

Jonathan Bernhardt

Call: 2025

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Jonathan Bernhardt is building a broad commercial and chancery practice across Chambers' practice areas.

Jonathan joined chambers in 2026 following the successful completion of pupillage under **Jonathan McDonagh**, **Oliver Jones**, **James Weale KC** and **Zahler Bryan**.

Before he joined the Bar, Jonathan assisted a number of barristers with a range of arbitration proceedings in the context of shipping & commodities and investor-State disputes. He continues to accept instructions in these areas.

Expertise

Civil Fraud

Recent Cases

- Assisted **Matthew Morrison KC** and **Zahler Bryan** with a claim against an asset manager involving an allegation of dishonest assistance.
- Assisted **James Weale KC** with a Emirati law-governed DIFC fraud claim arising from the alleged dissipation of assets by a judgment debtor.

Arbitration

Before coming to Chambers, Jonathan assisted with several investor-State arbitration proceedings pursuant to the ICSID and PCA

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Contact

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General enquiries

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rules. This work included assisting with the preparation of written submissions in a high-value claim against a European State and attending a two-week hearing in Singapore in respect of the expropriation of real estate investments in an Asian jurisdiction.

Jonathan also has experience with a variety of shipping & commodities disputes, including off-hire claims, detention/demurrage claims and claims under shipbuilding contracts.

Recent Cases

- Currently instructed for the respondent shipowners in LMAA proceedings under a time charterparty arising from the detention of a vessel by Port State Control authorities.
- (Prior to pupillage) Assisted with LMAA proceedings concerning the interpretation of a shipbuilding contract. Following a one-week hearing at which Jonathan made submissions on behalf of the respondents, the c. US\$10 million claim was dismissed in full.

Commercial Litigation

Recent Cases

- Assisted **Jonathan McDonagh** with work on *Município de Mariana v BHP Group*, a large group action arising from the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil.
- Assisted **James Weale KC** with a summary judgment application in BVI professional negligence proceedings brought against a firm of solicitors.
- Assisted **James Weale KC** with an advice on a prospective claim pursuant to an investment agreement.

Banking & Financial Services

Jonathan has assisted with a variety of matters involving the financial services sector prior to and during pupillage.

Recent Cases

- Assisted **Matthew Morrison KC** and **Zahler Bryan** with proceedings involving an alleged breach of the *Quincecare*
- Assisted **James Weale KC** in matrimonial finance proceedings before the Court of Appeal involving dealings with a bank majority-owned by the defendant husband.
- Assisted **Jonathan McDonagh** with proceedings concerning the enforcement of a guarantee.

International

Much of Jonathan's work both prior to and during pupillage has involved a significant international element, including matters of foreign law.

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Trusts & Probate

Recent Cases

- Assisted **James Weale KC** with various trustee removal proceedings in Jersey, Guernsey and the Bahamas (among other jurisdictions).
- Assisted **James Weale KC** with matrimonial finance proceedings involving the alleged operation of constructive and resulting trusts.
- Assisted **Zahler Bryan** with an advice on a proposed claim to enforce foreign forced heirship rights in England.

Company

During pupillage, Jonathan assisted with a range of matters involving questions of company law.

Matrimonial Finance: Trusts & Company Law

During pupillage, Jonathan assisted with several matrimonial finance matters.

Education & Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), King's College London – 2022
- BCL, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford – 2023
- BVS, City Law School – 2024

Languages

- German (intermediate)

BSB Registration

Jonathan Max Bernhardt

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