

DEAN ARMSTRONG KC

CALL: 1985 KC: 2014



OVERVIEW

Dean is a specialist in the law relating to digital assets and the blockchain, encompassing cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens, and smart contracts. With expertise that spans cyber (digital) law in general, Dean is also able to assist clients with legal matters relating to cyber insurance and the intersection of cyber and data law. Dean has written textbooks on cryptocurrency and the blockchain as well as cyber security, cyber litigation and cyber insurance. He is also highly experienced in international insolvency work, especially involving crypto assets. He is also experienced in cases involving allegations of international and UK fraud.

Ranked by Chambers and Partners in Band 1 for crypto assets, Dean is the only silk to lead on the Commercial Bar's response to the Law Commission on its draft on digital assets. Dean has also advised on the draft of the Virtual Asset Service Provider Rules.

EXPERTISE

CRYPTOASSETS

This is the centrepiece of Dean's practice so please see entries above.

- Cryptoasset recovery
- Cryptoasset insolvency data misuse
- NFT advice
- Art law advice in relation to digital assets.

NOTABLE CASES

- FTX
 - D'Aloia v (1) Persons Unknown (2) Binance and Others [2022] EWHC 1723 (Ch)
 - Sports data rights
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INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

As Dean's practice has developed with the emphasis on crypto and digital assets, this aspect has gone hand in hand with asset recovery. Dean is currently instructed in the most prominent cryptoasset fraud and asset recovery case before the United Kingdom courts. This involves consideration of asset tracing and following; consideration of transfer of title; availability of equitable remedies and the ambit of jurisdiction over digital assets. Dean is also instructed in cases concerning methods of service by digital asset and the validity of claimed relief by the imposition of constructive trust.

Further, Dean is currently instructed in the largest crypto insolvency case that the world has seen. The collapse of FTX, and its associated companies, has caused multi billion dollar losses across the world.

Dean is instructed by a central government related body, along with **Racheal Muldoon**, his junior, as sole UK counsel to advise solicitors and counsel instructed in the Bahamas. This has involved dealing in a multitude of issues which are fully international, highly sensitive and involve vast sums of money. This has exposed us to issues of conflict of laws and jurisdiction and issues of enforcement of foreign judicial rulings. All of these matters are of the highest sensitivity and are matters attracting daily international scrutiny.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Dean is currently instructed in a multimillion pound claim by a prominent Georgian national, now living in the UK, against current and past high ranking figures in the Georgian political landscape. The seniority of the individuals concerned goes to the highest level. The legal issues involved are many and complex. These include issues of jurisdiction; applicable law; state immunity capacity of insolvent entities to sue. There is a second related but separate action concerning the misuse of patents.

CIVIL FRAUD

This is an area of great strength to Dean. He has conducted fraud cases for the bulk of his career at the Bar. As Dean's practice has developed with the emphasis on crypto and digital assets, this aspect has gone hand in hand with asset recovery. Dean is currently instructed in the most prominent cryptoasset fraud and asset recovery case before the United Kingdom courts. This involves consideration of asset tracing and following;

consideration of transfer of title; availability of equitable remedies and the ambit of jurisdiction over digital assets. Dean is also instructed in cases concerning methods of service by digital asset and the validity of claimed relief by the imposition of constructive trust.

Dean has been invited to head the crypto offering of a "Big 6" accountancy firm.

IP AND DATA

Dean is fully engaged in II data class actions which involve very high profile athletes, government bodies and corporates. A central plank of these will be the data rights implications of the use of AI and other digital enhancement. In these groundbreaking cases, Dean leads a team of legal and non legal experts.

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

Dean is currently instructed in several cases involving non fungible tokens. Some of these relate to well known works of art and depictions of famous media artists including John Lennon, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. Dean is also assisting with the largest Bollywood event outside of India.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Dean is fully engaged in II data class actions which involve very high profile athletes, government bodies and corporates. A central plank of these will be the data rights implications of the use of AI and other digital enhancement. In these groundbreaking cases, Dean leads a team of legal and non legal experts.

OFFSHORE & TRUSTS

Please see entries above, all of which have strong international flavours. Trust law is also prominent in all of Dean's cryptoasset cases.

PRIVATE CLIENT

Dean recently authored the first textbook on crypto assets and matrimonial finance. Dean is currently instructed as the specialist silk in cryptoassets as part of the team advising in a multimillion pound divorce case.

Dean regularly gives talks and seminars on this subject.

TECHNOLOGY

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"The leader in this field."

Chambers UK Bar Cryptoassets (2023)

"Highly professional and has assisted us with numerous cases."

Chambers UK Bar Cryptoassets (2023)

MEMBERSHIPS

- COMBAR

QUALIFICATIONS

- MA (Cantab)