serle court

Jon Turnbull

Call: 2023

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Jon Turnbull is a Commercial-Chancery barrister with particular interests in Civil Fraud, Company & Insolvency and Banking & Finance related litigation.

Jon is currently instructed as part of a large counsel team (led by Hugh Norbury KC, Stuart Ritchie KC (Fountain Court) and Anna Dilnot KC (Essex Court)) for the claimant in *PIFSS v Al Rajaan & Ors*. The claim involves the Kuwaiti state pension fund seeking to recover c. USD 1bn from multiple defendants arising out of the alleged bribery of the former Director General of the fund. The trial took place over a year between March 2025 and March 2026 – one of the longest ever trials in the Commercial Court. Judgment is awaited. Jon is also instructed for the claimants in *Arena Television & Anor v Bank of Scotland & Ors*, a substantial "*Quincecare*-type" claim arising from an asset-based lending fraud.

Before joining Serle Court, Jon was the Judicial Assistant to Lord Briggs of Westbourne in the UK Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. During that time, he worked on a number of high-profile and important appeals, dealing with novel and complex issues of law. Notably this included *Byers v Saudi National Bank* [2023] UKSC 51, a landmark case on knowing receipt. Jon was also previously a Judicial Assistant in the High Court.

Prior to coming to Bar Jon was a Senior Associate in the Litigation & Investigations team at Allen & Overy LLP. During his career as a solicitor, Jon represented large corporates and financial institutions in a range of high-value complex commercial disputes and regulatory investigations. He is therefore very used to handling heavy and complex multi-jurisdictional litigation.

Jon has also spent time on secondment to the Litigation and Regulatory Proceedings team at Goldman Sachs. He is therefore well versed in complex financial products and issues arising in large financial institutions.

Expertise

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General enquiries

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Civil Fraud

Recent Cases

- *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors* (Commercial Court – ongoing)
  Currently acting as part of a large counsel team (co-led by Hugh Norbury KC) for the claimant, the Kuwaiti state pension fund, in a complex c.US$1 bn claim against multiple defendants arising out of the alleged bribery of the former Director General of the fund by a number of financial institutions and intermediaries. The trial took place between March 2025 and March 2026. Judgment is awaited.
- *Arena Television & Anor v Bank of Scotland & Ors* (Commercial Court – ongoing)
  Instructed (led by Lance Ashworth KC and William Day of 3VB) for the claimants in a £265m "*Quincecare*-type" claim arising out of an asset-based lending fraud perpetrated by the directors of the claimant companies.
- *Carey Street Investments Limited (in liquidation) v Brown* [2024] EWCA Civ 571 – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC (as a pupil) in successfully defending an appeal against the dismissal of claims against a director and corporate services provider for alleged breaches of fiduciary duty.
- *Jaffé v Greybull Capital LLP* [2024] EWHC 2534 (Comm) – Assisted Thomas Elias (as a pupil) in a three-week Commercial Court fraud trial against an investment firm arising from the collapse of Monarch Airlines. The judgment involves interesting consideration of the Gestmin approach to deciding between competing recollections and the weight to be attached to contemporaneous records.
- *Isbilen v Turk* [2024] EWHC 505 (Ch) – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Andrew Gurr (as a pupil) in relation to claims in fraud and undue influence arising from the misappropriation of c. £40m from a high net worth individual. In particular, assisting in relation to the trial of a successful application to commit the defendant for failure to disclose traceable proceeds pursuant to a freezing and proprietary injunction.
- *Hyde v Park* (2024, Supreme Court of Gibraltar) – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC (as a pupil) in defending claims brought under the Fraudulent Conveyances Act 1571 in relation to transactions allegedly intended to defraud creditors.

During his time as a judicial assistant at the UK Supreme Court Jon assisted in relation to a number of cases relating to civil fraud, including:

- *Byers v Saudi National Bank* [2023] UKSC 51; [2024] 2 W.L.R. 237 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to the landmark Supreme Court case regarding whether a claim for knowing receipt in respect of shares transferred in breach of trust could be maintained in circumstances where the claimant's equitable interest in the shares had been extinguished by the time of receipt. Now a leading authority on knowing receipt.
- *Skatteforvaltningen (Danish Customs and Tax Administration) v Solo Capital Partners LLP (In Special Administration)* [2023] UKSC 40; [2023] 3 W.L.R. 886 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to a Supreme Court appeal regarding the "revenue rule" in relation to claims by the Danish tax authority to recover sums paid out allegedly as a consequence of dividend tax fraud.
- *Bilta (UK) Ltd (In Liquidation) v Tradition Financial Services Ltd* [2023] 1 W.L.R. 2582 – Assisted (as a judicial assistant) in relation to a Permission to Appeal application from [2023] EWCA Civ 112; [2023] Ch. 343 regarding the scope of section 213 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (fraudulent trading) and limitation issues arising from claims of dishonest assistance arising from VAT carousel fraud.

