MAITLAND

+44 (0)20 7406 1200

OLIVIER KALFON KC

CALL: 2003 **KC:** 2026

okalfon@maitlandchambers.com Email Clerks



OVERVIEW

Olivier specialises in commercial litigation with a strong emphasis on business disputes (often with an international dimension), civil fraud, company and insolvency, and banking / financial services litigation.

He is recommended in the directories as a leading barrister in numerous practice areas including commercial litigation (***Legal 500***), dispute resolution: commercial chancery (***Chambers Global***) chancery: commercial (***Chambers UK***), and restructuring/insolvency (***Legal 500, Chambers Global*** and ***Chambers UK***). The directories have described Olivier as ***"a confident and assertive advocate with a sharp intellect"***, who ***"turns judges around, and is very impressive in court. He's not easily deflected - he's got real steel."*** Olivier is ***"very clever, very reliable and a great team player"*** as well as being ***"responsive, attentive and a consistent pleasure to deal with"***. ***"He's the full package"***.

EXPERTISE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Olivier's practice includes heavy business disputes within a wide range of sectors, civil fraud (such as freezing orders and other interim relief, asset-tracing and recovery, and civil claims based on dishonesty), litigation and arbitration arising out of share and business sale agreements, and jurisdiction / choice of law disputes.

Notable cases and work include:

- Mex Group Worldwide Ltd v Ford (Court of Appeal): Acting for successful respondents in appeal which clarifies the scope of the Court's powers to make freezing orders in support of extra-jurisdictional

proceedings (leading James Kinman).
- Acting for Defendants challenging jurisdiction of BVI Court in connection with claim for c.€85m (leading Edward Armitage).
- Acting for Defendants in High Court jurisdiction challenge and worldwide freezing order discharge application (leading James Kinman).
- ***South Tees Development Corp v PD Teesport***: Successful appeal against decision allowing very late amendments to statements of case (led by Andrew Walker KC).
- Acting (leading Edward Armitage) for the sellers in a share sale dispute worth in excess of £8m involving allegations of fraudulent breach of warranty and misrepresentation.
- ***Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber v Bosheh***: multi million-pound civil fraud claim involving allegations of identity theft and document manipulation (as case leader). Successful application to discharge freezing injunction for material non-disclosure.
- Acting in large scale multi-party shareholder dispute in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI, Commercial Division) concerning a group of companies in Hong Kong and mainland China (as case leader).
- Acting in proceedings in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (Financial Services Division) brought by the liquidators of an investment fund against the fund's directors and specialist service providers, involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt (led by Christopher Parker KC).
- Acting in LCIA arbitration proceedings about a £1bn family-owned group in a shareholder dispute (led by Dominic Chambers KC).

CIVIL FRAUD

Olivier has considerable experience of pursuing and defending fraud claims, and related pre-action protective measures.

Notable cases and work include:

- Acting (leading Edward Armitage) for the sellers in a share sale dispute worth in excess of £8m involving allegations of fraudulent breach of warranty and misrepresentation.
- ***Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber v Bosheh***: multi million-pound civil fraud claim involving allegations of identity theft and document manipulation (as case leader). Successful application to discharge freezing injunction for material non-disclosure. Case settled.
- Acting in large scale multi-party shareholder dispute (involving allegations of dishonest breach of fiduciary duty) in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI, Commercial Division) concerning a group of companies in Hong Kong and mainland China (as case leader).
- Acting in proceedings in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (Financial Services Division) brought by the liquidators of an investment fund against the fund's directors and specialist service providers, involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt (led by Christopher Parker KC).

OFFSHORE & TRUSTS

Olivier has significant offshore legal experience and was admitted to the Bar in the Cayman Islands in 2006. In 2016 Olivier was admitted to practice as a Legal Practitioner in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (BVI).

Notable cases and work include:

- Acting for Defendants challenging jurisdiction of BVI Court in connection with claim for c.€85m (leading Edward Armitage).
- Acting in large scale multi-party shareholder dispute in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI, Commercial Division) concerning a group of companies in Hong Kong and mainland China (as case leader).
- Acting in proceedings in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (Financial Services Division) brought by the liquidators of an investment fund against the fund's directors and specialist service providers, involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt (led by Christopher Parker KC).
- Acting in cross-border insolvency claim for c.£250 million brought by the liquidator of a BVI company (as case leader).

COMPANY & PARTNERSHIP

Contentious matters including directors' liabilities, shareholder disputes (unfair prejudice petitions, derivative claims, just and equitable winding up), claims concerning unlawful distributions of capital and unlawful dividends, corporate insolvency, dissolution, restoration and directors disqualification.

