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GEORGE HAYMAN KC

CALL: 1998 **KC:** 2018
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OVERVIEW

George's practice extends across the full range of commercial disputes, both in court and arbitration. His cases have covered commercial contracts, civil fraud, asset recovery, shareholder disputes and insolvency, often involving a major international element. He is adept at navigating the full spectrum of interim orders such as asset freezing, injunctions, and jurisdiction challenges, through to trials and final hearings. Along with his domestic court work (principally in the Commercial Court and Appellate Courts) and offshore court work (principally in the BVI and Trinidad), George is regularly instructed in LCIA, ICC, and ad hoc arbitrations. He is consistently highly recommended in the legal directories for all his areas of expertise.

EXPERTISE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

George's practice covers business agreements and contract disputes of all kinds (including shareholder disputes), both in court and arbitration. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer and in all aspects of interim disputes in the English Courts and overseas, and has acted as counsel in many LCIA, ICC and ad hoc international commercial arbitrations.

The directories report that "***he knows his subject matter inside-out and is user-friendly***", and describe George as ***"a very diligent and careful barrister who is excellent on complex matters and very persuasive in court". His recent notable court and arbitration cases include:-***

- ***Hua She Asset Management v Kei*** [2022]: application challenging recognition and enforcement of a £20m Chinese (Shanghai International Economic and Trade Commission) arbitration award and related freezing

injunction.
- ***X v Y*** [2022-2023]: acting for the Defendants in ICC and LCIA arbitrations concerning a large scale construction project and the development of part of London's Docklands.
- ***Hangzhou Jiudang v Hung*** [2023]: application in the Commercial Court challenging enforcement in England of two Chinese Court judgments.
- ***X v Y*** [2022]: LCIA arbitration concerning breach of oil & gas contracts.

CIVIL FRAUD

George acts for international clients in fraud disputes in the commercial courts and overseas, and has appeared in high profile cases including the Libyan Investment Authority Litigation, the Ablyazov Litigation and the Namalco Litigation.

The directories recommend George as "***a real expert in fraud cases with a huge amount of experience***". He "***knows fraud inside out, from injunctions to substantive claims. A delight to work with, and exceptionally user friendly".*** His recent notable cases include:-

- ***DPP v. Qian and Others*** [2026]: Acting for victims of the Blue Sky investment fraud (a large scale Chinese Ponzi scheme) claiming to recover from the UK's biggest seizure of Bitcoin cryptocurrency under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- ***Cancrie v. Haider*** [2024-2025]: $80m Worldwide Freezing Order obtained from the Commercial Court in support of a claim to enforce in England a UAE Judgment of the same sum, raising complex issues of UAE law, document forgery, and UAE Banking convention. Without Notice WFO application, 3-day injunction discharge application [2024] EWHC 2302 (Comm), strike out and summary judgment applications [2024] EWHC 1876 (Comm), Norwich Pharmacal applications against third-party bank including sealing and gagging orders [2024] EWHC 2927 (Comm) and [2024] EWHC 3087 (Comm).
- ***Gill*** v. Kaur [2024-2025]: Proceedings in the Commercial Court to obtain a proprietary injunction over shares (or their proceeds) in an English Company, in support of a foreign derivative claim in Delaware for the return of those shares. Allegations that the shares were misappropriated by permitting an Isle of Man Company to be struck off the register, and by fraudulent share transfers, raising complex cross-jurisdictional issues with Delaware and Isle of Man [2024] 7 WLUK 443 and [2025] EWHC 156 (Comm). Contempt application and appeal [2026] EWCA Civ 833.
- ***Namalco Construction v EMBD*** [2018-2026]: acting for the State-owned Defendant in a 6-week trial (and 4-day appeal) of a $1.4 billion construction claim in the Caribbean Court of Justice (Trinidad &Tobago) concerning conspiracy in relation to five large scale infrastructure projects.
- ***Tugushev v Orlov*** [2019-2021] : a dispute over the ownership of 'Norebo', one of the largest fishing enterprises in the world, concerning allegations of conspiracy and fraud. Generated notable judgments on jurisdiction ([2019] EWHC 645(Comm)) and the discharge of worldwide freezing orders ([2019] EWHC 2031(Comm).
- ***Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) v Societe Generale and Others*** [2016-2017]: acting for the Fifth Defendant claims brought by the LIA to set aside $1.5billion of structured investments with SocGen on the basis that they formed part of a corrupt scheme involving the alleged bribe of Libyan state officials.
- ***Tatneft v Bogolyubov and Others*** [2017] : $380m fraud claim by a Russian state oil company against four

