Elizabeth Jones KC

Call: 1984 | Silk: 2000

Elizabeth Jones is absolutely superlative – a joy to work with, super good team player, amazing attention to detail and just cares about her cases.

CHAMBERS HIGH NET WORTH 2026

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

Elizabeth Jones KC is widely recognised as a first-class litigator, noted for her intellectual rigour, hands-on approach and team work. In addition to general commercial / contract / company disputes, she has particular expertise in civil fraud and asset tracing, banking and financial services (including regulatory work), contentious trust and probate, and has nearly 30 years' experience in the music business. Liz is Head of Chambers.

Most of her cases are complex, multi-party and often cross-jurisdictional disputes. Liz is noted by clients and directories for her highly persuasive advocacy and her ability to master and control very large-scale and often cross-jurisdictional litigation. She regularly works in the Channel Islands and is called to the Bar in the BVI.

Liz also has significant regulatory and disciplinary experience, having been Complaints Ombudsman for LIFFE between 2000 and 2008. Liz is also a well-known mediator.

Liz has fought several cases in different jurisdictions where the governing law of the dispute was Saudi law, in particular in the areas of contract law, agency, tort, and commercial distribution within Saudi Arabia.

If you would like further details of Elizabeth Jones KC's practice as a mediator please click here.

Expertise

Civil Fraud

Liz has spent much of her professional life dealing with fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and other wrongdoing.

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Recent Cases

- *Kea Investments Ltd v Wikeley Family Trust* – Devising and overseeing the execution of the strategy to deal with an international fraud in which the perpetrators obtained a default judgment in Kentucky. Litigation has ensued in Kentucky, New Zealand and Australia, including applications for orders preventing the defendant from leaving Australia and requiring him to give up his passport, anti-enforcement injunctions granted on the basis that the default judgment had been obtained by fraud, and orders for disclosure of assets and funding arrangements and for security for costs. In NZ: Jurisdiction judgment at [2023] NZHC 466 and in the CA at [2024] NZCA 48; final judgment on the basis of formal proof at [2023] NZHC 3260; final anti-enforcement injunctions were granted, damages for conspiracy were awarded and a purported assignment of the default judgment and the underlying cause of action was set aside on the basis that doing so was outwith the director/trustee's powers; the formal proof judgment was (unsuccessfully) appealed to the Court of Appeal [2024] NZCA 609 and the Supreme Court [2025] NZSC 156. In Australia; judgment of Cooper J on the application to set aside the interlocutory anti-enforcement injunctions and the passport orders at [2023] QSC 215, Queensland Court of Appeal [2024] QCA 201, committal judgment [2026].QSC 37
- *Kea v Watson ([2023] EWHC 1830 (Ch) & ([2023] EWHC 1768 (Ch))* – Final award of equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty following the long running Spartan litigation, applying relevant principles in relation to apportionment and allocation of compensation recovered from proprietary claims and claims against third parties. Obtained orders protecting the confidentiality of the terms of some of the settlements involved with third parties which fell to be considered, drawing on principles allowing such protection where there is a real risk of harm through harassment.
- *Kea v Watson [2020] EWHC 2599 (Ch) (liability) [2020] EWHC 2796 (Ch) (sentencing)* – A 17 day committal application conducted remotely in April-May 2020 resulted in the defendant being sentenced to 4 months in prison.
- *Glenn v Watson [2018] EWHC 2016* – Judgment for deceit, breach of fiduciary duty and bribery after a 3 month trial. The Claimant succeeded in obtaining interest at 6.5% compounded annually: [2018] EWHC Ch 2483 and [2019] 4 W.L.R. 145 (CA). Enforcement proceedings have included a claim to enforce against an associate which gave rise to an important decision on service out of enforcement claims at [2019] EWHC 309 (Ch) and on the appropriate test where a defendant sought to use money subject to a proprietary claim for legal fees: [2020] EWHC 472 (Ch). Other enforcement proceedings took place in Jersey and New Zealand.
- *Glenn v Watson [2017] 4 WLR 48* – Waiver of confidentiality by referring to confidential communications in pleadings; whether party entitled to speak before trial to witnesses who were subject to a duty of confidentiality.
- *Kanev-Lipinski v Lipinski [2016] EWHC 475* – Successfully set aside a freezing order obtained without notice.
- *Conapro-Dena v Republic of Gambia [2016] (unreported)* – Claim against the Republic of the Gambia defended on the grounds that a former ambassador had been bribed to procure the contract.
- *Alhamrani v Alhamrani [2014] UKPC 37* – Upheld findings of dishonesty in relation to evidence given in the BVI court and previously in the courts of Saudi Arabia.
- *2011-12* – Claim against a trust company by former clients in relation to fraudulent conduct of former managing director. 28 party settlement on excellent terms achieved.
- *Inter-Continental Bank v Akingbola [2011] EWHC 605 (Comm)* – Fraud against bank by former Chief Executive.
- *Alhamrani v Alhamrani [2009] JLR 301* – Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, forgery, perjury, suborning of witnesses and alteration of computers to prevent proper disclosure.
- *Re Omar (a bankrupt) [2000] B.C.C. 434* – The long running Omar saga in which the wife and mistress of a deceased domiciled in Egypt defrauded the estate of approximately $10m, using the usual panoply of bearer shares and Panamanian and Liechtenstein entities; 2 separate actions, first against the wife and mistress and subsequently against a major bank for dishonest assistance.

