MAITLAND

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EDWARD ARMITAGE

CALL: 2019
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OVERVIEW

Edward's practice encompasses all of Chambers' areas of work, including in particular commercial disputes of all kinds, as well as insolvency, civil fraud, and company and partnership disputes.

Edward is instructed as sole counsel and as part of a team, and regularly appears unled in the High Court and County Court. He is called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands.

Edward read law at Magdalen College, Oxford. He graduated ranked second in the university, with first class marks in all nine papers, and took several prizes. Edward then completed the BPTC as a Lord Justice Holker scholar of Gray's Inn, receiving an 'Outstanding' grade. Edward also holds a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours from the University of Sydney. Before coming to the Bar, Edward was a non-stipendiary Lecturer in Law at Balliol College, Oxford, teaching the law of trusts at Balliol and Oriel colleges.

EXPERTISE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

A large part of Edward's practice concerns international and domestic commercial disputes.

Notable cases include:

- ***Spread Research & Trading Limited v Tech RealFX Limited,*** led by A claim for c.US$100 million for alleged breaches of trust and of contract in connection with a foreign exchange trading platform. Acted for the defendant on its successful jurisdiction challenge.

- An LCIA arbitration, led by , concerning the alleged mis-management of an ultra-luxury London hotel's intellectual property.
- An ICC arbitration, led by , concerning a share sale dispute between German, Cypriot and Irish parties regarding the sale of a European FinTech business alleged to be worth up to c.€400 million.
- ***Al-Aggad v APIC Ltd***, led by . An application before the BVI Commercial Court for an (apparently unprecedented) injunction to restrain a third-party company from redomiciling to a foreign jurisdiction pending resolution of multi-million dollar claims arising out of the allegedly fraudulent liquidation (and distribution of the assets of) a Bahraini company. Instructed by, among others, the BVI court-appointed provisional liquidator of the now-dissolved Bahraini company.
- ***Rose Financial Limited Partnership & Ors v Amicorp (BVI) Trustees Ltd & Ors***, led by . A claim against a number of corporate service providers in New Zealand, Cayman, Mexico, BVI and elsewhere, in respect of an alleged fraudulent conspiracy involving issuances of asset-backed loan notes by offshore vehicles held in STAR trust structures. Said to be worth in excess of US$50 million.
- ***Khashoggi Holding Company v Molinari***, led by and Laurie Scher. Claims and cross-claims between Saudi, English and Italian parties for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations and repudiatory breaches of a share purchase agreement, arising out of the abortive €300m sale of an Italian plant owner and operator.
- ***Chen v Ma & ors***, led by . A claim alleging a fraudulent conspiracy relating to the financing of a Taiwanese construction project worth potentially in excess of US$2 billion.
- ***United Company Rusal v Whiteleave Holdings Limited & ors***, a dispute between shareholders in one of the world's largest mining companies, including allegations of negligent mismanagement and the dishonest diversion of assets.
- A dispute by a FinTech company to restrain a digital bank from allegedly breaching non-solicitation obligations.
- Maroil Trading Inc v Cally Shipholdings Inc, led by Thomas Grant KC and. Instructed for the Claimants in their claim against the Novoship companies said to be worth tens of millions of pounds. One of The Lawyer' "Top 20 Cases! of 2022.
- ***Butcher v Alacrity Capital Holdings***, a share sale dispute worth in excess of £8m involving allegations of fraudulent breach of warranty and misrepresentation. Led by .
- Advising in connection with a dispute between English, BVI and Bahamian parties relating to alleged breaches of a share purchase agreement worth USD 12 million. Led by .
- Instructed in a dispute between a boutique private equity firm and one of its investors. Led by .
- Advising on a contractual dispute between a Saudi company, their commercial agents in England, and a consultancy firm.
- Instructed on behalf of a charity defending a claim to recover referral fees, raising issues of bribery and secret commissions.

CIVIL FRAUD

Many of Edward's cases involve allegations of fraud or similarly serious wrongdoing. Notable cases include:

- ***Despins v Lynch***, a claim by the Chapter 11 US trustee in bankruptcy of a former billionaire, made under BVI insolvency legislation and to enforce an alleged trust, for the transfer in specie of shares said to be

worth c.US$500 million. The shares are alleged to form part of the bankrupt's estate and to have been disposed of in a scheme to defraud creditors. Led by Robert Weekes KC and

