serle court

Dakis Hagen KC

Call: 2002 | Silk: 2017

Dakis Hagen is one of the chancery Bar's greatest minds.

CHAMBERS HIGH NET WORTH 2026

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

Dakis Hagen KC specialises in chancery litigation, both commercial and traditional. His cases usually involve international structures, most often trusts and estates, allegations of fraud or professional negligence and asset tracing.

Dakis is ranked in Chambers & Partners for Chancery: Commercial and Chancery: Traditional (Band 1) as well as for Trusts (Band 1), Offshore (Band 1) and Family/Matrimonial: Trusts/Tax Experts (Star Individual). The Legal 500 ranks him for Private Wealth and Probate (Band 1) and Offshore: Trusts and Private Wealth (Band 1), Offshore: Commercial (Band 1) as well as for Civil Fraud.

The international nature of Dakis' practice has meant that he is instructed both by London solicitors and also directly by lawyers overseas (including from the USA, the Caribbean, Hong Kong, Singapore, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Bermuda, Luxembourg, Switzerland, France, Gibraltar and the Channel Islands). He has appeared as leading counsel in a number of overseas courts as well as frequently in London. He is co-chairman of the Trusts & Estates Litigation Forum and in 2022 was Citywealth Barrister of the Year.

Expertise

Trusts & Probate

Recent Cases

- *De la Sala v Copinger-Symes & Ors* [2026] EWCA Civ 282 – Appeal regarding whether intra-family gifts of $34 million made in the context of a divorce could be set aside under equitable principles.
- *DUK v UGX BVIHPB 2024/0170* (10 July 2025) – Appeared for the successful parties in applications to have proceedings in the BVI brought on behalf of an estate declared a nullity on grounds that the grant of administration was defective and the

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appointment of an administrator ad colligenda bona should be set aside.

- *ES v SS (No. 2)* [2024] EWFC 59 – Appeared as leading chancery counsel in proceedings regarding the winding up of an offshore trust in the context of divorce proceedings.
- *Volpi v Volpi* – Substantial international arbitration regarding alleged misapplications of trust property
- *Re Alpha, Beta and Delta Trusts* [2023] JRC 138 – Advised the applicant in complex Jersey trust proceedings regarding the administration of a company in which the trustees owned a minority interest
- *Wong & Anr v Grand View Private Trust Company & Ors* [2022] Bda LR 59 – Appeared in the 80-day trial of claims impugning the validity of five very valuable Bermudian purpose trusts (whose appeals were heard in 2025), and successfully in the Privy Council (22 ITELR 190) in connected proceedings.
- *Morina & Ors v Scherbakova & Ors* [2022] EWHC 609 (Ch) – Leading counsel for certain beneficiaries in complex high- value international probate litigation in London (appeared in BVI in earlier related proceedings).
- *White Willow (Trustees) Limited v Trilogy Management Limited & Anr* [2022] JRC 120 (Jersey) – Advised a corporate trustee in connection with Jersey legal proceedings regarding the winding up of a substantial charitable trust.
- *Re XYZ Trusts* [2022] SC (Bda) 10 Civ (16 February 2022) – Appeared as leading counsel for a group of beneficiaries of a suite of Bermuda settlements holding a substantial trading business in proceedings regarding their proposed reorganisation.
- *Re Trafalgar Trust* [2021] JRC 327 – Advised a corporate trustee in Jersey-based litigation involving (among other things) the scope of a power of appointment.
- *Re Stingray Trust; Geneva Trust Company (GTC) SA v IDF & Anr* [2021] 1 CILR 186 (Cayman Islands) – Appeared as leading counsel for the successful applicant in obtaining a stay of Cayman proceedings to enable the trial of a challenge to a Cayman trust in Milan. The court construed the Cayman Islands' "firewall" legislation and gave guidance on the scope of jurisdiction clauses.
- *Re B Trust (Cayman Islands)* – Appeared as leading counsel for a protector committee in connection with a proposed distribution and reorganisation of a very substantial trust holding significant positions in a valuable European enterprise.
- *HSBC v Tan Poh Lee & Ors (Cayman Islands)* – Advised the trustee in complex proceedings concerning jurisdiction challenges and conflict of laws issues arising in litigation straddling Cayman and Singapore.
- *Crociani (appeals)* – Leading English counsel for one of the main appellants in large-scale breach of trust litigation in Jersey.
- *Barker v Baxendale Walker* [2018] 1 W.L.R. 1905 – Appeared for appellant in successful appeal (English Court of Appeal) regarding professional negligence claims in relation to a defective employee benefit trust tax scheme.
- *Hagen v Hagen* – Appeared as leading Chancery counsel for the respondent in this substantial and much- publicized divorce involving the family behind Viking River Cruises (settled confidentially).
- *AAZ v BBZ* [2017] W.T.L.R. 765 (Akhmedova v Akhmedov) – Appeared as Chancery counsel for applicant. Largest financial remedy award on divorce in English history (£453m). The case involved Bermuda trust, Manx and Panamanian companies.
- *Wooldridge v Wooldridge* (2016) [2021] WTLR 755 – Among the largest Inheritance Act cases to come to trial in England. Represented a successful defendant at trial. In a separate reported judgment ([2016] 3 Costs LO 531; [2021] WTLR 777) client awarded costs on the indemnity basis.
- *High Commissioner for Pakistan v National Westminster Bank & Ors* [2015] EWHC 3052 (Ch) – Case concerning ownership of disputed fund frozen in a London bank since 1948.

