serle court

# Harry Martin

Call: 2012

*Harry Martin was very friendly and easy to work with, and he was easy to be against as well, which is important. He pushed points as far as he needed for his clients but did not engage in aggression which would undermine his position with a court. He is a good advocate and a very clever guy.*

CHAMBERS HIGH NET WORTH 2026

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

Harry Martin has a busy junior practice specialising in chancery, commercial chancery, and art and cultural property work. He advises in relation to contentious and non-contentious matters, both in England & Wales and in other jurisdictions.

Harry is ranked as a leading barrister in the Chambers UK Bar and Chambers High Net Worth guides, which describe him as "*a rising star*", and "*very bright and commercial in his advice*". In 2019 he received the "star junior" award at the Chambers High Net Worth Awards.

# Expertise

## Trusts & Probate

Harry has extensive experience across the range of trusts, probate and private client work. Many of his cases involve high profile individuals and valuable estates and assets. He advises in relation to contentious and non-contentious matters, both in England and Wales and offshore, with recent experience relating in particular to Guernsey, the BVI, Gibraltar and New York.

Harry regularly advises in relation to non-contentious matters concerning trusts, succession and tax, which are not in the public domain. Recent experience includes advice on IHT and CGT planning and returns, applications under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958, advice setting up Family Investment Company structures, and compliance with the requirements of the Register of Overseas Entities.

### Recent Cases

- *Bond v Bond* (2023) – Contentious probate dispute in London concerning the succession to shares in a valuable family trading business.



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- *Re Guernsey Trusts* (2023) – Advising over several years on a dispute in the Royal Court in Guernsey concerning four trusts with very substantial assets.
- *Al Thani v Al Thani* (2023) – Advising the Respondents in relation to BVI proceedings concerning whether shares in a BVI company are movable property for succession purposes under BVI law (currently on appeal to the Privy Council).
- *Doyle v The estate of the 7th Marquess of Bath* (2023) – Acting for the Claimant in a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 against the estate of the 7th Marquess of Bath (the owner of the Longleat estate in Wiltshire).
- *Lady Brudenell-Bruce v Viscount Savernake* (2022) – Acting for the Defendant executor in a contested executor removal trial concerning part of the Savernake Estate in Wiltshire.
- *Lizzium v Crown Estate* [2021] EWHC 941 (Ch) – Successful claim to re-vest land held by a company incorporated in Gibraltar which was dissolved.
- *Goss v The estate of George Michael* (2020) – Acting (led) for the Claimant in a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 against the estate of the late pop star, George Michael.
- *International probate dispute* (2020) – Advising in relation to the negotiation and settlement of a long-running international probate dispute concerning a testator who died domiciled outside of the UK with assets situated in England, Jersey, Spain and Morocco.
- *Smith v Heng* (2018) – Acting for the trustees of a valuable discretionary trust in contested proceedings for construction and rectification of the trust instrument.
- *Shaw v Shaw* [2018] EWHC (Ch) – Acting as successful sole counsel in the High Court upholding a homemade will drawn up by the testatrix's son who substantially benefited from it.
- *Numan v Munter* [2017] EWHC 885 (Ch) – Successful claim to remove the Claimant's brother as executor of their mother's estate.
- *Fielden v Christie-Miller* [2015] EWHC 87 & 2940 (Ch) – Acting (led by Richard Wilson KC) for the trustees in a dispute concerning the ownership of a valuable estate in Oxfordshire. The case concerned proprietary estoppel, fettering of discretion by trustees, and trustee neutrality.

## Commercial Litigation

Harry's practice includes acting in a range of commercial disputes, particularly those involving a Chancery element.

Prior to commencing practice at the bar Harry taught on the undergraduate Principles of Commercial Law course at Oxford University, which particular specialisms in relation to agency, security and sale of goods.

### Recent Cases

- *H v T&D* (2023) – Acting (led) for the Claimant in a dispute concerning the fraudulent sale by Timothy Sammons of an impressionist painting, with substantial issues of New York law.
- *Winslet v Gisel* [2021] EWHC 1308 (Comm) – Acting as sole counsel in the Commercial Court in a dispute as to the court's jurisdiction to hear a claim for repayment of interest-free loans under the recast Brussels Regulation.
- *Auden McKenzie v Patel* (2020) – Acting (led) for the principal Defendant in a large Commercial Court case concerning the sale of a pharmaceutical company, involving the alleged fraudulent misappropriation of assets, tax fraud and competition



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law breaches.

## Art & Cultural Property

Harry has a particular interest and expertise in art and cultural property disputes. He is ranked by Chambers & Partners in Band 1, as one of the top three juniors in England practising in the field.