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Banking & Financial Services

Recent Cases

- *Arena Television & Anor v Bank of Scotland & Ors* (Commercial Court – ongoing)
  Instructed (led by Lance Ashworth KC and William Day of 3VB) for the claimants in a £265m "*Quincecare*-type" claim arising out of an asset-based lending fraud perpetrated by the directors of the claimant companies.
- *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors* (Commercial Court – ongoing)
  Currently acting as part of a large counsel team (co-led by Hugh Norbury KC) for the claimant, the Kuwaiti state pension fund, in a complex c.US$1 bn claim against multiple defendants arising out of the alleged bribery of the former Director General of the fund by a number of financial institutions and intermediaries. The trial took place between March 2025 and March 2026. Judgment is awaited.

During his career as a solicitor Jon's practice focused on banking and financial services-related litigation and regulatory investigations, including for example:

- *BNP Paribas SA v Trattamento Rifiuti Metropolitani SPA* [2020] EWHC 2436 (Comm) – Acted (as a solicitor) for BNP Paribas in successfully obtaining declaratory relief in respect of allegations of misselling of interest rate swaps relating to a project financing in Italy.
- *Adare Finance DAC v Yellowstone Capital Management SA* [2021] EWHC 2406 (Comm); [2021] EWHC 1680 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 2760 (Comm) – Acted (as a solicitor) for an investment fund in relation to a debt claim and subsequent enforcement and asset tracing steps against an ultra-high net worth individual arising from the purchase of a luxury hotel.
- *Agate Assets SA v Banque Privee Edmond de Rothschild Europe SA* (2020-2021, Commercial Court) – Acted (as a solicitor) for a German international bank in defence of a €30 million claim relating to alleged fraud arising from sale of structured notes, including claims for unlawful means conspiracy, deceit, dishonest assistance and negligence.

Jon has also worked on a substantial FCA investigation in relation to international corruption.

Commercial Litigation

Recent Cases

- *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors* (Commercial Court – ongoing)
  Currently acting as part of a large counsel team (co-led by Hugh Norbury KC) for the claimant, the Kuwaiti state pension fund, in a complex c.US$1 bn claim against multiple defendants arising out of the alleged bribery of the former Director General of the fund by a number of financial institutions and intermediaries. The trial took place between March 2025 and March 2026. Judgment is awaited.
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- *Carey Street Investments Limited (in liquidation) v Brown* [2024] EWCA Civ 571 – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC (as a pupil) in successfully defending an appeal against the dismissal of claims against a director and corporate services provider for alleged breaches of fiduciary duty.
- *DGL Group Limited v R & A Sales Limited* (2024, Business List, Chancery Division) – Assisted Matthew Morrison KC (as a pupil) in relation to claims in deceit and breach of fiduciary duty arising from commercial distribution arrangement for electronic goods.

During his time as a judicial assistant at the UK Supreme Court Jon assisted in relation to a number of commercial cases including:

- *Barton v Gwyn-Jones* [2023] UKSC 3; [2023] A.C. 684 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to a Supreme Court appeal regarding contractual interpretation, implied terms and unjust enrichment.
- *Sara & Hossein Asset Holdings Ltd v Blacks Outdoor Retail Ltd* [2023] UKSC 2; [2023] 1 W.L.R. 575 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to Supreme Court appeal regarding the interpretation of service charge provisions in a commercial lease, and the extent to which a "conclusive" certificate could be challenged.

During his career as a solicitor Jon regularly worked on commercial litigation, including for example:

- *Phones 4U Ltd (in administration) v EE Ltd* [2018] EWHC 49 (Comm); [2018] Bus. L.R. 574 – Acted (as a solicitor) for the administrators of Phones 4U in relation to contractual claims and counterclaims worth several hundred million pounds against the mobile network EE arising from the insolvency of Phones 4U. Including obtaining summary judgment on an important issue regarding repudiatory breach of contract following insolvency.

Insolvency & Restructuring

Recent Cases

- *Re Breton Park Residential Homes Limited (in Administration)* (2023, Insolvency and Companies Lists, Chancery Division) – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Ramyaa Veerabathran (as a pupil) in relation to contested applications for directions to administrators and injunctive relief in an unfair prejudice petition, arising from a battle for control of a £50m family caravan-park business.

During his career as a solicitor Jon worked on a number of high-profile insolvencies and insolvency-related litigation:

- *Re MF Global* [2018] EWCA Civ 1327; [2019] Bus. L.R. 40 & [2018] EWHC 1372 (Ch); [2018] Bus LR 1 – Acted (as a solicitor) for a group of creditors successfully challenging MF Global's Company Voluntary Agreement; ultimately successful before the Court of Appeal.
- *Re Phones 4U Ltd (in administration)* (2016-2021, Insolvency and Companies Court) – Acted (as a solicitor) for the administrators of Phones 4U in relation to various applications and disputes arising in the administration.
- *TXU Europe Group* (2016-2020) – Acted (as a solicitor) for the administrators, liquidators and CVA supervisors of a number of TXU group companies in relation to the long-running insolvency of the energy company.