Notable cases and work include:

- ***Hellard v Registrar of Companies***: test case concerning company restoration applications in which the Court considered the scope of the sweep up provision in section 1029(2), Companies Act 2006 (as sole advocate).
- Acting in large scale multi-party shareholder dispute in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI, Commercial Division) concerning a group of companies in Hong Kong and mainland China (as case leader).
- Acting in proceedings in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (Financial Services Division) brought by the liquidators of an investment fund against the fund's directors and specialist service providers, involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt (led by Christopher Parker KC).
- Acting in LCIA arbitration proceedings about a £1bn family-owned group in a shareholder dispute (led by Dominic Chambers KC).

INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

All aspects of both corporate and personal insolvency, including technical issues under the insolvency legislation, transaction avoidance claims, proceedings by and against insolvency practitioners, bond claims and cross-border issues.

Notable cases and work include:

- ***Re Bitumina Industries Ltd*** – Olivier (leading Joseph Bunting) acted for the Joint Administrators of the company. The case concerned the creation of a floating charge, and its enforceability under Section 245 of the Insolvency Act 1986. It entailed a route and branch consideration of Section 245, its effect, construction, scope and interaction with authorities under the previous insolvency statutes. The judge (at [36] and [122]) praised their submissions, noting the ***"great deal of benefit"*** he had derived from their ***"closely-reasoned analysis"***.
- ***Arlington Infrastructure Ltd (In Administration) v Woolrych***: successful High Court challenge of out of court appointment of administrators over energy companies (as case leader).
- ***Hellard v Registrar of Companies***: test case concerning company restoration applications in which the Court considered the scope of the sweep up provision in section 1029(2), Companies Act 2006 (as sole advocate).
- Acting in cross-border insolvency claim for c.£250 million brought by the liquidator of a BVI company (as case leader).
- Acting in large scale multi-party shareholder dispute in the Eastern Caribbean Court (BVI, Commercial Division) concerning a group of companies in Hong Kong and mainland China (as case leader).
- Acting in proceedings in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (Financial Services Division) brought by the liquidators of an investment fund against the fund's directors and specialist service providers, involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and knowing receipt (led by Christopher Parker KC).
- Acting in LCIA arbitration proceedings about a £1bn family-owned group in a shareholder dispute (led by Dominic Chambers KC).

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Olivier's practice includes investment banking and private equity disputes, mis-selling claims, secured lending, asset financing and claims under guarantees and indemnities.

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Olivier's practice includes claims against insolvency practitioners, accountants and solicitors.

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Olivier is a very hardworking and very personable barrister who gets to grips with issues very quickly. His cross-examination particularly impresses."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"Olivier is a pleasure to deal with. He is very responsive, engaged, and has the ability to get grips with volumes of documents and complex legal issues with ease."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2027)

"Olivier is a fantastic barrister who is articulate and responsive."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"Olivier is a thoughtful and practically minded advocate who is highly user-friendly and technically gifted."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"Olivier is the full package – technically excellent, articulate on his feet and appealing to the client."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2027)

"Olivier is very hands-on, practical, and fantastic with clients. He has a calming manner and strategic mind."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2027)

"Olivier assimilates facts very quickly and looks at cases in a very logical way. He can picture a factual matrix in his mind and process it in real time. He's an excellent advocate as well."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Olivier is a silk-level advocate and adviser. He's strong tactically and commercially astute."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Olivier is an outstanding advocate with exceptional analytical ability and a calm, authoritative presence in court."

Legal 500 Insolvency (2026)

"He can assimilate facts very quickly in a logical way and is an excellent advocate as well. "

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2026)

"On his feet, Olivier is incredibly robust. He is a very strong barrister."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Olivier Kalfon is always well prepared and his advice is commercially focused."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Olivier is a good all-around lawyer. His written work is second to none, he is impeccably prepared when he goes into court and he is easy to deal with."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2025)

"Olivier is a high-quality adviser, who is very reliable."

Chambers UK Commercial (2025)

"User friendly, knowledgeable and commercial."

Legal 500 Insolvency (2024)

"Olivier is very sharp. He knows insolvency very well."

CHAMBERS UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2023)

"Oliver is very intelligent and a lovely person to work with."

Chambers UK Chancery Commercial (2023)

"A sublime tactician. Very easy to work with and client-friendly. A truly modern practitioner of the Bar who is down to earth but with razor-sharp legal skills and subtle but deft advocacy skills."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2022)

"Olivier is thorough and has an exceptional understanding of insolvency law and practice."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2022)

"A truly modern practitioner of the bar who is down to earth but with razor sharp legal skills and subtle but

deft advocacy skills."