### Recent Cases

- *H v T&D* (2023) – Acting (led) for the Claimant in a dispute concerning the fraudulent sale by Timothy Sammons of an impressionist painting, with substantial issues of New York law.
- *A v A&A* (2023) – Acting for the Claimant in a dispute concerning a large-scale fraudulent pledge of modern art.
- *DACS & ACS v Braka* (2023) – Acting for the Claimants in the first case in the UK concerning the enforcement of Artist's Resale Right.
- *QIPCO v Ariadne* (2022) – Acting for the Defendant New York gallery defending a claim brought by a member of the Qatari royal family concerning the authenticity of mosaics.
- *G v Christie's* (2021) – Acting (led) in a claim against Christie's for negligence in the sale of three valuable modern sculptures.
- *A v Borro Loan 4 Ltd* (2017) – Acting for the Applicant in an urgent injunction to stop the auction of £10m of fine wine subject to a pledge.
- *G v Everything I Want Ltd* (2017) – Acting for the Applicant in a successful contested Norwich Pharmacal application in relation to the identity of the purchaser of a £15m painting.
- *Remains of King Richard III* (2013) – Advising (led) Leicester City Council in relation to the dispute concerning the exhumation and re-interment of the remains of King Richard III.

## Property

Harry regularly appears in court in property disputes concerning matters such as ownership, adverse possession, easements, boundary disputes, and landlord and tenant disputes.

### Recent Cases

- *Lizzium v Crown Estate* [2021] EWHC 941 (Ch) – Successful claim to re-vest land held by a company incorporated in Gibraltar which was dissolved.
- *Dobson v Griffey* [2018] EWHC 1117 (Ch) – Appearing as sole counsel in a four-day High Court trial concerning the ownership of a family home.
- *Fielden v Christie-Miller* [2015] EWHC 87 & 2940 (Ch) – Acting (led by Richard Wilson KC) for the trustees in a dispute concerning the ownership of a valuable estate in Oxfordshire. The case concerned proprietary estoppel, fettering of discretion by trustees, and trustee neutrality.
- *Injunction proceedings* – Bringing and defending urgent applications in the Chancery Division and the County Court, including for re-admittance to property after entry by the landlord.



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- *Squatters* – Harry has experience in obtaining orders for the eviction of squatters. On a pro bono basis he has also represented a group of protestors responding to a claim by a property developer for possession and injunctive relief regarding premises in and round Denmark Street, Soho (known as "Tin Pan Alley").

## International

Harry has a growing expertise in matters in offshore courts.

### Recent Cases

- *Re Guernsey Trusts* (2023) – Advising over several years on a dispute in the Royal Court in Guernsey concerning four trusts with very substantial assets.
- *Al Thani v Al Thani* (2023) – Advising the Respondents in relation to BVI proceedings concerning whether shares in a BVI company are movable property for succession purposes under BVI law (currently on appeal to the Privy Council).
- *S v S* (2023) – Advising in relation to an application in New York for discovery under 28 USC 1782 in aid of foreign proceedings.

## Professional Negligence

Harry is frequently instructed by Claimants and Defendants in professional negligence disputes which touch on matters within his expertise. Particular recent experience includes cases involving negligence in relation to tax advice, will drafting, art, and advice to pension trustees.

## Civil Fraud

Harry has acted in a number of fraud cases, particularly those involving art.

### Recent Cases

- *H v T&D* (2023) – Acting (led) for the Claimant in a dispute concerning the fraudulent sale by Timothy Sammons of an impressionist painting, with substantial issues of New York law.
- *A v A&A* (2023) – Acting for the Claimant in a dispute concerning a large-scale fraudulent pledge of modern art.
- *Auden McKenzie v Patel* (2020) – Acting (led) for the principal Defendant in a large Commercial Court case concerning the sale of a pharmaceutical company, involving the alleged fraudulent misappropriation of assets, tax fraud and competition law breaches.

## Insolvency & Restructuring

Harry has experience in a wide range of matters concerning both corporate and personal insolvency.



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## Recent Cases

- *Re Telrock Communications Limited* – Thought to be the first early neutral evaluation in the Companies Court.
- *Re Nortel Networks* – Harry was instructed to act as part of a team for the European administrators in relation to this very large, multi-jurisdictional insolvency dispute. Harry's role involved reviewing the depositions of a large number of witnesses to facilitate the marshalling of the evidence into the written arguments.
- Acting for trustees in bankruptcy. Harry is regularly instructed by trustees in bankruptcy in relation to matters such as annulment, possession of tenanted residential premises (in particular the High Court appeal in Re Bolter reported at [2016] BPIR 367), and possession and sale of property).