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Civil Fraud

Recent Cases

- *DUK v UGX BVIHPB 2024/0170* (10 July 2025) – Appeared for the successful parties in proceedings to have a BVI worldwide freezing order and proprietary injunction discharged and an application for permission to bring a derivative claim making various serious allegations struck out on grounds of lack of standing.
- *Volpi v Volpi* – Substantial international arbitration regarding alleged misapplications of trust property.
- *St John's Trust Company (Pvt) Ltd v Tamine* [2018] EWHC 3629 (Ch) – Appeared as leading counsel for the corporate applicant in successful injunction proceedings in London against a former director which sought to freeze property subject to proprietary claims and the summary delivery up of documents.
- *Akhmedova v Akhmedov* [2018] EWFC 23 – Appeared as leading counsel for judgment creditor on enforcement application regarding ownership of a superyacht allegedly worth $487m, where the court pierced the corporate veil of a Liechtenstein anstalt, set aside a number of dispositions under s. 423 of Insolvency Act 1986 and extended a worldwide freezing order.
- *Kerman v Akhmedova* [2018] 4 W.L.R. 52 – Appeared in Court of Appeal with Hodge Malek KC in case a regarding witness summons of a solicitor ordered to give evidence on the whereabouts of client's assets (following a failed assertion of privilege). The case considered fraud exception and scope of LPP.
- *Officeserve Technologies Ltd (In Liquidation) v Anthony-Mike* [2017] B.C.C. 574 – Represented former Executive Chairman of a failed tech company accused of misapplying corporate funds for his own benefit.
- *UL v BK* [2013] EWHC 1735 – Key case on freezing injunction principles and without notice applications.
- *CR v MZ & Ors* [2013] EWHC 295 – Sham trust/forgery case relating to the ownership of a substantial London property and its holding company. Appeared for the successful claimant. Claimant won with indemnity costs.
- *Bagus Investments Limited v Kastening* [2012] W.T.L.R. 1675 (Jersey) – Rejection of an attempt to introduce into asset tracing proceedings, arising from a criminal fraud, a claim in knowing receipt (rejected on grounds of limitation and a failure properly to plead the relevant cause of action). English counsel for successful respondent.

