serle court

Hugh Norbury KC

Call: 1995 | Silk: 2012

A great leader, a great team player and a technically brilliant barrister. He is a brilliant fraud practitioner whose advocacy is very effective.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2026

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

Hugh Norbury KC has a broad commercial and chancery practice, with a particular emphasis on cases involving fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and confidential information.

Hugh is recognised as a leading silk at the Chancery Commercial Bar. He is highly recommended by the leading directories in all his principal practice areas.

He has been involved in some of the most significant fraud cases of recent years. Currently he is co-leading for the claimant in Public Institution for *Social Security v Al Rajaan & ors*, a claim for in excess of US$1 billion arising out of alleged bribery of the former Director General of the Kuwaiti State Pension and Social Security Fund. The trial lasted over a year and is due to finish in mid-March 2026. Hugh cross-examined 18 witnesses over 21 days.

Prior to the PIFSS litigation, Hugh acted in a continuous run of large-scale commercial fraud litigation: *Jinxin v Aser Media Pte Limited & ors*, a US$660m claim for rescission or damages arising out of alleged deceit in the purchase by a Chinese fund of a controlling interest in a leading sports media rights group; *Vale v Steinmetz*, a £1 billion-plus claim relating to a mining joint venture in Guinea (Vale, the Brazilian mining giant, has brought a claim against various directors and controllers within the BSGR group to set aside a joint venture for fraudulent misrepresentation); *Arcelormittal v Essar Steel*, a huge claim arising out of efforts to enforce an underlying arbitration between two steel manufacturing giants; *Accident Exchange v McLean & ors*, a £127 million conspiracy claim brought by a firm of credit hire providers against experts and solicitors previously involved in litigation against the credit hire providers. For many years prior to that, Hugh was principally involved in the *BTA Bank v Ablyazov litigation*, culminating in leading his client's defence in a 14-week trial in the Commercial Court.

In 2019 and 2020, Hugh represented Charles Saatchi in proceedings against a former trusted advisor in relation to misappropriations relating to Mr Saatchi's famous art collection. In 2019, Hugh acted for the film and music business Entertainment One in fraud proceedings relating to secret commissions paid to senior employees. Between 2018 and 2019, he was involved in.

Hugh's offshore caseload has spanned arbitration (a Singapore breach of confidence case in which he secured a $600m award for his client), insolvency, fraud and breach of director's duties (Isle of Man and Bermuda), trusts and banking (Jersey and Guernsey) in recent years.

Contact

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

General enquiries

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Expertise

Civil Fraud

Recent Cases

- *Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors* [2021 ongoing] – A claim for in excess of US$800m arising out of alleged bribery of the former Director General of the Kuwaiti State Pension and Social Security Fund.
- *Jinxin v Aser Media Pte Limited & Ors* [2019 ongoing] – A US$660m claim for rescission or damages arising out of alleged deceit in the purchase by a Chinese fund of a controlling interest in a leading sports media rights group.
- *Vale v Steinmetz* [2019-2020] – One billion pound plus claim relating to a mining joint venture in Guinea. Vale, the Brazilian mining giant, has brought a claim against various directors and controllers within the BSGR group to set aside a joint venture for fraudulent misrepresentation.
- *Athene v Siddiqui & Ors* [2020 onwards] – Bermudan proceedings against former officers of Athene and one of its owners, the private equity giant Apollo, relating to their rival business set up shortly after they left Athene and Apollo. The claims involve issues of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty and dishonest assistance.
- *Ballacorey Wheat v Brown & Ors* [2019 onwards] – Isle of Man proceedings against former fiduciaries relating to series of payments made to a senior employee of an investment management firm, based on allegations of fraud.
- *Saatchi v Gajjar* [2019-2020] – Complex set of proceedings brought in late 2019 by Charles Saatchi against a former trusted advisor in relation to misappropriation relating to the storage and transportation of Mr Saatchi's hugely valuable art collection. Permission to bring derivative proceedings was given after a hard-fought battle to resist.
- *EOL v Monex & Others* [2019] – Bribery claim in the Chancery Division arising out of commissions secretly paid to senior people in the treasury department of Entertainment One, a major player in the film and music production industry, resulting in large losses on foreign exchange trades with Monex.
- *Arcelormittal v Essar Steel* [2018-2019] – A billion dollar plus claim arising out of efforts to enforce an underlying arbitration between two steel manufacturing giants. Numerous key issues relating to the ambit of worldwide freezing orders were determined by Mr Justice Jacobs.
- *Accident Exchange Limited v Autofocus & Others* [2016-2018] – A £127 million conspiracy claim brought by a firm of credit hire providers against experts and solicitors previously involved in litigation against the credit hire providers. Hugh acts with Dan McCourt Fritz for some of the solicitor defendants in ongoing litigation.
- *FM Capital Partners Ltd v Frederic Marino* [2014-2015] – Alleged breaches of duty and fraud relating to the investment of the Libyan sovereign wealth fund.
- *Otkritie v Urumov & Others* [2012] – Advised a potential defendant in a well-publicised banking fraud.
- *BTA Bank v Ablyazov & Others* [2011-2013] EWHC 510 (Comm) – Multi-billion pound commercial fraud claim concerning the management of a Kazakh bank. 12-week trial concluded in February 2013.
- *Cherney v Neuman & Others* [2007-2009] EWHC 1743 (Ch) – Acting unled for one of the world's richest men (as claimant) in a £10 million breach of fiduciary duty and professional negligence claim arising out of dealings from 2005 to 2008 in the London property market.

