

Adam Riley

Call Date: 2018



Adam practices across all of Chambers core areas of work, with a focus on commercial disputes, international arbitration, company and insolvency, travel & aviation, and public & constitutional law.

Adam has appeared as junior counsel in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and in 13 appeals before the Privy Council representing governments, businesses and individuals as clients across the Commonwealth (including from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda). He is recognised in the Legal 500 as a Rising Star (Tier 1) in two categories: 'Administrative Law and Human Rights', and 'The English Bar (Offshore)', which describes him as "*thoughtful, comprehensive and analytical*" in his approach.

Adam is also an experienced trial lawyer in his own right, frequently handling a broad range of trials and hearings, appeals, interim applications, preliminary hearings, and costs and case management conferences as sole counsel in the High Court and County Court.

Adam is a member of the Attorney General's C-Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown.

His recent experience includes:

- **Lifestyle Equities C.V. and anor v Ahmed and anor [2024] UKSC 17**: acting as junior counsel before the Supreme Court. The decision restates the law on directors' duties, accessory liability and orders for an account of profits. Adam was led by Peter Knox K.C.
- **R (on the application of Keighley) v Office of Communications [2025] EWHC 416 (admin)**: acting as first junior counsel. The claimant made various complaints to OfCom asserting that the BBC was systemically biased in its coverage of Brexit. OfCom asserted it did not have jurisdiction to consider complaints of this nature, and that its remit was limited to complaints alleging bias in individual programmes or editorially linked series. The claimant challenged this decision by judicial review. Adam was led by Thomas Roe K.C.
- **Momenta v Cheval Legal [2024] EWHC 3333 (Ch)**: acting as first junior counsel. The defendant counterclaimed for breach of various contractual duties owed by Momenta in conducting claims for Cheval on an outsourced basis. The defendant secured an award of over £4,000,000. Adam was led by Rowan Pennington-Benton.
- **Ravi Balgobin Maharaj v The Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago No 2 [2024] UKPC 41**: acting as first junior counsel. The Commissioner of Police's tenure was extended beyond the mandatory retirement age by order of the President, acting on the advice of Cabinet. The appeal concerned whether this was a decision that was required to be exercised by the President in her own discretion, and clarifies the arena within which the President must exercise her constitutional authority.

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independently of the Cabinet. Adam was led by Anand Ramlogan S.C.

- *Caryn Moss v The King* [2023] UKPC 28: The appellant was tried and convicted on the charge of conspiracy to murder. The issues before the Board included whether the defence of duress arose on the evidence (assuming it was available at law in The Bahamas) and whether the Court of Appeal had erred when substituting a lengthier sentence. Adam was led by Rowan Pennington-Benton.
- *John Mussington and anor v Development Control Authority and ors* [2024] UKPC 3: appeared as junior counsel in an appeal from Antigua and Barbuda, concerning the planned development of an airport servicing various new hotel developments on the island of Barbuda. The decision restates the test for “standing” in environmental judicial review claims. Adam was led by Marc Williers K.C. and Leslie Thomas K.C.
- *Suraj and others v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago* [2023] A.C. 337: appeared as junior counsel in this appeal concerning the constitutionality of the Coronavirus Regulations 2020, confirming the correct approach to interpretation of the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution. Adam was led by Peter Knox K.C. and Anand Ramlogan S.C.
- Acting as first junior counsel in a commercial / construction appeal from Trinidad and Tobago before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, valued at ca. TT\$11,000,000. Adam is led by Tom Poole K.C.
- Advising on the impact of sanctions and domestic and foreign law illegality in an ongoing international arbitration alleging breach of a financial services agreement, assisting Daniel Feetham K.C.
- Instructed as sole counsel to recover a tour operator’s outlay in the sum of over £1,175,000 against a hotel, in respect of a compromised claim in which a visitor to the hotel had suffered serious injury.