## Tax

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

# Testimonials

*"Harry Martin was very friendly and easy to work with, and he was easy to be against as well, which is important. He pushed points as far as he needed for his clients but did not engage in aggression which would undermine his position with a court. He is a good advocate and a very clever guy."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"Harry is, very simply, an exceptional barrister. He is very firm with opponents and excellent with clients. His written work is also thorough and clear."*

Chambers & Partners

*"Harry Martin is quite simply exceptional: written, oral advocacy, and with clients, he's the complete package. He's very good on his feet, very clear in his writing, and clients love him."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"Harry is great, he's so clean in his thinking and approach. He provides fast turnaround. He's quietly confident and thorough: nothing throws him, which is very reassuring."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"Harry Martin is our go-to counsel. His advice is commercial, clear and direct. He is courageous when he needs to be and also practical and sensible on other occasions too."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026



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*"Harry Martin is brilliant. He is very good on his feet and excellent in client conferences. He is always clear and confident, which is very much appreciated. He is generally our first choice of juniors for art matters, and not just art but classic cars and other luxury asset matters as well."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"I really rate Harry Martin. He gets to the point very quickly and he is pragmatic."*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"Harry Martin is really clever and also extremely commercial; he will not get sidetracked by an interesting point of law when in fact what people really need is sensible and commercial advice. He is an outstanding lawyer and can undo the knotty legal work. "*

Chambers High Net Worth 2026

*"Harry Martin is an incisive and experienced junior in art litigation."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry is very personable, understands a client's requirements and priorities and is flexible and adaptable, whilst providing robust advice."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry is very smart and very familiar with art law. He cuts through the issues very quickly, gets to the point, gives very clear advice and is very responsive."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry Martin is the most client-friendly barrister I have interacted with. Clients love him and cannot believe he is a barrister."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry Martin is always available to help and shows impressive experience and wisdom for his years."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry Martin is just extremely bright, a wonderful draftsman and wonderful with clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry Martin is robust and responsive. He is someone you want in your corner. He is a tremendous asset to instructing solicitors."*

Chambers & Partners 2026



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*"He is brilliant, totally on top of the material and the law, and works really hard. He is highly effective in court and is reassuring for clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

*"Harry Martin stands out. He is very clear and excellent in terms of advice. Harry gives a well-reasoned and convincing opinion and sticks to it. He will argue the case as forcibly as he sees fit."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Harry Martin is very keen, very responsive and gave us thoughtful, helpful advice on a very short timescale. He was very easy to work with and has a great client manner."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"He is not fixed or intransigent for the wrong reasons, and is always willing to discuss points. He punches above his weight, and is super smart and very experienced in art law."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Harry is astoundingly effective. He is very sharp-witted on his feet, and a tremendous asset in the mediation room or at court."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"I really enjoyed working with Harry. His input was considered, thoughtful and astute. He fitted seamlessly into an established team."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Harry is a rising star. He has excellent judgement, he performs really well in court and he is very good at analysing his client's case. He also has huge amounts of patience, which is rare."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Harry Martin stands out. He is very clear and excellent in terms of advice. Harry gives a well-reasoned and convincing opinion and sticks to it. He will argue the case as forcibly as he sees fit."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2024

*"Harry Martin is very keen, very responsive and gave us thoughtful, helpful advice on a very short timescale. He was very easy to work with and has a great client manner."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2024

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*super smart and very experienced in art law."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2024

*"Harry Martin is a rising star who is building a highly regarded traditional chancery practice. He regularly handles wills and trusts, and is also taking on art and cultural property matters."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

*"Harry Martin of Serle Court is a popular Chancery barrister who also advises on significant art and cultural property matters, particularly on title disputes and other contractual issues."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

*"He is super intelligent, he really understands this area and he is really good with clients. For his year of call he is over and above where you would expect someone to be."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

*"Harry has got a huge amount of expertise. He is very personable, straightforward and easy to work with."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

*"Harry is very good - very bright and articulate. He is incisive and knows the area well."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

*"Harry has got a huge amount of expertise. He is very personable, straightforward and easy to work with."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2023

*"He is very good - very bright and articulate. He is incisive and knows the area well. I am very impressed with him."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2023

*"Harry is, very simply, an exceptional barrister. He is very firm with opponents and excellent with clients. His written work is also thorough and clear."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2023

*"He is super intelligent, really understands this area and is really good with clients. For his years, he is over and above where you would expect someone."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2023



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*"He is fantastic. Strategically, he is very good and his written submission are first-rate."*

Chambers & Partners 2023

*"He's very bright and very commercial in his advice."*

Chambers & Partners 2023

*"Harry Martin is competent beyond his years and is a dream to work with."*

Chambers & Partners 2023

*"Harry is wonderful and I really enjoy working alongside him. He always takes the time to answer my calls and is always on hand if I need to ask any questions."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2022

*"Excellent junior in the chancery world."*

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth 2022

# Recommendations

- Art & Cultural Property (Chambers UK and Chambers HNW)
- Chancery Traditional (Chambers UK and Chambers HNW)

# Publications

- Co-editor of the Sale of Goods and Choses in *Action volumes of the Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents* (LexisNexis)

# Education & Qualifications

- Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding)
- BCL (Distinction), Keble College, Oxford
- BA in Jurisprudence (First Class), Keble College, Oxford



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# BSB Registration

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# VAT Number

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