected to a proposed private prosecution of the former controllers of the company. Questions arose in respect of the recognition of powers, the scope of those powers and the application of POCA 2022 s.48(2).

Assisted Daniel Lightman KC on an advisory matter concerning a Cayman-based company.

Partnership and LLP

Kuwait Ports Authority v Port Link GP: Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz in preparing submissions for the Cayman Court of Appeal. The respondent client alleged that the general partner of a Caymanian exempted limited partnership conspired with others to cause losses of over £100 million to the fund's LPs.

Private Client Trusts and Probate

Re Estate of A (2025): Acted for the executors an estate in preparation for a mediation rising in the context of various claims intimated by one of the beneficiaries as part of a longstanding family feud.

Re X (2024): Acted for the professional trustees of a Discretionary Settlement in the Channels Islands, in respect of various applications arising from orders made against them in the context of a criminal investigation concerning assets alleged to have been misappropriated by persons interested in the trust.

Re Estate of Johnson (2023): Acted for a Claimant who was seeking to purchase his late brother's interest their partnership business and required assistance with various interim applications whilst negotiations with the Estate were ongoing.

Assisted Constance McDonnell KC in respect of matters relating to the Claimant's application for permission to re-open her application under CPR 52.30 for permission to appeal the judgment of Michael Green J in Reeves v Drew [2022] EWHC 159 (Ch). Lewison LJ ordered the unsuccessful applicant to pay the client's costs on the standard basis.

Re Estate of Jones (2021-2022): Assisted Gareth Tilley, acting for the residuary beneficiary and co-executor of an estate. The Defendant, her co-executor and the director of a company which formed part of the estate, had threatened to bring claims on its behalf against the estate. Considerations included, inter alia, an application for removal under AJA 1985 s.50 and a possible unfair prejudice petition under CA 2006 s.994.

Re W Trust (2021): Assisted Gareth Tilley, acting for the beneficiaries of a will trust who alleged that the trustees had failed to properly protect a trust company from alleged breaches of duty by its director. The central question was whether costs incurred by the beneficiaries prior to the trustees deciding to take steps against the director were "costs in or incidental to" the proceedings.

Shokat v Khan (2021): Assisted Gareth Tilly on a case in which the client had been granted letters but was prevented from administering the estate. Each party claimed to be the true surviving spouse of the deceased. The dispute concerned (a) the validity of the purported marriages and (b) the entitlements of the parties, as well as the deceased's various children, under the 1975 Act.

Professional Negligence

Assisted Gareth Tilley in advising a client who sought relief from her solicitors in respect of an option agreement entered into with a property developer.

Arbitration

A v B (2025): Acted as part of the counsel team in an arbitration offshore (UNCITRAL rules), in which the parties each

claimed damages of hundreds of millions of dollars for alleged breach of contract. Declaratory relief was also sought as to the various rights and obligations conferred under the said contract, which has a number or unique features. The hearing arose in the context of a long-running dispute, the outcome of which is likely to have a direct bearing on the lives of a significant portion of the population within the relevant jurisdiction.

Publications

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Scholarships and Prizes

Civil Advocacy Award (1st in the year, ICCA)

Professional Ethics Award (1st in the year, ICCA)

Ashworth Scholarship (Inner Temple)

Exhibition Award, GDL and Bar Course (Inner Temple)

Appointments

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Education & Qualifications

University of Oxford: PG-Dip, Intellectual Property Law and Practice (Distinction)

Inns of Court College of Advocacy: Bar Course (4th in his year)

City University: GDL (Distinction)

Yale University: History B.A.