- ***Al-Aggad v APIC Ltd,*** led by . An application before the BVI Commercial Court for an (apparently unprecedented) injunction to restrain a third-party company from redomiciling to a foreign jurisdiction pending resolution of multi-million dollar claims arising out of the allegedly fraudulent liquidation (and distribution of the assets of) a Bahraini company. Instructed by, among others, the BVI court-appointed provisional liquidator of the now-dissolved Bahraini company.
- ***Rose Financial Limited Partnership & Ors v Amicorp (BVI) Trustees Ltd & Ors***, led by . A claim against a number of corporate service providers in New Zealand, Cayman, Mexico, BVI and elsewhere, in respect of an alleged fraudulent conspiracy involving issuances of asset-backed loan notes by offshore vehicles held in STAR trust structures. Said to be worth in excess of US$50 million.
- ***Khashoggi Holding Company v Molinari***, led by and . Claims and cross-claims between Saudi, English and Italian parties for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations and repudiatory breaches of a share purchase agreement, arising out of the abortive €300m sale of an Italian plant owner and operator.
- ***United Company Rusal v Whiteleave Holdings Limited & ors***, a dispute between shareholders in one of the world's largest mining companies, including allegations of negligent mismanagement and the dishonest diversion of assets.
- ***Butcher v Alacrity Capital Holdings***. Instructed (led by) for the sellers in a share sale dispute worth in excess of £8m involving allegations of fraudulent breach of warranty and misrepresentation.
- Instructed for the defendants to a claim and parallel unfair prejudice petition alleging that the claimant has been defrauded out of valuable London property and his stake in a company fraudulently diluted. Led by .

COMPANY & PARTNERSHIP

Many of Edward's cases concern, or raise, issues of company, LLP or partnership law.

Notable cases include:

- ***Despins v Lynch,*** a claim by the Chapter 11 US trustee in bankruptcy of a former billionaire, made under BVI insolvency legislation and to enforce an alleged trust, for the transfer in specie of shares said to be worth c.US$500 million. The shares are alleged to form part of the bankrupt's estate and to have been disposed of in a scheme to defraud creditors. Led by Robert Weekes KC and
- Advising the respondent to an unfair prejudice petition regarding a software business.
- Instructed (led by) for the defendants to a claim (and parallel unfair prejudice petition) alleging that the claimant has been defrauded out of valuable London property and his stake in a company fraudulently diluted.
- An unfair prejudice petition seeking a buyout in connection with the holding company of a group worth tens of millions of pounds.
- Advised the retired partners of a general partnership in connection with a claim raising issues of bribery and secret commissions. Led by .
- Instructed for a defendant and counter-claimant involved in multi-jurisdictional dispute involving allegations of breach of confidence and wrongful expulsion from English and Guernsey entities.

INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

Edward is routinely instructed in corporate and individual insolvency cases, on behalf of office-holders, creditors and debtors.

Notable cases include:

- ***Despins v Lynch***, a claim by the Chapter 11 US trustee in bankruptcy of a former billionaire, made under BVI insolvency legislation and to enforce an alleged trust, for the transfer in specie of shares said to be worth c.US$500 million. The shares are alleged to form part of the bankrupt's estate and to have been disposed of in a scheme to defraud creditors. Led by Robert Weekes KC and .
- ***Lloyds Bank Plc v Mertex UK Limited***, an application for an administration order in respect of an international commodities trader, arising out of documentary letters of credit and an international trade dispute. Led by Richard Salter KC.
- Instructed (led by Andrew McLeod) for the foreign liquidators of a Jersey company in connection with an urgent freezing injunction to protect potential company assets in England thought to be worth in excess of USD 40 million.

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Notable recent instructions include:

- An LCIA arbitration, led by , concerning the alleged mis-management of an ultra-luxury London hotel's intellectual property.
- Instructed for a firm of solicitors defending allegations of negligence said to have caused the loss of three international commercial claims against Russian and Canadian defendants worth in excess of £7m. Led by Thomas Grant KC, later
- Advised a high-net-worth individual in a dispute against allegedly negligent investment managers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- BPTC, City University, London, Outstanding
- BA (Jurisprudence), Magdalen College, Oxford, First Class
- BA (Hons), University of Sydney, First Class

AWARDS

Lord Justice Holker Scholarship, Gray's Inn

Martin Wronker Prize (proxime accessit), Oxford

Gibbs Book Prize (1st of 3), Oxford

Faculty Prize for Roman Law (Delict), Oxford

Demyship (Scholarship), Magdalen College

MEMBERSHIPS

- COMBAR
- Chancery Bar Association
- Insolvency Lawyers Association
- The Contentious Trusts Association (ConTrA)

LANGUAGES

- German

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Ed is extremely bright, and very well versed in the law. He is a fantastic creative thinker and often sees angles that others do not. The quality of his research and understanding of the factual detail of cases is superb; and he also produces fantastic pieces of written advocacy. He is the complete package as a junior."

Legal 500 UK English Bar Offshore (2026)