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Commercial Litigation

Recent Cases

- *Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors, [2021 ongoing]* – A claim for in excess of US$800m arising out of alleged bribery of the former Director General of the Kuwaiti State Pension and Social Security Fund.
- *Athene v Siddiqui & Ors* [2020 onwards] – Bermudan proceedings against former officers of Athene and one of its owners, the private equity giant Apollo, relating to their rival business set up shortly after they left Athene and Apollo. The claims involve issues of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty and dishonest assistance.
- *Jinxin v Aser Media Pte Limited & Ors* [2019 ongoing] – A US$660m claim for rescission or damages arising out of alleged deceit in the purchase by a Chinese fund of a controlling interest in a leading sports media rights group.
- *Vale v Steinmetz* [2019 onwards] – One billion pound plus claim relating to a mining joint venture in Guinea. Vale, the Brazilian mining giant, has brought a claim against various directors and controllers within the BSGR group to set aside a joint venture for fraudulent misrepresentation.
- *Arcelormittal v Essar Steel* [2018-2019] – A billion dollar plus claim arising out of efforts to enforce an underlying arbitration between two steel manufacturing giants. Numerous key issues relating to the ambit of worldwide freezing orders were determined by Mr Justice Jacobs.
- *Greenhouse v Paysafe* [2018-2019] – An international commission dispute in the context of an online payment system and its use by online poker players.
- *Accident Exchange Limited v Autofocus and others* [2016-2018] – A £127 million conspiracy claim brought by a firm of credit hire providers against experts and solicitors previously involved in litigation against the credit hire providers. Hugh acts with Dan McCourt Fritz for some of the solicitor defendants in ongoing litigation.
- *Zayo v Ainger* [2017] – A summary judgment application involving issues of service and contractual limitation / notification periods.
- *Dubai Bank v Galadari* [2017] – Commercial banking case relating to the enforcement of a guarantee for approximately US$80m.

Professional Negligence

Recent Cases

- *Accident Exchange Limited v Autofocus & Others* [2016-2018] – A £127 million conspiracy claim brought by a firm of credit hire providers against experts and solicitors previously involved in litigation against the credit hire providers. Hugh acts with Dan McCourt Fritz for some of the solicitor defendants in ongoing litigation.
- *Confidential Litigation & Mediation* [2011-2012] – Involving the fall-out from the collapse of a leading law firm.
- *Cherney v Neuman & Others* [2008 onwards] – Acting as led for one of the world's richest men (as claimant) in a £10 million breach of fiduciary duty and professional negligence claim arising out of dealings from 2005 to 2008 in the London property market. Trial in March 2011 (unled).
- *British & Commonwealth Holdings Plc v Atlantic Computers* [1998] – Large professional negligence and misrepresentation action.

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Company

Recent Cases

- *Athene v Siddiqui & Ors* [2020 onwards] – Bermudan proceedings against former officers of Athene and one of its owners, the private equity giant Apollo, relating to their rival business set up shortly after they left Athene and Apollo. The claims involve issues of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty by directors and dishonest assistance.
- *Ballacorey Wheat v Brown & Ors* [2019 onwards] – Isle of Man proceedings against former fiduciaries relating to a series of payments made to a senior employee of an investment management firm, based on allegations of fraudulent breach of fiduciary duty by directors.
- *Saatchi v Gajjar* [2019 – 2020] – Complex set of proceedings brought in late 2019 by Charles Saatchi against a former trusted advisor in relation to misappropriation relating to the storage and transportation of Mr Saatchi's hugely valuable art collection. Permission to bring derivative proceedings was given after a hard-fought battle to resist.
- *Rosenblum v Rosenblum* [2017 – 2018] – A corporate claim in the Chancery division involving issues concerning the enforcement of an equitable charge over valuable shares.
- *Ozerk v Uzun* [2017 – 2018] – Confidential information and fraud claim relating to the misappropriation of software and related property. Extensive interim relief was obtained.
- *Webinvest v Prokofyeva* [2017 onwards] – A part of the Schlossberg litigation seeking to set aside the transfer of a ski chalet.
- *Blomqvist v Zavarco & Open Fibre* [2016] EWHC 1143 (Ch) – Hugh acted between 2015 and 2017 for the successful defendant, Open Fibre, a Malaysian company to which a large shareholding in an English company had been transferred. The claimant failed in its application to rectify the register so as to remove the shareholding; related proceedings followed.