Adam is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (ACIarb). He is also a member of the International Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Committee, and also sits on the Commonwealth Lawyers Association’s Human Rights and Rule of Law committee and Public Law committee. He contributes to various legal journals and has written for the Kluwer Arbitration Blog, the Jamaica Bar Association’s journal, the New Law Journal, as well as the Commonwealth Lawyers Association journal. He has also contributed a number of precedents to Atkin’s Court Forms and Butterworths Civil Courts Precedents.

Adam is strongly committed to pro bono work, having worked on asylum claims with an international NGO in Greece before commencing practice.

Legal Services

Appeals to the Privy Council & Offshore

Adam’s offshore practice includes regular appearances as junior counsel in appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from the Caribbean. He has appeared in appeals from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda. He is ranked as a Rising Star (Tier 1) in the Legal 500 in “The English Bar (Offshore)” category.

Adam regularly acts for governments, businesses and individuals, and is keen to continue to build his offshore practice. His experience encompasses the full range of offshore work, including constitutional law, commercial law, judicial review, election law, general common law and criminal appeals.

Recent cases where Adam has been instructed as junior counsel include:

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- **John Mussington and anor v Development Control Authority and ors [2024] UKPC 3:** The critical question in this appeal was whether the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal was correct to conclude that the appellants did not have standing to pursue judicial review proceedings of the development permit for the construction of a new airport runway on the island of Barbuda. Adam appeared for the appellants pro bono led by, amongst others, Marc Willers K.C. and Leslie Thomas K.C., supported by the Global Legal Action Network. The appeal attracted significant media coverage.
- **Matadai Roopnarine v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2023] UKPC 30:** The appellant sued in the tort of malicious prosecution. The Judge at first instance dismissed this appeal after hearing a no case to answer submission, which decision was upheld by a majority in the Court of Appeal. This decision restates the principles applicable to no case to answer submissions in a civil law context.
- **Caryn Moss v The King [2023] UKPC 28:** The appellant was tried and convicted on the charge of conspiracy to murder. The issues before the Board included whether the defence of duress arose on the evidence (assuming it was available at law) and whether the Court of Appeal had erred when substituting a lengthier sentence. Adam was led by [Rowan Pennington-Benton](#).
- **Ravi Balgobin Maharj v The Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago [2023] 1 W.L.R. 2870:** The question before the Board in this appeal concerned whether a law amending the fixed term of councillors and aldermen in local government applied to prospective office-holders as well as incumbents. Adam was led by Anand Ramlogan S.C.
- **Tafari Morrison v The King [2023] UKPC 14:** The appellant pleaded guilty to a range of offences including wounding with intent. The issue in the appeal was whether the sentence imposed was unconstitutional because it was determined in accordance with a statutory minimum and, it was argued by the Appellant, contrary to international human rights standards. Adam was led by [Peter Knox K.C.](#) on behalf of the Crown.
- **Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v JM (A minor by his kin and Next Friend NM) [2022] UKPC 54:** Led in a successful constitutional challenge on behalf of the appellant who, aged nine, was removed into the custody of the State. The appellant was the victim of abuse in several state institutions. The Board held that the appellant's rights to the security of the person, protection of the law, and his right not to be subjected to the imposition of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment had been violated. The judgment clarifies the approach that should be taken when awarding vindictory and compensatory damages for breaches of constitutional rights. Adam was led by [Rob Strang](#) and Anand Ramlogan S.C.
- **Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v Akili Charles [2023] 1 W.L.R. 177:** The appellant was accused of murder and imprisoned on remand. The preliminary inquiry into the charge was required to be restarted after the elevation of the supervising magistrate to the High Court bench. Led in a successful constitutional challenge asserting that the appellant's right to protection of the law was breached as a result. Adam was led by [Rowan Pennington-Benton](#) and Anand Ramlogan S.C.
- **Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago (Appellant) v Akili Charles (Respondent) No 2 (Trinidad and Tobago) [2022] UKPC 31:** Led in the successful challenge, on behalf of the appellant, concerning the constitutionality of the Bail Act which had provided for the automatic denial of bail to persons charged with murder. Adam was led by Anand Ramlogan S.C. from Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Suraj and others v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2023] A.C. 337:** Led in this appeal concerning the constitutionality of the Coronavirus Regulations 2020, confirming the correct approach to interpretation of the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution, and the scope of the legislative savings provisions contained in the Constitution. Adam was led by [Peter Knox K.C.](#) and Anand Ramlogan S.C.
- **Satyanand Maharaj v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2022] UKPC 26:** Led in a constitutional challenge to guidelines issued pursuant to local Covid-19 regulations purporting to institute criminal offences regulating the functioning of religious establishments. Adam was led by

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Anand Ramlogan S.C.

