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DARRAGH K. CONNELL

CALL: 2012

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OVERVIEW

Darragh is a much sought-after commercial barrister combining approachability with sensible, pragmatic advice and effective advocacy.

He has a busy commercial litigation practice with specific emphasis upon insolvency and asset recovery, civil fraud, contractual disputes and company law.

Darragh is at the forefront of developing the law in respect of cryptoassets. In this area, he has been consistently ranked in Band 1 of Chambers UK Bar directory and Tier 1 of the Legal 500 Bar directory. He has appeared in many significant cases in this area, including ***AA v Persons Unknown*** [2019] EWHC 3556 (Comm), [2020] 4 W.L.R. 35, [2020] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 704 and ***D'Aloia v Persons Unknown [2024] EWHC 2342 (Ch)*** where the High Court held that Bitcoin and USD Tether respectively constitute property for the purposes of English law.

In each of 2023, 2024 and 2025, Darragh was shortlisted for Tech, Data and Crypto Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards.

He is frequently instructed in the Business and Property Courts in respect of complex claims concerning transactions at undervalue, breaches of directors' duties and shareholder disputes.

Darragh was called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands in 2026 and has been called (ad hoc) to the Bar in the Cayman Islands.

Prior to joining the Bar, Darragh worked for Goldman Sachs in London where he was involved in benchmark debt and equity capital markets transactions. His background brings particular understanding of financial businesses and products.

EXPERTISE

CIVIL FRAUD

Darragh is very experienced in obtaining and resisting injunction applications in the context of civil fraud proceedings. He has appeared in a range of notable cases concerning freezing orders and proprietary injunctions.

He has specific expertise in respect of cryptoassets where he is consistently ranked in Band 1 of Chambers and Partners UK Bar.

Combining his insolvency expertise, Darragh is instructed on a range of asset recovery matters often with cross-jurisdictional issues.

He often works as part of a larger legal team on substantial fraud disputes.

INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

Darragh has extensive experience of contentious insolvency matters.

He is regularly instructed by office holders, creditors and individuals to appear before the Insolvency and Companies Court in claims against directors for misfeasance arising from breaches of statutory and fiduciary duties. He has acted in insolvency applications involving transactions at an undervalue, preferences and transactions to defraud creditors contrary to section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Notable cases in which Darragh has been instructed, include *Chandrasekaran v Fisher* (a challenge to the appointment of administrators), *In the matter of AFM (1932) Limited* **[2021] EWHC 3460 (Ch)** (impugned transactions involving a BVI registered company), *In the matter of Wow Internet Limited* **[2020] EWHC 2890 (Ch)** (a misfeasance claim against a sole director), *In the matter of Care Community Limited* **[2020] EWHC 3350 (Ch)** (a misfeasance claim against a *de facto* director), *In the matter of Katie Price* **[2024] 2 WLUK 525** (obtaining an income payments order in a high profile bankruptcy matter), *Leahy v Schneider Investment Associates LLP* **[2026] B.P.I.R. 324** (setting aside a statutory demand in respect of a disputed personal guarantee and indemnity); and *Allen v Leach* **[2026] EWHC 481 (Ch)** (a High Court injunction to restrain dissipation of a Spanish property by an undischarged bankrupt)

Darragh is an insolvency law expert contributor for Lexis Nexis PSL.

CRYPTOASSETS

Darragh is at the forefront of the developing law in relation to cryptoassets. He is ranked in Band 1 of Chambers and Partners UK Bar for Cryptoasset Disputes. He has appeared in a number of high-profile cryptoasset cases before the English High Court often in the context of civil fraud.

Darragh is recognised as a specialist in crypto asset recovery and he is frequently asked to speak at international and domestic conferences. He is a member of the Crypto Fraud and Asset Recovery network (CFAAR). He was a co-contributor to the joint COMBAR/Chancery Bar Association submission to the Law Commission consultation on Digital Assets.

Notable instructions include:

- ***AA v Persons Unknown*** [2020] 4 W.L.R. 35, [2020] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 704 (Bitcoin held to be property for the purposes of English law)**,**
- ***D'Aloia v Persons Unknown*** (claim concerning alleged liability of cryptoexchanges which also involves service of proceedings by NFT)
- ***Law v Persons Unknown*** (claim concerning fraudulent crypto trading platform which resulted in obtaining an order requiring delivery up of USD Tether).