During his time as a judicial assistant at the UK Supreme Court Jon assisted in relation to insolvency law cases including:

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- *Brake v Chedington Court Estate Ltd* [2023] UKSC 29; [2023] 1 W.L.R. 3035 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to a Supreme Court appeal regarding the standing of a bankrupt to challenge decisions of their trustee in bankruptcy pursuant to section 303 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Company

Recent Cases

- *Re Chantacre Limited* (2024, Insolvency and Companies Lists, Chancery Division) – Assisted Matthew Morrison KC (as a pupil) in relation to unfair prejudice proceedings brought by minority shareholders in a construction business.
- *Re Breton Park Residential Homes Limited (in Administration)*(2023, Insolvency and Companies Lists, Chancery Division) – Assisted Dan McCourt Fritz KC and Ramyaa Veerabathran (as a pupil) in relation to contested administration proceedings and an unfair prejudice petition, arising from a dispute over control of a c.£50m family caravan-park business.

During his time as a judicial assistant at the UK Supreme Court Jon assisted in relation to company law cases including:

- *Kwok v Juan* [2022] UKPC 52 (British Virgin Islands) – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council regarding an unfair prejudice petition and just and equitable winding up petition regarding a British Virgin Islands.

Arbitration

During his career as a solicitor Jon undertook international arbitration, including doing a secondment to the arbitration team in his firm's Singapore office, he also worked on London-based arbitration.

Recent Cases

- c.$1bn construction arbitration (2018-2019, ICC London Seat) – Acted (as a solicitor) in a large international construction arbitration, involving claims and counterclaims totalling >US$ 1bn for breach of contract and misrepresentation arising out cancellation of an international under-sea gas pipeline.

Partnership

Recent Cases

- *LLP Agreement Dispute* (2024, Business List, Chancery Division) – Assisted (as a pupil) Sparsh Garg in relation to an intended claim for breach of an LLP agreement.
- *McCarthy v Baggott* (2024, Business & Property work, County Court at Birmingham) – Assisted (as a pupil) Matthew Morrison KC in relation to a dispute arising from the termination of a partnership in the care sector.

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Trusts & Probate

Recent Cases

- *Bond v Webster* [2024] EWHC 1972 (Ch) – Assisted Harry Martin (as a pupil) on a month-long trial of a contentious probate dispute concerning the validity of a will and succession to shares in Bond International, one of the UK's largest tyre wholesale businesses.
- Contested Directions Application (2024, Trusts and Probate List, Chancery Division) – Assisted Sparsh Garg and Richard Wilson KC (as a pupil) in relation to a contested application for directions by an independent administrator of the English elements of a multi-jurisdictional estate which raised various conflicts of laws issues.
- Contested Probate Claim (2024, British Virgin Islands High Court, Commercial Division) – Assisted Sparsh Garg and Richard Wilson KC (as a pupil) in relation to a contested application for grant of letters of administration in relation to a significant BVI estate.

During his time as a judicial assistant in the Privy Council Jon assisted in a number of trust and probate related cases, including:

- *Perry v Lopag Trust Reg* [2023] UKPC 16 (Cayman Islands); [2023] 1 W.L.R. 3494 – Assisted Lords Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arising from a claim to set aside a transfer of a share in a Cayman Islands holding company into a Liechtenstein discretionary trust on the basis of equitable mistake.
- *Deonarine v Ramcharan* [2022] UKPC 57 (Trinidad & Tobago) – Assisted Lords Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council regarding the validity of a compromise agreement between potential heirs on the basis it had allegedly been procured by fraud.

International

During his time as a judicial assistant to Lord Briggs JSC, Jon worked on a number of appeals and petitions for special leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from the Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Jersey, Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Mauritius.

Recent Cases

- *Attorney General v Jamaican Bar Association* [2023] UKPC 6 (Jamaica) – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arising from a judicial review by the Jamaican Bar Association of the validity of the Jamaican anti-money laundering regime applicable to Attorneys-at-Law.
- *Maharaj v Trinidad and Tobago* [2023] UKPC 17 (Trinidad and Tobago); [2023] 1 W.L.R. 2870 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arising from a judicial review of the validity of the purported extension of terms of office of local Councillors and Aldermen in Trinidad and Tobago.
- *Attorney General of Trinidad & Tobago v Trinsalvage Enterprises Ltd* [2023] UKPC 26 (Trinidad & Tobago); [2023] 1 W.L.R. 4045 – Assisted Lord Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arising from a claim for a quantum meruit for work done by a construction company pursuant to a contract which was rendered void for failure to fulfil public procurement rules.
- *Porter v Stokes* [2023] UKPC 11 (Trinidad & Tobago) – Assisted Lords Briggs JSC (as a judicial assistant) in relation to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arising from a claim to rectify a deed of conveyance including claims of

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fraud.

Appointments

- Solicitor (2016)

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Chancery Bar Association
- Contentious Trusts Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

Education & Qualifications

- Post-Graduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (LPC) (Distinction), University of Law, London
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), College of Law, London
- MA, Experimental Psychology (First Class), Magdalen College, University of Oxford
- Demyship, Magdalen College, University of Oxford
- LLB (First Class), University of Law, London

BSB Registration

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