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- Acted as "counsel to the inquiry" in relation to the investigation carried out by Gavin Lightman QC (as he then was) into what had happened to money donated during the miners' strike of 1984-5.

Commercial Litigation

Liz has particular expertise in dealing with very large-scale litigation.

Recent Cases

- *SFO v Litigation Capital One [2022] EWHC 3053 (Comm)* – Rights arising under a funding agreement in fraud litigation, with proprietary claims to assets from several defrauded parties, the litigation funder and the SFO. In particular, issues arising as to the effect of a declaration of trust contained in the litigation funding agreement, and the validity of appointment and role of trustees including the right to indemnity.
- *Kea v Watson [2020] EWHC 2599 (Ch) (liability) [2020] EWHC 2796 (Ch) (sentencing)* – A 17-day committal application conducted remotely in April-May 2020 resulted in the defendant being sentenced to 4 months in prison.
- *Glenn v Watson [2018] EWHC 2016* – Judgment for deceit, breach of fiduciary duty and bribery after a 3 month trial. The Claimant succeeded in obtaining interest at 6.5% compounded annually: [2018] EWHC Ch 2483 and [2019] 4 W.L.R. 145 (CA). Enforcement proceedings have included a claim to enforce against an associate which gave rise to an important decision on service out of enforcement claims at [2019] EWHC 309 (Ch) and on the appropriate test where a defendant sought to use money subject to a proprietary claim for legal fees – [2020] EWHC 472 (Ch).
- *2017* – Very substantial arbitration under the rules of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association involving a claim by a distributor in relation to conspiracy and breach of duties of good faith against a Japanese OEM.
- *Alhamrani v Alhamrani [2014] UKPC 37, HCVAP 2012/026* – Privy Council July 2014, Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal, September 2013, BVI Commercial court December 2012.
- *Drayne v McKillen [2011] EWHC 3326 (QB)* – Ownership of shares in a company owning Claridges etc.
- *Pink Floyd Music Ltd v EMI Records Limited [2010] EWHC 533 (Ch); (2010) 107(12) L.S.G. 25* – Construction of contract.
- *Speed Investments Ltd v Formula One Holdings Ltd (No1) [2005] 1 WLR 1233, (No 2) [2005] 1 WLR 1936 and (No 3) [2004] EWHC 3215* – Acting for banks who had enforced security over shares in the holding company of Formula One.

Trusts

Contentious trust and probate litigation forms a significant part of Liz's practice, especially where breach of duty or dishonesty are involved. Many of these disputes are settled or take place in private and so remain confidential. Liz has experience of litigation in this area in Jersey, Guernsey, BVI, Bahamas, Cayman and Hong Kong as well as in the UK.

Recent Cases

- *Frain v Reeves [2023] EWHC 73 [Ch]* – Successfully opposed an application for permission to bring committal proceedings in connection with evidence given and a disclosure statement made in contentious probate proceedings. The application also raised the issue of whether the findings of fact in the underlying judgment in the probate proceedings could be relied upon as against the defendant in those proceedings, and against a witness in the underlying proceedings.
- *Re X Trusts [2022] WTLR 355* – Public Trustee v Cooper application in relation to the proposed exercise of the trustees'

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powers to divide the assets of the trusts unequally between branches of the family; scope and nature of protectors' powers.