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Darragh appears in the High Court in commercial disputes representing an array of clients including liquidators, investors, directors, shareholders, companies and independent financial advisers.

Darragh also has a growing international arbitration practice, with experience in cross-border commercial disputes involving fraud, insolvency, asset recovery, cryptoassets, carbon credits and complex financial structures. He is well placed to act in matters conducted under major institutional rules, including ICC, LCIA and SCC proceedings, particularly where disputes require urgent interim relief, enforcement strategies or coordination with parallel court proceedings.

His English commercial litigation practice is complemented by offshore experience having been called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands and on an ad hoc basis to the Bar of the Cayman Islands. Darragh's financial markets background and recognised expertise in digital asset disputes make him especially suited to court and arbitral matters involving sophisticated investment structures, dissipation risk and asset tracing.

COMPANY & PARTNERSHIP

Darragh is frequently instructed to advise on aspects of company law ranging from disputes between shareholders, to breaches of directors' duties and the interpretation of share purchase agreements.

He advises clients in respect of unfair prejudice petitions arising from the actions and conduct of majority shareholders.

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Darragh deals with a variety of banking and financial services litigation emanating from loan agreements, guarantees, derivatives, and complex financial products. His background working for Goldman Sachs makes him an effective choice in such disputes.

Darragh is familiar with the requirements of the FCA's Conduct of Business Sourcebook (COBS) and MCOBS. He has also acted in cases concerning alleged breaches of the so-called ***Quincecare*** duty.

Notable banking and financial services cases in which Darragh has been instructed include *O'Hare v Coutts & Co* (a dispute concerning an investment management agreement) and *McMillan Cancer Support v Barclays & Ors* (an application for a Norwich Pharmacal Order following a fraud perpetrated on the well-known charity).

TECHNOLOGY

QUALIFICATIONS

- LL.M (Commercial) Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge
- BCL University College Dublin
- Barrister-at-Law Degree Honorable Society of the King's Inns, Dublin

MEMBERSHIPS

- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Crypto Fraud and Asset Recovery network (CFAAR)

AWARDS



Technology, Data and Crypto Junior of the Year (shortlisted)
Legal 500 Bar Awards 2025

Senior Exhibition Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

Emlyn Wade Award Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

Prize-winning paper the Danish Law Society's International Rule of Law Award

Gold Medal for Oratory UCD Law Society

Swift McNeill Memorial Scholarship to the King's Inns

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"He's a very impressive barrister who cuts through the chaff and has a fine grasp of the commercial issues".

Legal 500 Insolvency (2026)

"Darragh is an encyclopaedia of both law and procedure. His prose, both written and spoken, is elegant, lyrical and, above all, persuasive".

Legal 500 Crypto and Blockchain assets (2026)

"He is really good and extremely practical, academic and technically very good too."

CHAMBERS UK BAR RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY (2026)

"He is definitely a leading barrister in the cryptoasset disputes field."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2026)

"A good strong advocate."

CHAMBERS UK BAR RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY (2026)

"A very sought-after junior who is technically excellent and very good to work with."

CHAMBERS UK BAR RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY (2026)

"Darragh lives and breathes this type of work and is notably a great advocate."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2026)

"He is incredibly energetic and has an engaging court style."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2026)

"Darragh Connell is very good with the innovative claims. He is creative, hard-working and flexible."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2025)

"When the pressure is on, Darragh really rolls his sleeves up and digs in. He is an exciting advocate on his feet."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2025)

'Darragh has a charming charisma that immediately garners goodwill in court and with his opponent, which can go a long way in hard fought litigation. He has a sixth sense in knowing what will and will not run in court'

Legal 500 Crypto and Blockchain Assets (2025)

"Darragh is a delight to instruct, and his advocacy and written work are incredibly strong on all things cryptoassets and blockchain."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2024)

"Absolutely unrivalled in his knowledge. If you want to achieve success for a client in retrieving assets or advice in a rapidly developing area of law he is absolutely the best."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2024)

"An expert in the field and clients love him. Very easy to get on with, always willing to help and will always make himself available."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2024)

"Darragh Connell is well known for his strong background in the financial sector. He wins praise for his technical expertise in handling disputes involving digital assets."

CHAMBERS UK BAR CRYPTOASSETS (2024)

NOTABLE CASES

- *Chandrasekaran v Fisher [2023] EWHC 522 (Ch)*