Adam has a particular interest in legal developments in the Caribbean and has written articles for the Jamaican Bar Association Journal and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association Journal. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association Public and Administrative Law Committee, as well as the Association's Human Rights and Rule of Law Committee.

Commercial

Adam has a broad practice encompassing all aspects of commercial and commercial / chancery dispute resolution. He regularly appears in and advises on a range of general commercial matters in the High Court and County Court and has a particular interest in civil fraud and cross-border cases.

Highlights include:

- Appearing in the High Court led by [Daniel Feetham K.C.](#) and [Rowan Pennington-Benton](#) opposing interim injunctive relief and seeking reverse summary judgment and/or strike out on a claim valued at just under £3,000,000.
- Appearing as sole counsel and successfully arguing a *forum non conveniens* point in a complex trust dispute: *Scott & Ors v Walker & Ors* [2024] EWHC 636 (Ch).
- Advising on prospects of success in a claim alleging breach of a forex agreement valued at ca £1,500,000.
- Advising on the torts of malicious prosecution and conspiracy and on obtaining non-party costs orders in an ongoing commercial matter concerning the breach of an outsourcing agreement valued at ca. £8,000,000.
- Advising on causation and proof of loss in respect of a ca. £1,000,000 loss of profit claim following breach of contract.
- Advising on the application of sanctions in a range of commercial contexts.
- Advising trustees on the procurement of *Beddoe* relief and on obtaining *Berkeley Applegate* orders.
- Advising on the enforcement of Gibraltar judgments in England and Wales.
- Advising multinational supermarket chains on breach of contract and negligence claims against a haulier company.
- Advising on potential claims against an insurer which had refused to make payments pursuant to a life insurance policy following the death of the insured.
- Advising on service, merits and evidence in a subrogated claim by an insurer to recover their outlay in respect of a claim brought against their insured following an accident out of jurisdiction.

Company & Insolvency

Adam accepts instructions across the full spectrum of company and insolvency litigation and advisory work and is regularly instructed to appear in winding up and bankruptcy petitions.

He was recently led as junior counsel in the Supreme Court by [Peter Knox K.C.](#) in the landmark appeal *Lifestyle Equities C.V. and anor v Ahmed and anor* [2024] UKSC 17. The case restates the law on directors' duties, accessory liability and orders for an account of profits.

Further highlights include:

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- Assisting **Richard Samuel** in an unfair prejudice petition concerning the scope of directors' duties under the Companies Act 2006 in the context of historic allegations of racism and discrimination in *Re Prospect Place (Wimbledon) Management Co Ltd* [2022] EWHC 76 (Ch).
- Drafting in a complex unfair prejudice petition involving allegations of conflicts of interest and breaches of statutory, fiduciary and common law director's duties.

Constitutional & Public Law

Adam's expertise in public law matters is informed by his experience being led as junior counsel in numerous appeals before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He is also a member of the Attorney General's C-Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown. Adam is ranked as a Rising Star (Tier 1) in the Legal 500 in the "Administrative and Human Rights Law" category.

Adam is also a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association Public and Administrative Law Committee, as well as the Association's Human Rights and Rule of Law Committee.