- *Kea v Watson [2021] JRC 009* – Arrets entre mains granted over debts due from various trusts to a judgment debtor: an attempt to obtain an arret over the judgment debtor's interest as a discretionary beneficiary of the trusts failed.
- *Kea v Watson [2019] 4 WLR 145 (CA)* – Award of equitable compensation and the appropriate approach to compound interest where the defendant is accounting as a constructive trustee.
- *Roadchef (Employee Benefit Trusts) Ltd v Hill [2015] 1 P. & C.R. DG15* – Successfully masterminded the settlement of a claim for breach of fiduciary duty which had been running on for years in the absence of a mechanism for settlement in the case of a trust with a shifting body of beneficiaries; eventually the settlement agreement was approved by the court in a confidential hearing.
- *Re Dunlop Settlement [2013] JRC 029, Re Capita Trustees [2011] JLR Note 29* – Advised a Jersey trust company in relation to a trust where none of the assets, the liabilities and the beneficiaries could be identified with certainty, where sham was asserted and where the trustee was conflicted.
- *Alhamrani v Alhamrani [2009]* – Led a team of 5 counsel and several Jersey advocates at short notice in the Alhamrani litigation in Jersey, Jersey's largest ever trust action, which settled after 100 days of trial.

Media, Entertainment & Sport

Liz has nearly 30 years' experience in the music business, and has advised several record companies in relation to some of their best known clients.

Recent Cases

- *Pink Floyd Music Ltd v EMI Records Limited [2011] 1 WLR 770 (CA), [2010] EWHC 533 (Ch); (2010) 107(12) L.S.G. 25* – Construction of contract.
- *Barrett v Universal Island Records Ltd [2006] EMLR 21* – Successfully defended Universal-Island Records and the Marley family in proceedings brought by former members of the Wailers claiming ownership of song copyrights, breach of recording contracts and breach of performers' rights.
- *EMI Records Ltd v Apple Corps Ltd [1994] EMLR 73* – Represented EMI in several disputes between EMI and Apple Corps, most memorably the dispute over putting the Red and Blue albums onto CD.
- *John v James [1991] FSR 397* – Represented Elton John in the seminal music business case of Elton John v Dick James Music, establishing the principle that a record / publishing company owes fiduciary duties in the exploitation of the relevant copyrights.

Banking & Financial Services

Liz has regularly acted in banking and financial services cases. She was Complaints Ombudsman for LIFFE in 2001 – 2008.

Recent Cases

- *Inter-Continental Bank v Akingbola [2011] EWHC 605 (Comm)*
- *Redwood Master Fund v TD Bank Europe Ltd [2006] BCLC 149*

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- *Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency v Dresdner Bank AG [2004] 2 Lloyd's Rep 19, [2005] 1 Lloyds Rep 12*
- *R v B* – Acted for a claimant against a bank in relation to $10m paid out on a forged signature in the context of a prime bank instrument fraud. (Settled during trial).
- More than 20 years of involvement in the futures market, including advising disciplinary appeal committees and advising on rules and legislation.
- Conducted a substantial enquiry into market manipulation 2006-2008.
- Mediated the first market manipulation matter to go to mediation and several regulatory mediations since.

Mediators

Described by clients as calm, sympathetic, commercial, inventive and a great mediator for difficult mediations, Liz brings to her mediation practice more than 40 years of litigation experience, more than 25 years of mediation experience both as mediator and as advisor, and 15 years experience of sitting as a deputy Judge in the Chancery Division. That breadth of experience means that she is often able to bring ideas for structures and potential solutions to a dispute. Many of her mediations are multi-party and they often involve parties from different jurisdictions. She has also done a number of mediations where the parties have an ongoing commercial relationship and need to find a way past the dispute and work out how to work together.

Liz is happy to mediate in any sphere, and is equally comfortable mediating commercial disputes, property and intellectual property disputes, or trust and estate disputes. She has also mediated several regulatory disputes. She is a particularly experienced negotiator who has written on risk analysis and negotiation biases, and she actively assists the parties to negotiate as effectively as possible. Her aim as a mediator is to help all the parties make the best decision they can as to how to and whether to settle their dispute, and she brings all her expertise and experience to that task. She has long experience of the potential barriers to settlement – for example lack of information, lack of relevant advice, emotional attachment to the litigation, over-confident advice or strained personal relationships – and has strategies for dealing with them. Liz also knows well that litigation and mediation can be highly stressful and emotionally charged, and she brings empathy and emotional intelligence and a deep understanding of the psychology of disputes to the mediation process.

Testimonials

"Elizabeth Jones is absolutely superlative – a joy to work with, super good team player, amazing attention to detail and just cares about her cases."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Elizabeth is fantastic and remains neutral. She can try loads of different strategies to get a breakthrough."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Success in big-ticket complex litigation depends on having a barrister who is able to master detail, who has a good strategic nous, inspires confidence, builds a team and follows through."