Ukrainian oligarchs. Obtaining freezing and asset disclosure orders.

- ***JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov*** [2011-2015]: representing the principal defendants in this major international commercial dispute in relation to the affairs of a Kazakhstan bank. Particular involvement in committal proceedings, injunctive relief, summary judgment applications and appeals in the Commercial Court, Chancery Division, Court of Appeal and in the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean (BVI).

OFFSHORE & TRUSTS

Much of George's work has an international element, and so he frequently represents international clients in overseas courts and arbitrations.

As a member of the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI), and the Trinidad & Tobago Bar, George undertakes advisory and advocacy in that region. His recent notable cases include:-

- ***Namalco Construction v EMBD*** [2018-2026]: acting for the State-owned Defendant in a 6-week trial (and 4-day appeal) of a $1.4billion construction claim in the Caribbean Court of Justice (Trinidad &Tobago) concerning conspiracy in relation to five largescale infrastructure projects.
- ***Wilton Trustees*** v ***AFS Trustee*** [2022]: acting for six defendants in largescale multi-party claims in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI), involving allegations of breach of trust, conspiracy, and fraudulent misrepresentation.
- ***JSC BTA Bank*** v ***Ablyazov*** [2015-2016]: representing the principal defendants between 2011 and 2016 in this major international commercial dispute in relation to the affairs of a Kazakhstan bank. Particular involvement in enforcement proceedings in the BVI Commercial Court and in the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean (BVI).

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Very knowledgeable and sharp. He just gets it and cuts straight to what matters, which really demonstrates that the counsel knows what he is doing and excels at it. Very user-friendly and particularly responsive at all times."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2027)

"George is a highly experienced fraud specialist who is well known for his injunction work."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"George is a fine all rounder who is particularly good at freezing injunctions. He's very popular with clients, who come back to him time and time again."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"A phenomenal silk who can cover all bases. His cross-examination is some of the best I have ever seen, and it appears effortless (though I am quite sure he had prepared meticulously)."

Legal 500 UK International arbitration: counsel (2027)

"He is a natural advocate: articulate, concise and emotionally intelligent. He reads a judge well, reacts to how points are taken by the judge and can pivot nicely on his feet. That sets him apart."

Chambers UK Fraud: Civil (2027)

"George is one of the best advocates that I have seen. He was completely on top of the papers, presented the case in a simple but attractive manner and was able to answer all of the questions the tribunal put to him. He is a standout counsel, and I would recommend him to anyone."

Chambers UK International Arbitration (2027)

"His work is hallmarked by meticulous attention to detail, strategic thinking and a comprehensive understanding of the nuances within the legal landscape across multiple jurisdictions".

Chambers UK: Chancery Commercial (2026)

""His cross-examination is utterly devastating".

Legal 500: Fraud Civil (2026)

"He is superb. His advocacy is clear, helpful and effective. He was prepared to the nth degree on every detail and gains the tribunal's trust".

Legal 500: International Arbitration : Counsel (2026)

"He is brilliant on his feet and is powerful in cross-examination".

Chambers UK: Fraud Civil (2026)

"George Hayman is very professional, good on his feet and produces clear submissions".

Chambers UK: International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (2026)

"Combines a deep understanding of the law with sharp analytical skills, George navigates even the most complex legal issues with ease and precision".