Highlights include:

- Advising government clients on various technical issues concerned with the passage of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act as it progressed through Parliament.
- Acting as junior counsel in an ongoing judicial review on behalf of the Department of Business and Trade and HM Treasury, concerning the implementation of the UK-Australian Free Trade Deal.
- **John Mussington and anor v Development Control Authority and ors** [2024] UKPC 3: The critical question in this appeal was whether the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal was correct to conclude that the Appellants did not have standing to pursue judicial review proceedings of the development permit for the construction of a new airport runway on the island of Barbuda. Adam appeared for the Appellants pro bono led by Marc Willers K.C. and Leslie Thomas K.C., supported by the Global Legal Action Network.
- **Ravi Balgobin Maharj v The Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** [2023] 1 W.L.R. 2870: The question before the Board in this appeal concerned whether a law amending the fixed term of councillors and aldermen in local government applied to prospective office-holders as well as incumbents. Adam was led by Anand Ramlogan S.C.
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- **Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v JM (A minor by his kin and Next Friend NM)** [2022] UKPC 54: led in a successful constitutional challenge on behalf of the appellant who, aged nine, was removed into the custody of the State. The appellant was the victim of abuse in several state institutions. The Board held that the appellant's rights to the security of the person, protection of the law, and his right not to be subjected to the imposition of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment had been violated. The judgment additionally clarifies the approach that should be taken when awarding vindictory and compensatory damages for breaches of constitutional rights.
- **Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v Akili Charles** [2023] 1 W.L.R. 177: The Appellant was accused of murder and imprisoned on remand. The preliminary inquiry into the charge was required to be restarted after the elevation of the supervising magistrate to the High Court bench. Led in a successful constitutional challenge asserting that the Appellant's right to protection of the law had

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been breached as a result.

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- **Satyanand Maharaj v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2022] UKPC 26:** Led in a constitutional challenge to guidelines issued pursuant to local Covid-19 regulations purporting to institute criminal offences regulating the functioning of religious establishments.

International Arbitration

Adam is building his expertise across the full range of international arbitration work. He has knowledge of the ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL and ICSID arbitration rules and he has written for the Kluwer Arbitration Blog. He is also an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Highlights include:

- Assisting in an ICSID arbitration in The Bahamas valued at up to US\$350,000,000.
- Advising on the impact of sanctions and domestic and foreign law illegality in an arbitration alleging breach of a financial services agreement.
- Advising in an arbitration arising out of a shareholder dispute and on various jurisdictional objections.
- Advising on the ability of parties to arbitral proceedings to challenge awards on grounds of lack of substantive jurisdiction pursuant to section 67 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

Professional Negligence

Adam accepts instructions in a range of professional negligence claims.

Highlights include:

- Advising on merits and quantum (applying loss of chance principles) in a claim against an individual's former legal advisors where the intended claimant had wanted to appeal a planning decision, only for their legal team to miss the statutory deadline for doing so.
- Assisting in a claim for damages due to misconduct of litigation and settlement at an undervalue in a case involving a high-value equal pay claim.

Travel, Aviation & Cross-Border

Adam is instructed in contractual and personal injury matters involving the Package Travel Regulations (both the 1992 and 2018 iterations) as well as in claims pursuant to the Montreal Convention, the Athens Convention and under EC Regulation 261/2004. He regularly appears in trials and drafts advices and pleadings in disputes involving jurisdictional and conflict of laws issues. He also has experience of CEDR adjudication work.

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Adam acts in a range of cross-border and domestic personal injury matters. He also accepts instructions to advise matters relating to liability, causation, quantum, evidence, costs and appeals.

Recently, Adam was instructed to recover a tour operator's outlay in the sum of over £1,175,000 against a hotel, in respect of a compromised claim in which a visitor to the hotel had suffered serious injury.

Accreditations





Memberships

- Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- R3
- International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- International Bar Association (IBA)

Education

- Intensive Course in Human Rights, The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo
- BPTC, University of Law (Very Competent)
- GDL, University of Law (Distinction)
- MA Medieval History, University of Sheffield (Distinction)
- BA History, University of Sheffield (First Class) (Graduated 1/156)

Appointments

- Attorney General's C-Panel – Junior Counsel to the Crown
- Associate, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (ACIarb)

Awards

- Matrix Amicus Bursary

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- BPTC Civil Advocacy Award, University of Law
- Keating Chambers Commercial Moot, 1st place, University of Law
- Inner Temple Exhibition Award
- Law First Scholarship, University of Law
- David Luscombe Prize for Medieval History, University of Sheffield