Professional Negligence

Recent Cases

- *Barker v Baxendale Walker* [2018] 1 W.L.R. 1905 – Appeared for appellant in successful appeal (English Court of Appeal) regarding professional negligence claims in relation to a defective employee benefit trust tax scheme.
- *Liberation Management v Rothschild* – Leading English counsel for corporate trustee in alleged investment management negligence claim in Guernsey (settled confidentially).
- *First Names v Zedra* – Leading English counsel for a corporate trustee in an alleged investment management negligence claim in Jersey (settled confidentially).
- *Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited v Novatrust Limited* – Advised Rothschild in a substantial trustee investment negligence case in the Royal Court of Jersey (settled confidentially).

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Commercial Litigation

Recent Cases

- *DUK v UGX BVIHPB 2024/0170* (10 July 2025) – Appeared for the successful parties in proceedings to have a BVI worldwide freezing order and proprietary injunction discharged and an application for permission to bring a derivative claim making various serious allegations struck out on grounds of lack of standing.
- *Volpi v Volpi* – Substantial international arbitration regarding alleged misapplications of trust property
- *Wong & Anr v Grand View Private Trust Company & Ors* [2022] Bda LR 59 – Appeared in the 80-day trial of claims impugning the validity of five very valuable Bermudian purpose trusts (whose appeals were heard in 2025), and successfully in the Privy Council (22 ITELR 190) in connected proceedings.
- *Akhemdova v Akhmedov* [2018] EWFC 23 – Appeared as leading counsel for judgment creditor on enforcement application regarding ownership of a superyacht allegedly worth $487m, where the court pierced the corporate veil of a Liechtenstein anstalt, set aside a number of dispositions under s. 423 of Insolvency Act 1986 and extended a worldwide freezing order.
- *LWR Nominees v Aziz* (24/11/2017 Gibraltar) – Successful application for a stay of a claim for a declaration of non-enforceability in Gibraltar of future judgments in English proceedings. Appeared as leading counsel alongside Prof Jonathan Harris KC (Hon.) (general editor of Dicey & Morris).
- *Officeserve Technologies Ltd (In Liquidation) v Anthony-Mike* [2017] B.C.C. 574 – Represented former Executive Chairman of a failed tech company accused of misapplying corporate funds for his own benefit. Case turned in part on construction of a commercial settlement agreement.
- *Liberation Management v Rothschild* – Leading English counsel for subsidiary of a major bank in alleged investment management negligence claim in Guernsey (settled confidentially).
- *First Names v Zedra* – Leading English counsel for former subsidiary of major bank in alleged investment management negligence claim in Jersey (settled confidentially).
- *Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited v Novatrust Limited* – Advised subsidiary of a major bank in a substantial trustee investment negligence case in the Royal Court of Jersey (settled confidentially).

International

Dakis has experience in this field across a wide range of matters.

Matrimonial Finance: Trusts & Company Law

Dakis has experience in this field across a wide range of matters.

Testimonials

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Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Dakis is a superb advocate and strategist who has a formidable intellect, persuasive advocacy and really good judgement."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Dakis is absolutely brilliant – creative, clever and a very persuasive advocate. He is passionate and enthusiastic, researches very deeply, and sees angles others don't because he's amazingly well read."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Dakis is very user-friendly, extremely clever and good on his feet."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Masterful and captivating as an oral advocate."

Legal 500 2026

"Dakis has an encyclopedic knowledge of the law and works exceptionally well with offshore lawyers in London."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Dakis Hagen is just incredibly knowledgeable on the trusts side of things."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Dakis is excellent: he thoroughly understands the law, but is tactically flexible and pragmatic with it."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Dakis Hagen is a perfect combination of being a pleasure to deal with and strong both on his feet and on paper."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Dakis Hagen is phenomenally hard-working, remarkably thorough and enthusiastic about the area. He is a very skilled advocate and applied individual."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"He is pre-eminent. His reputation precedes him. Dakis is phenomenally bright but so pragmatic. He is really nice to work with and responsive as well."