Chambers UK: Chancery Commercial (2026)

" He is very good on the law, practical and easy to work with and has top advocacy".

Chambers UK: Fraud Civil (2026)

"George is bright and always in court".

Chambers UK: Chancery Commercial (2026)

"George is very experienced. Excellent in front of clients, he advises in a very easy manner and is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and muck in with the team."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2025)

"Whether advocating for clients in court or during negotiations, George demonstrates poise under pressure and a steadfast commitment to advancing clients' interests."

Chambers UK Fraud: Civil (2025)

"George's advocacy skills are characterised by eloquence, persuasiveness and a commanding courtroom presence. He has a natural ability to articulate complex legal arguments with clarity and conviction."

Chambers UK Fraud: Civil (2025)

"George's brain is perfectly suited to international arbitration. He's adapted his style to suit proceedings with great aplomb. He gets to the point in a really unflappable and non-histrionic style."

Chambers UK International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (2025)

"George is a great leader and his cross-examination skills are amazing."

Chambers UK International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance (2025)

"Understands the demands of the client and is willing to take a more pragmatic approach than others."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2024)

"George has brilliant advocacy combined with client-handling skills."

Chambers UK Fraud: Civil (2024)

"Supreme advocacy matched with exemplary client-handling skills. An extremely persuasive advocate, who knows precisely what to focus on in order to achieve a result. One of the very best."

LEGAL 500 (2024)

"He is relentless - no stone remains unturned. George provides a clever solution rather than an obvious one, and is very adaptable in his thinking if the unexpected happens."

Chambers Global (2023)

"He knows his subject matter inside-out and is user-friendly."

Chambers UK (2023)

"George identifies issues very early on with confidence and accuracy."

Chambers UK (2023)

"He's been doing this work since before it was fashionable – knows fraud inside out, from injunctions to substantive claims. A delight to work with, exceptionally user friendly."

Legal 500 (2023)

"George is very innovative and commercially savvy. He is a real expert in fraud cases with a huge amount of experience."

Chambers UK (2023)

"A very diligent and careful barrister who is excellent on complex matters and very persuasive in court."

Legal 500 (2022)

MEMBERSHIPS

- COMBAR
- Chancery Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- CamArb (arbitration group)

QUALIFICATIONS

- MA (Cantab)

NOTABLE CASES

- *Namalco v Estate Management and Business Development Company Ltd*
- *Tugushev v Orlov [2019]*
- *Alexander Tugushev v (1) Vitaly Orlov (2) Magnus Roth (3) Andrey Petrik (2019)*
- *State Bank of India & 12 Ors v (1) Vijay Mallya (2) Ladywalk Llp (3) Rose Capital Ventures Ltd (4) Orange India Holdings Sarl (2018)*
- *PJSC Tatneft v Gennadiy Bogolyubov & ors (2017)*
- *As Latvijas Krajbanka v Vladimir Antonov (2016)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (July 2013)*
- *Loughridge v Financial Times Ltd (2013)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (2013)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (6 November 2012)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov & Ors (1 November 2012)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (September 2012)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov & 6 Ors (29 February 2012)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (16 February 2012)*
- *Mukhtar Ablyazov v JSC BTA Bank (28 November 2011)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov & Ors (7 October 2011)*
- *JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov (June 2011)*
- *Kathleen Bleasdale & John Cariss v Deborah Forster (2011)*
- *Leslie Dweck v Mark Forstater & Ors (2010)*
- *Secretary of State for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform v Sullman & Poole (2008)*
- *National Sporting Club Ltd v PCA Management Ltd (2006)*
- *Colin Dawson Windows Ltd v (1) King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council (2) Winifred Howard (2005)*
- *Phonographic Performance Ltd v Planet Ice Ltd (2004)*
- *R v Robert Alexander Johnstone & Ors (2003)*
- *David West (T/A Eastenders) v Fuller Smith & Turner Plc (2003)*