serle court

Giles Richardson KC

Call: 1997 | Silk: 2022

Giles is excellent at the intersection between chancery and commercial work. Every solicitor wants to consult him.

CHAMBERS HIGH NET WORTH 2026

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

Giles Richardson KC specialises in trusts, probate, company and fiduciary obligations litigation, both in London and offshore, as well as associated professional negligence and fraud work. He also acts in high value financial remedy actions in the Family Division.

Giles is ranked in Chambers and Partners for all of Traditional Chancery, Commercial Chancery, Offshore, Trusts and Family/Matrimonial: Trusts/Tax Experts being described as “A joy to work with, Giles is a hugely talented advocate, who is fiercely intelligent. Clients and solicitors love him, and he also commands the ear of the court”. In Legal 500 he is recognised for Trusts and Private Wealth, Private Wealth and Probate and Company law and described as “a superstar… incredibly bright, inspires the utmost confidence in clients and has a very collaborative approach. He is a real team player”.

Expertise

Trusts & Probate

Recent Cases

- *Davidson v Seelig* [2016] EWHC 549 – Instructed to advise and act in High Court proceedings, one of the first after the Supreme Court decision in Pitt v Holt / Futter v Futter, to invoke the “Re Hastings-Bass” jurisdiction to set aside defective exercises of power by trustees, in this instance in relation to exercise of powers of appointment in 2003 under complex family trusts first settled in 1967.
- *High Commissioner for Pakistan v Prince Mukkaram Jah, his exalted Highness the Nizam VIII of Hyderabad* – Instructed to represent and advise the estate of the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad in relation to a c. £20m bank account deposited in London by the 7th Nizam in 1947 to which Pakistan, India and his grandsons also lay claim, the case concerning alleged informal trust arrangements and successive testamentary dispositions by the 7th Nizam.

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln’s Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

- *DIA v Pugachev* – Acted for New Zealand trustees of trust structures established to benefit the family of a Russian banker, whose assets were pursued by various Russian entities.
- *Re EAIC* [2014] WTLR57 – Instructed on behalf of joint administrators from KPMG of schemes of arrangement dealing with an insolvent insurance company who were also the trustees of a c.£20m trust fund held for the benefit of its policy holders. The trustees faced a real issue with their ability under the trust instrument to make payments to entitled policy holders in a commercially sensible and efficient manner. A claim was therefore made in the High Court for, effectively, a variation of the trust under s.57 of the Trustee Act 1925 to permit payments to be made, relying on a novel approach to s.57 and dependent on actuarial advice. The claim succeeded.
- *A Ltd v B & Others* [2013] JRC075 – Instructed to advise and provide an Opinion for production before the Royal Court by the Qualified Member of a Jersey foundation in the first (reported) decision on the ambit of appropriate directions obtainable by a council member or foundation. The Court noted that his Opinion was a "very clear and helpful opinion from which we have drawn extensively for the purposes of this judgment".
- *Barclays Wealth Trustees (Jersey) Ltd v Equity Trust (Jersey) Limited* – Acting in proceedings against the former trustee of unit trusts investing in Eastern European property developments for alleged breaches of trust and significant losses arising therefrom.
- *Emerald Bay Worldwide Limited v Barclays Wealth (Guernsey Judgment 16/2013)* – Instructed on the trial in Guernsey of a US$8m by a BVI company held within a Jersey law trust against its Guernsey incorporated former directors for breach of duties of care and skill in relation to the acquisition of a jet airplane, raising a number of significant BVI company law issues, including its regime as to the indemnification of directors.
- *Walker v Egerton-Vernon & Others* – Instructed on behalf of a personal trustee of the family trust of late Jack Walker (former Blackburn Rovers' chairman) in proceedings commenced against him and other trustees by beneficiaries in Jersey, following Jack Walker's death, involving breach of trust allegations concerning investment in Flybe and distributions to Blackburn Rovers football club.
- *Pearson v Lehman Brothers Finance SA & Others* [2010] EWHC 2914 (Ch) – Advising and appearing at trial arising from the collapse of Lehman Brothers, acting for principal US Lehman entities in relation to funds held within the Lehman estate in London, in claims giving rise to important issues as to the trust principles applicable to intermediated securities.