Legal 500 UK Offshore (2022)

"His written work is outstanding and always completely meticulous, and he also has an excellent way with judges. He's measured, doesn't take superfluous points and keeps to the core of his argument."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2022)

"A silk in the making, who's excellent at trial preparation and adept at handling complex, multi-handed cases."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2022)

"Incredibly easy to work with while being very intelligent and effective."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2021)

"A real pleasure to work with and refreshingly straight-forward and fuss-free in his approach."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2021)

"His advice is very succinct, extremely user-friendly and highly commercial. He takes a very sensible approach to cases and is extremely accommodating as well. His advocacy is very, very good." "He is very hands-on, responsive and level-headed. He is also sensible and strategic, and his written work is extremely clear."

Chambers UK Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (2021)

"A very good senior junior and a solid, safe pair of hands who gets the job done." "His written work is excellent."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2021)

"Has all the qualities of an excellent silk while only being a junior."

Legal 500 UK Offshore (2021)

"Given the breadth of his skill and his marvellous advocacy, it is no wonder he is so busy."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2020)

"He is the rising star of the Chancery and commercial Bar."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2020)

"He's extremely knowledgeable and someone who I would expect a very strong fight from, regardless of the merits of the case."

Chambers UK Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (2020)

"A polished advocate with notable gravitas in court. He's calm and measured in his delivery and is very tactically astute. His advocacy is very calm, measured and he's a pleasure to listen to. He's able to deal with anything that the other side throw at him." "He can jump seamlessly and confidently from one complicated case to another. He is organised and thorough, and judges like him because he instinctively knows which points to emphasise and which to drop."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2020)

"A well-regarded commercial Chancery junior."

Legal 500 UK Commercial Litigation (2019)

"His technical ability is his particular strength."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2019)

"Extremely capable intellectually and robust in terms of his advocacy, he is a tenacious advocate. Very little, if anything, gets past him. He doesn't play dirty and never veers away from being entirely appropriate in what he does and says in court." "His work on pleadings is impressive; he has a very easy drafting style that is clear and to the point."

Chambers UK Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (2019)

"He is a strong advocate and a respected adviser. He is always calm and considered in his advice and is very good with clients." "He is a go-to junior for insolvency litigation and is incredibly strong when dealing with financially complex and multi-jurisdictional matters."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2019)

"If you're against him, you know you're in for a good battle and one that you'll probably enjoy." "He's got a really nice style on his feet, one the judge really warms to, and his command of the papers is excellent."

Chambers UK Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery (2018)

"He's good on paper, good on his feet and always willing to get stuck in."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2018)

"Olivier will make himself available as soon as he can, his written work is fantastic and clients love him. He's the full package."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2017)

"A strong advocate and a respected adviser. He is always calm and considered, and is good with clients."

Chambers UK (2017)

"He is technically excellent, very focused and extremely pleasant to deal with."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2016)

MEMBERSHIPS

- Commercial Bar Association
- Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association
- Chancery Bar Association

QUALIFICATIONS

- BSc Economics (LSE)

LANGUAGES

- French (fluent)

NOTABLE CASES

- *Mex Group Worldwide Ltd v Ford (2024) (Court of Appeal)*
- *King Bun v Lau (2024, BVI Court of Appeal)*
- *Mex Group Worldwide Ltd v Ford (2023)*
- *South Tees Development Corp v PD Teesport Ltd (12 September 2023)*
- *South Tees Development Corp v PD Teesport Ltd (1 September 2023)*
- *King Bun v Lau (2023, BVI Court of Appeal)*
- *Re Bitumina Industries Ltd (2022)*

- *King Bun v Lau (2021, BVI Commercial Court)*
- *Arlington Infrastructure Ltd (In Administration) v Woolrych (2020)*
- *Hellard v Registrar of Companies (2020)*
- *(1) Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber (2) MBI & Partners UK Ltd (3) JJW Hotels & Resorts Ltd v (1) Amjad Elias Salfiti (2) Basem Bosheh (2018)*
- *Sandhu v Nagra (2018)*
- *Greig v Lauchlan (2017)*
- *Thomas v Triodos Bank NV (2017)*
- *Lord Chancellor v Blavo (2016)*
- *Smith v Jafton (2013)*
- *Association of Chartered Certified Accountants v Koumettou (2012)*
- *Point West Trust London v Rothschild Trust (Bermuda) (2012) (Court of Appeal)*
- *Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills v Baer Ltd (2011) (Court of Appeal)*
- *Bramston v Ball (2011) (Court of Appeal)*
- *Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales v Webb (2009)*
- *Dayman v Aziz (2008)*