Insolvency & Restructuring

Recent Cases

- *Webinvest v Prokofyeva* [2017 onwards] – A part of the Schlossberg litigation seeking to set aside the transfer of a ski chalet.
- *In re Gizmondo* [2014-2015] – Section 238 proceedings arising out of the liquidation of the makers of handheld computer gaming consoles.
- *In re Foundations Program plc* [2013-2015] – Various proceedings arising out of the collapse of an investment scheme in the Isle of Man.

International

Recent Cases

- *Athene v Siddiqui & Ors* [2020 onwards] – Bermudan proceedings against former officers of Athene and one of its owners, the private equity giant Apollo, relating to their rival business set up shortly after they left Athene and Apollo. The claims involve issues of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty and dishonest assistance.

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- *Ballacorey Wheat v Brown & Ors* [2019 onwards] – Isle of Man proceedings against former fiduciaries relating to a series of payments made to a senior employee of an investment management firm, based on allegations of fraud.
- *China Metals v Chun* [2017 onwards] – Large international fraud case relating to the alleged misappropriation of assets in China / Hong Kong. Hugh is acting for the daughters of the alleged fraudster in relation to a proprietary injunction over valuable assets that they hold in London.
- *Dubai Bank v Galadari* [2017] – Commercial banking case relating to the enforcement of a guarantee for approximately US$80m.
- *In re Foundations Program Plc* [2013-2015] – Various proceedings arising out of the collapse of an investment scheme in the Isle of Man.
- *INBS v Halabi* [2009 onwards] – Acted in a successful claim to recover Jersey bank debt.
- *Perczynski v Perczynski & Others* [2001-2010] – Protracted Jersey trust litigation involving various corporate issues.

Arbitrators

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

International

Recent Cases

Athene v Siddiqui & ors [2020 onwards]: Bermudan proceedings against former officers of Athene and one of its owners, the private equity giant Apollo, relating to their rival business set up shortly after they left Athene and Apollo. The claims involve issues of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty and dishonest assistance.

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Testimonials

"A great leader, a great team player and a technically brilliant barrister. He is a brilliant fraud practitioner whose advocacy is very effective."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Hugh is really intellectual but not too precious about it. He gives overtly considered advice; nothing is just throwaway. He is just utterly reliable and great fun."

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Chancery: Commercial)

"He has fantastic judgement, and clients love him."

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"He is a really experienced fraud litigator with a knack for finding the killer point."

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil)

"Hugh is very sage and provides extremely sound and tactically smart advice."

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Fraud: Civil)

"He talks to all sorts of clients in a way they understand. He gets to the nub of the matter quickly, the quality of his written work is very high and he is a good advocate in court."

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Fraud: Civil)

"Hugh is a very polished advocate and reads the court brilliantly. He really understands fraud cases, and has a wealth of experience and a delightful style with clients. He is great on strategy."

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Fraud: Civil)

"He understands working in a team and is commercial and team-oriented."

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Fraud: Civil)

"Hugh is incredibly good at factual analysis. He shows very good attention to detail and is very effective at cross-examination."

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Chancery: Commercial)

"Hugh is bright, commercial, calm and really responsive."

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Chambers & Partners 2025 (Chancery: Commercial)

"Hugh is an exceptionally gifted advocate and an obvious choice for commercial cases. Extremely impressive."

Legal 500 2025 (Commercial Litigation)

"He is exceptional on his feet, astute and eloquent."

Legal 500 2025 (Company)

Recommendations

- Shortlisted for Commercial Dispute Resolution Silk of the Year (Chambers UK, 2026)
- Chancery: Commercial, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Fraud: Civil (Chambers & Partners 2026)
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (Chambers Global 2026)
- Commercial Litigation, Fraud: Civil, Company (Legal 500 2026)

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association

Education & Qualifications

- Dip. Law (Distinction), City University, London
- LLM, Corporate & Commercial Law (Distinction), Kings College, London
- BA, Worcester College, Oxford

BSB Registration

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