Company

Recent Cases

- *Protec International Ltd v Stout* – Instructed in English proceedings following Guernsey proceedings which determined the shareholdings and directorships of a Guernsey company to claim diverted intellectual property assets against an English company held by former joint venture partners.
- *F G Hemisphere v Gecamines* [2012] UKPC 27 – Instructed to act in the Privy Council appeal of a Congolese state owned mining company seeking to resist enforcement by a U.S. distressed debt fund of state debts against c.US$120m of its assets arising from a Jersey joint venture vehicle.
- *Raffiesenlandesbank v Maxfold LLP & Others* – Instructed on behalf of the corporate directors of English LLPs and of the foreign directors of those corporate directors in a fraud action brought against them by an Austrian Bank alleging their complicity in that fraud, in which the LLPs were allegedly used as conduits to facilitate the extraction of €1.4m from the bank. The claim raised complex and interesting issues of company law and the effects of incorporation as to the extent to which an (allegedly) defrauded party can proceed directly against the officers of such alleged conduits in a fraud (and indeed against the officers of such officers) rather than having to collapse the structure through liquidations.

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

- *Emerald Bay Worldwide Limited v Barclays Wealth* (Guernsey Judgment 16/2013) – Instructed on the trial on appeal in Guernsey of a US$8m by a BVI company held within a Jersey law trust against its Guernsey incorporated former directors for breach of duties of care and skill in relation to the acquisition of a jet airplane, raising a number of significant BVI company law issues, including its regime as to the indemnification of directors.
- *Walker v Egerton-Vernon & Others* – Instructed on behalf of a personal trustee of the family trust of late Jack Walker (former Blackburn Rovers' chairman) in proceedings commenced against him and other trustees by beneficiaries in Jersey, following Jack Walker's death, involving breach of trust allegations concerning investment in Flybe and distributions to Blackburn Rovers football club.
- *Belgravia Financial Services Group v First Vanguard* – Instructed on behalf of Hong Kong based directors and investors in a complex international company law dispute involving allegation of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

Commercial Litigation

Recent Cases

- *First Peninsula Trustees Limited v Picard & Others* – Instructed to act for the trustees of B.V.I. settlements which received substantial sums from Madoff feeder funds in relation to claims brought by the principal Madoff office holder in New York and in London.
- *F G Hemisphere v Gecamines* [2012] UKPC 27 – Instructed to act in the Privy Council appeal of a Congolese state owned mining company seeking to resist enforcement by a U.S. distressed debt fund of state debts against c.US$120m of its assets arising from a Jersey joint venture vehicle.
- *Pearson v Lehman Brothers Finance SA & Ohers* [2010] EWHC 2914 (Ch) – Advising and appearing at trial arising from the collapse of Lehman Brothers, acting for principal US Lehman entities in relation to funds held within the Lehman estate in London, in claims giving rise to important issues as to the trust principles applicable to intermediated securities.
- *Lexingville Investments Ltd v BNP Paribas Securities Services SA* – Proceedings against BNP Paribas for alleged breaches of custodianship duties owed to it in dealing with client securities.

Civil Fraud

Recent Cases

- *First Peninsula Trustees Limited v Picard & Others* – Instructed to act for the trustees of B.V.I. settlements which received substantial sums from Madoff feeder funds in relation to claims brought by the principal Madoff office holder in New York and in London.
- *Raffiesenlandesbank v Maxfold LLP & Others* – Instructed on behalf of the corporate directors of English LLPs and of the foreign directors of those corporate directors in a fraud action brought against them by an Austrian Bank alleging their complicity in that fraud, in which the LLPs were allegedly used as conduits to facilitate the extraction of €1.4m from the bank. The claim raised complex and interesting issues of company law and the effects of incorporation as to the extent to which an (allegedly) defrauded party can proceed directly against the officers of such alleged conduits in a fraud (and indeed against the officers of such officers) rather than having to collapse the structure through liquidations.

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Insolvency & Restructuring

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

Banking & Financial Services

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

Professional Negligence

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

International

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

Matrimonial Finance: Trusts & Company Law

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

Testimonials

"Giles is excellent at the intersection between chancery and commercial work. Every solicitor wants to consult him."