Chambers & Partners 2026

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“Dakis is probably one of the best, strongest all-rounders you will find. He is such a charming and effective advocate but with unbelievable intellectual power which he wears quite lightly.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis Hagen is a joy to behold.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis is fabulous and a go-to for trust and family matters. He has a brain the size of a planet - he sees round corners and always has a solution.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis remains our first choice for complex commercial chancery work.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis is first-class.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis is excellent. He thoroughly understands the law, he's pragmatic and he's tactically flexible.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis is such a charming and effective advocate, and has unbelievable intellectual power which he wears quite lightly. He's able to lead judges through analysis like others really can't.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“A measured and considered barrister, who has a wonderful manner with clients and is a delight to work with.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis' command of case law is unparalleled. He knows all the authorities backwards and judges really listen to him. When he speaks he carries a lot of weight, as he has a thorough command of the area.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Dakis is very thoughtful about cases and analyses them well. He always gives clear advice.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

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"Incredibly bright and knowledgeable. Masterful and captivating as an oral advocate."

Legal 500 2025

"Dakis is phenomenally hard-working, remarkably thorough and enthusiastic about the area. He is a very skilled advocate."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"Dakis Hagen is probably one of the best, strongest all-rounders you will find. Such a charming and effective advocate but with unbelievable intellectual power."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"He is pre-eminent, his reputation precedes him. He is phenomenally bright but so pragmatic. He is really nice to work with and responsive as well."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"Dakis Hagen KC is exceptional."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"I don't know anyone that knows more law than him."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Dakis is a pleasure to work with. He is a team player with a first-class mind and encyclopedic knowledge."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Dakis is one of the brightest stars. He is hard-working, enthusiastic and easy to work with."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is just a fascinating, hard-working and brilliant lawyer. You just sit and listen to him and enjoy the way he phrases his submissions. Judges adore him."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Dakis is brilliant. He is intellectually excellent on the black letter law and his oral advocacy is engaging."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Dakis is an incredibly strong advocate who handles the courtroom and clients with the same high degree of skill and grace."

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Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is very good. Very formidable as an advocate, he's very sharp in his thinking and also a pleasure to work with."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"What stands out about him is his towering intellect and brilliant advocacy. He's a devastatingly effective advocate, who's across the detail in a way that takes your breath away."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He's unrivalled in this area in terms of his knowledge of onshore trust litigation."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He quickly gets to the nub of the most technical of issues, whilst ensuring that he communicates them in a way that is easily digestible. He's empathetic with clients and brilliant to work with."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is the perfect trifecta - he's excellent on his feet, highly technical in his advice, and really responsive and user-friendly."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Dakis is an excellent advocate, incredibly bright and articulate. He can simplify the most complex of cases, always one step ahead. He is a go-to trust barrister."

Legal 500 2025

Recommendations

- Private Client Global Elite Directory
- Top Recommended Contentious Trust Lawyers – Offshore & Trusts (Spears 500, 2025)
- Chancery: Commercial; Chancery: Traditional; Trusts; Offshore; Family / Matrimonial: Trust Tax (Chambers UK)
- Chancery: Traditional (Chambers HNW)
- Private Wealth & Probate; Civil Fraud; Offshore: Private Wealth, Commercial (Legal 500)
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery, Offshore, Private Wealth: Trusts (Chambers Global)

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Publications

- The arbitration of trust disputes in Hong Kong, Asian Dispute Review, July 2024, 12-18
- Void vetoes and judicial discretions: recent developments in the law of disclosure in private trust administration (J.I.T.T.C.P. 2015, 22(1), 5-12)
- What's past is prologue or is it? Re the Representation of BB and its consequences (T.&T. 2013, 19(5), 469-474)
- Judiciously encouraging: the advantages, disadvantages and scope of the Thomas principle (Trusts & Trustees, 17(9): 840-845)
- The unruly rule in Re: Hastings-Bass: are the limits still unclear? (Trusts & Trustees 2007 13(7): 238-241)

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar AssociationMA (double first) – Peterhouse, Cambridge University GDL – City University Lord Mansfield, Lord Bowen and Hardwicke Scholar – Lincoln's Inn

Education & Qualifications

- Lord Mansfield, Lord Bowen and Hardwicke Scholar, Lincoln's Inn
- GDL, City University
- MA (double first), Cambridge University

BSB Registration

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