



Simon Davenport QC

Call Date: 1987

Silk Date: 2009

“A first-rate silk” and a “fearless advocate”, Simon Davenport QC practises in Insolvency, Civil Fraud and Commercial Dispute Resolution, including Arbitration cases.

A trusted QC, he is head of all of Chambers’ groups in these areas and is widely acclaimed as a leading silk in these fields across the Bar, being named as a Leading Silk in the Legal 500 in Civil Fraud, Insolvency and Commercial Litigation. Client testimonials cite his “exemplary client-handling skills and straight-talking advice” as well as his unfailing ability to give “110 percent to achieve the right results for his clients”.

He has been appointed to the Serious Fraud Office approved list of Queen's Counsel and was appointed to the Treasury Solicitors' panel of Queen's Counsel in 2011. He is a member of both the Policy Group and the Fraud Group of R3 (the leading insolvency recovery professional body). In 2015 he was elected as a bencher of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. He also acts on the International Committee and has recently been appointed Master of the House- a role with great responsibility for the governance of The Inn.

Recent and Current Practice

- An enforcement action arising from a Ukrainian judgment for the amount of US\$ 3.7 billion.
- Acting for families of deceased and injured United States armed forces personnel killed or injured in acts of terrorism by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The value of the claim is US\$ 5.5 billion.
- Simon is leading a team from 3 Hare Court in a high profile case acting for a group of businesses in group action against RBS. The case involves claimants from thousands of SMEs that were put into administration, with a value of up to £7billion.
- Head of a team acting for Aeroflot’s claims against Boris Berezovsky.
- Simon regularly helps to build cases with clients and funders.



Civil Fraud

Simon has extensive experience in both international and domestic civil fraud. He has acted for major liquidators on fraud cases and he has encountered a wide breadth of tax fraud for HMRC and liquidators. These cases have included high value MTIC/carousel frauds, failed tax scheme frauds, Ponzi schemes, excise duty frauds, corporation tax frauds and negligible tax value schemes.

His experience also extends to terrorist, gangland and extortion cases involving fraud by organised crime.

Simon has a particular knowledge of claims, including claims potentially running to in excess of £300 million, arising from Libor-rigging events and from related interest rate hedging product sales. He also has a particular interest in similar claims arising from Forex-rigging, and has developed substantial market knowledge in this context.

Notable Cases:

[*NGM v Phillip Wallis & ors*](#) - Acting for the Defendants in a six week trial in a £30-£50 million claim. The case dealt with fraud and conspiracy to remove a Patent for developing 'can-float' property technology.

[*AM Holdings Limited v Henderson Global Investors Limited*](#) - Successfully obtained an order for pre-action disclosure in the Chancery Division on behalf of the claimant, in relation to the purchase of the Leadenhall Triangle portfolio of properties in June 2011 for £188 million.

Insolvency

He represents many of the leading insolvency practitioners in all forms of insolvency actions as well as appearing for directors and individuals. He has far-reaching experience of both trials and interlocutory work with frequent applications relating to freezing and search orders and all forms of interlocutory relief.

Simon provides regular talks on all aspects of insolvency and chaired a webinar on the topic of 'Insolvency in relation to commercial transactions'.

Notable Cases:

[*Baha Mar Resort Development*](#) - Successfully obtaining dismissal of US Bankruptcy Proceedings after being granted pro hac vice rights of audience to appear as Co-Counsel at the hearing in Delaware,USA.



[Coventry & others v Lawrence and another](#) - Acting as an intervener in the much-awaited and ground-breaking Supreme Court costs appeal considering whether to strike-down CFAs under the Access to Justice Act ('AJA') scheme.

Commercial

His practice incorporates commercial work in both the Chancery Division and the Commercial Court, and he advises on various international aspects of Commercial and Insolvency Law, examples include: advising on the position relating to British litigation against the Icelandic banks, the Icelandic Moratoria and the Treasury Freezing Orders and Licenses; representing US companies with UK assets resisting pursuit by English liquidators; the investigation of Panamanian and Bahamian Trust assets as part of a masking operation within a complex fraud; a trust claim within the Lehman Brothers Administrations and litigation including considering a negligence claim against administrators arising out of a huge value Ponzi scheme. He is able to advise on all aspects regarding the Bribery Act and in particular with compliance.

In commercial actions he has considerable experience of acting in Russian/CIS and Anglo-Indian trade contracts.

Arbitration

Appointed as an FCI Arb at 30, Simon was one of the youngest qualified arbitrators: he now conducts arbitrations as both advocate and arbitrator. He was recently appointed an LCIA arbitrator in an international money exchange claim and has been nominated in a Russian v Russian LCIA commercial reference. He conducted a shipping arbitration (export of steel) as advocate, Foreign Exchange (Forex) contracts (Open and Closed Forwards) and issues relating to the terms of Letters of Credit.

International Work

He frequently acts for Russian/CIS clients and was instructed in two appeals in the Court of Appeal on [Terluk v Berezovsky eg \[2011\] EWCA Civ 1534](#). He has advised on Mutual Assistance applications, an ECHR claim against the UK for a CIS client, Freezing Orders under s.25 CJA to assist foreign proceedings, and undertakes appellate work in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

In the Baha Mar Resort Development case, he was granted rights of audience to appear as Co-Counsel to dismiss bankruptcy proceedings in Delaware, USA.



Legal Directories

Chambers and Partners 2017

"Very user-friendly and energetic". "He is superb on his feet and has judges eating out of his hand".

Ranked Silk: Commercial Dispute Resolution

"He is very knowledgeable and an exceptional advocate". "He is extremely bright and very commercial".

Ranked Silk: Fraud: Civil

Chambers and Partners 2016

"A team player and leader who can make the complex simple for both judges and clients." "He's very user-friendly and highly energetic."

Ranked Silk: Commercial Dispute Resolution

"A robust advocate who's not shy about giving clients frank advice." "He works very hard, and is phenomenally user-friendly. He's not pompous and he's able to roll his sleeves up."

Ranked Silk: Fraud: Civil

Legal 500 2016

"A first-rate silk for complicated, "do-your-head-in" problems".

Leading Silk: Commercial Litigation

"A fearless advocate- there is no better civil fraud silk to have on your side".

Leading Silk: Civil Fraud

"He provides exemplary client-handling skills and straight-talking advice".

Leading Silk: Insolvency

"Simon Davenport QC gives 110% to achieve the right result for clients. A team player and leader who can make the complex simple for both judges and clients. Brilliant cross-examiner; definitely the one to call in when the case relies heavily on how the facts come out."

Client testimonials.



Lectures and Speeches

He has lectured widely and written articles on Insolvency Law: he was a keynote speaker at the R3 Annual Conference in Wales and a speaker at two sessions (mediations and international fraud) in St Petersburg International Legal Forum.

He chaired a Question Time style panel discussion on Constitutions, the Common Law and Recent Events at the Trinidad and Tobago Legal Network Conference in 2015 on the topic of "Recent Contribution of the Caribbean to the Common and Constitutional Law".

He has advised HMRC internally as to ways in which to improve recoveries and provided talks on the 'Fraud Landscape'.

Memberships

LCLCBA - former executive committee

Chancery Bar Association

CEBA (Commonwealth in England Bar Association) - Chairman

Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association

Fraud Lawyers Association

Qualifications

Simon has 2 degrees, the first in Law (LLB) and the second in History of Art (BA).