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

"Giles is superb. He is exceptionally hard-working, supremely talented and is a great black-letter lawyer but also has exceptional strategic insight, tactical insight and is a complete package... He is brilliant."

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth

"Giles has a great sense of judgement and doesn't overcomplicate things."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles is loved by his clients as he has a tremendous manner and is very reassuring. He gives the very best quality advice and is very hands-on."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles has real gravitas and the ability to calmly control the court. He adapts quickly and well to any changing circumstances."

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles has an innately intuitive grasp of the issues at play and is able to approach matters from first principles. He really comes up with reasoned answers and original analysis."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles blends excellent insight and understanding of the law with a ready commercial and tactical vision."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles Richardson is an outstanding silk. He is super bright and a complete master of all the details. He also has a strategic nose, which is one of the most important qualities."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles is brilliant to work with. He is incredibly strategic and focused, and great fun to work with too."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles has strong trusts knowledge which he brings to the matrimonial courts. He is very user-friendly and easy to deal with."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles offers a first-class service."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"My go-to KC - a highly gifted individual who wears his intelligence so lightly. He is commercial in his approach and can turn his hand to anything."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles Ricardson is always a joy to work with and always provides work of an exceptional quality."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles blends excellent insight and understanding of the law with a ready commercial and tactical vision. She is huge fun to work with at the same time."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Giles is super sharp and inspires the utmost confidence in solicitors and lay clients. He is a smooth advocate, well regarded by his opponents, who quickly gains the ear of the court."

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Chambers & Partners 2026

"He is outstanding silk. He is super bright and a complete master of all the details. He has a strategic nose and is also super collaborative."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"Giles Richardson is brilliant to work with, incredibly strategic and focused. He is great fun to work with, too."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"He blends excellent insight and understanding of the law with a ready commercial and tactical vision."

Chambers & Partners HNW 2025

"Giles is brilliant. He's incredibly talented, he works hard and he is bright and engaging. His strategic insight and input are always valued, and clients love him."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Great in court and a real all-rounder, he has a great reputation and rightly so. He is very detail-focused and does not get lost in the weeds."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"A joy to work with, Giles is a hugely talented advocate, who is fiercely intelligent. Clients and solicitors love him, and he also commands the ear of the court."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is a pleasure to work with and gives excellent, well-informed advice."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He's always helpful and on hand. Clients really trust him."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is absolutely incredible at dealing with complex legal issues."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is excellent and a go-to in this space."

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is hugely experienced and has a good reputation. He is a silk who rolls up his sleeves and is very user-friendly."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is one of the go-to leading counsel for chancery trust matters, whose knowledge of the sector is unmatched. He is one of the brightest silks out there and very good on complex disputes."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is the most highly sought-after chancery barrister on the scene. He is an intellectual powerhouse who brings humility with that."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is one of the brightest silks out there and is very good at complex and often unique disputes."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is extremely pragmatic and a very sensible person to deal with. He knows the strengths and weaknesses of the case and is someone whom you just have enormous respect for."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"He is phenomenal and his ability to work from first principles is exceptional. His legal analysis is great and he always cuts through to the main points."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is very down to earth, very responsive, excellent with clients and not afraid to give decisive advice."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Giles is a superstar. He is incredibly bright, inspires the utmost confidence in clients and has a very collaborative approach. He is a real team player."

Legal 500 2025

Appointments

- Called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands (2012)

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

Recommendations

- Private Client (Global Elite Directory)
- Chancery: Commercial, Chancery: Traditional, Offshore, Trusts, Family and Matrimonial (Chambers & Partners)
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery, Offshore, Private Wealth: Trusts (Chambers Global)
- Chancery: Traditional (Chambers High Net Worth)
- Private Client: Trusts and Probate, Offshore, Company and Partnership (Legal 500)

Publications

- Minority Shareholders – Law, Practice & Procedure (OUP 5th ed, 2015), Co-author

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association
- STEP
- The Family Law Bar Association

Education & Qualifications

- BCL (First Class), Merton College Oxford
- BA (First Class), Merton College Oxford

BSB Registration

Giles John Richardson KC

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk

VAT Number

731116378

Contact

6 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3QS

DX 1025 LDE
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7242 6105
Fax +44 (0) 20 7405 4004

Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

clerks@serlecourt.co.uk