Legal 500

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"Elizabeth is able to absorb vast amounts of detail and come up with an original strategy."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Elizabeth is brilliant with clients. She manages expectations well, but also does everything to achieve her objectives."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Elizabeth has admirable forensic and advocacy skills, and is a formidable leader. She is a pleasure to work with."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Elizabeth Jones is a superb analyst of cases. She is always absolutely spot-on in her advice."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Elizabeth Jones is among the best of the best. She is an outstanding member of the Bar in every respect."

Chambers UK 2026

"A tactical genius with a prodigious capacity for absorbing and retaining detail. She drives the team to produce their best work, but is also pleasant and fun to work with."

Chambers UK 2026

"Elizabeth Jones is formidable. Clients absolutely love her, and judges are persuaded by what is just a whirlwind of advocacy from her."

Chambers UK 2026

"A master strategist who also has complete command of the detail. The foundations of her submissions are always rock-solid."

Chambers UK 2026

"She is the crème de la crème of the Commercial and Chancery Bar. Excellent is too weak a word for her."

Chambers 2026

"Elizabeth is an incredibly ferocious advocate."

Chambers 2026

"Her great strength is that she's a master strategist that also has complete command of the detail, so she's able to drive strategy from a rock-solid grounding in the foundations of the case."

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Legal 500 2025

“Elizabeth has a formidable intellect and is able to memorise multiple documents in way very few other people can.”

Chambers UK 2026

“Elizabeth Jones is able to work efficiently and actively reads into the underlying documents. She handles complex offshore matters with ease and has a commanding leadership presence.”

Chambers UK 2026

“Liz is phenomenal. She is unflappable and a great team player. Everyone looks up to her. She cuts through all the nonsense and comes up with the solutions everyone is looking for.”

Chambers UK 2026

“Elizabeth is somebody you can trust with your life. She is caring, kind and spectacular, and the embodiment of what's good about a barrister.”

Chambers UK 2025

“Everyone has deep respect for her. In court, I've never seen a judge so attentive to counsel. Judges just trust her and can tell she's thought about every point. She's also a great team player.”

Chambers UK 2025

“Elizabeth Jones is brilliant in how she can unravel really knotty situations. She is direct and clear and has the ear of the court.”

Chambers HNW 2026

“Elizabeth is phenomenal, she is one of the greats at the chancery commercial Bar, She is unflappable. She is a great team player, everyone looks up to her.”

Chambers HNW 2025

“Liz Jones is truly outstanding. She is superb at strategy and tactics, and also has tremendous command of the detail in a case”

Chambers UK 2025

“Elizabeth is a force of nature, who is exceptional at managing tricky matters. She is a very reassuring member of the team, who inspires confidence not only in lawyers but also in lay clients.”

Chambers UK 2025

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"Elizabeth is a fantastic leader with great strategic insights. She is always clear, incisive and inspires confidence in clients."

Chambers UK 2025

"Elizabeth Jones has a galaxy-sized brain."

Chambers UK 2025

"Liz is one of the best advocates at the Bar. Very hands-on and highly strategic, she adopts a very out-of-the-box approach to her thinking."

2025

"Elizabeth Jones has loads of ways of trying to get people to a solution. She is very inventive, good at predicting where a deal can be struck."

HNW, 2025

Recommendations

- Commercial Dispute Resolution (Chambers UK Bar)
- Commercial Chancery (Chambers UK Bar)
- Fraud (Civil) (Chambers UK Bar)
- Traditional Chancery (Chambers UK Bar)
- Trusts (Chambers UK Bar)
- Offshore (Chambers UK Bar)
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial (Chambers Global)
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (Chambers Global)
- Private Wealth: Trusts (Chambers Global)
- Offshore (Bar) (Chambers Global)
- Commercial Litigation (Legal 500)
- Civil Fraud (Legal 500)
- Private Wealth and Probate (Legal 500)
- Mediation (Legal 500)
- Commercial Disputes (Legal 500 English Bar Offshore)
- Trusts and Private Wealth (Legal 500 English Bar Offshore)

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Publications

- Co-author of the chapter on Risk Analysis in How to Master Commercial Mediation, edited by David Richbell, Published by Bloomsbury 2014

Memberships

- COMBAR
- Chancery Bar Association
- Association of Contentious Trust & Probate Lawyers

Education & Qualifications

- BA (First Class), King's College, Cambridge

Additional Information

- Acted as "counsel to the inquiry" in relation to the investigation carried out by Gavin Lightman QC (as he then was) into what had happened to money donated during the miners' strike of 1984-5.
- Conducted a substantial enquiry into market manipulation 2006-2008.

BSB Registration

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