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ROWENA PAGE

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OVERVIEW

Rowena specialises in commercial chancery litigation, with particular expertise in the areas of insolvency, commercial law and fraud. Her practice has both a national and an international focus, with many cases incorporating, or consisting of, cross-border or international disputes.

Rowena is a robust and confident advocate, with extensive court experience. Her practice embraces all aspects of commercial and insolvency litigation (both personal and corporate), with particular expertise in breach of directors' duties claims, officeholder claims, fraud, and all aspects of asset tracing/asset recovery. Much of Rowena's work takes place in the High Court and the Insolvency and Companies Court.

Rowena's work has been recognised in the Chambers UK Directory since 2019 and in Legal 500 since 2022. Clients have particularly commended her thorough, commercially focussed advice and her strength as an advocate.

Rowena was appointed as a Deputy Insolvency and Companies Court Judge in 2024 and is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, British Virgin Islands.

QUALIFICATIONS

- BPTC (Outstanding) – Kaplan Bar School
- MA (Cantab), Law – Emmanuel College, Cambridge, First Class (1st in College; 5th in University)

EXPERTISE

INSOLVENCY & ASSET RECOVERY

Insolvency work makes up the core of Rowena's practice. Her work embraces a wide range of personal and corporate insolvency litigation, including disputes involving directors' duties/misfeasance, antecedent transaction avoidance claims, winding up and bankruptcy petitions, applications to challenge or remove officeholders, property/TLATA disputes and administration applications. Rowena has particular experience in insolvency cases with a cross-border or international element, including applications for recognition and associated relief under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulation 2006. Rowena was first ranked as an "up and coming" junior in Restructuring/Insolvency in 2019 and has been consistently ranked in the directories since then. She has recently been described as "extremely knowledgeable", "hugely commercially minded" and "unflappable on her feet'.

- ***Re Marotiri West End Ltd*** [2022]. Sole counsel, acting for the liquidator in misfeasance proceedings brought against Michael Flatley of ***Riverdance*** fame.
- ***Hinton v Wotherspoon*** [2022] EWHC 2083 (Ch). Sole counsel in proceedings brought pursuant to s423 Insolvency Act 1986 and/or claimant a beneficial interest in property.
- ***Re Swan Campden Hill Ltd*** [2021] EWHC 2470 (Ch). Sole counsel in heavily contested winding up proceedings.
- ***Re PJSC Bank Finance and Credit*** [2021] EWHC 1100 (Ch). Sole counsel. An application for recognition of a Ukrainian bank's liquidation under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations 2006.
- ***Re Goremsandu (a bankrupt***) (2021). Sole counsel. A two-day trial concerning an application for possession and sale of jointly owned property in exceptional circumstances.
- ***Re New World Resources PLC*** (2021). Sole counsel. A substantial remuneration application in which Rowena acted for the liquidators.
- ***Re S.J. Henderson & Company Ltd*** [2019] EWHC 2742 (Ch). Sole counsel. An application to regularise an out-of-hours appointment of administrators.
- ***Amin v Redbridge London Borough Council and others*** [2019] BPIR 1. Sole counsel. Acting for the petitioning creditor in an appeal regarding liability for bankruptcy expenses and costs following rescission of the bankruptcy order.
- ***Re Electric Trucks Ltd*** (in liquidation) (2019). Sole counsel. Rowena acted for the liquidators of Electric Trucks Ltd in successful misfeasance proceedings against its former directors.
- ***Re Brique et Mortier Ltd***. Sole counsel. Acting for a contributory in contested contributory's winding up proceedings.
- ***Re JP Dunn Construction Ltd.*** Sole counsel. Rowena successfully restrained advertisement of a winding up petition presented in respect of alleged service charge arrears.
- ***Abdulrida and others v Al Najar and others***: sole counsel. Acting for the trustee in bankruptcy of a defendant in substantial fraud proceedings. The claimants allege that millions of pounds of their money was diverted into property purchased in the name of the defendants. The case is currently proceeding in the Chancery Division.
- ***Zinc Hotels (Investment) Ltd and another v Beveridge and others*** [2018] BCC 968. Led by Stephen Davies

KC. Acting for the applicants in proceedings seeking the appointment of additional administrators.

- ***AIB Group (UK) Plc v Constantin Nicholas Peridakis***. Sole counsel. Rowena acted for the petitioning creditor in disputed bankruptcy proceedings arising from a director's liability under a personal guarantee.
- ***Skelwith (Leisure) Ltd v Depa (UK) Ltd***. Led by in proceedings brought by the liquidators of Skelwith (Leisure) Ltd against a charge-holder.
- ***Skelwith (Leisure) Ltd v Armstrong and others***. Led by in a claim seeking to avoid sale of a property at an undervalue by a mortgagee under its power of sale.

COMPANY & PARTNERSHIP

Rowena's work frequently comprises and includes aspects of company and partnership law, including acting for both the petitioner and the respondent in unfair prejudice petitions, misfeasance claims and claims alleging breach of fiduciary duties, claims for dissolution of partnerships and associated accounts, amongst other things.

Her recent work has included:

- ***Re Jackup Ltd.*** Sole counsel for the respondents/cross-petitioners in heavily contested unfair prejudice proceedings and associated interlocutory applications.
- ***A v B.*** Proposed proceedings disputing the shareholding of a substantial company, including allegations that shares are held on trust for the proposed claimant.
- ***Newland v Southern Commercial Trucks and Trailers.*** Acting as sole counsel in ongoing proceedings for a declaration as to the existence of a partnership, together with associated relief (including the taking of an account).
- ***A v B.*** Ongoing proceedings for a declaration as to the true beneficial ownership of shares held by the Defendant.
- ***Re Marotiri West End Ltd*** [2022]. Sole counsel, acting for the liquidator in misfeasance proceedings brought against Michael Flatley of ***Riverdance*** fame.
- ***Re Briqueet Mortier Ltd***. Sole counsel. Acting for a contributory in contested contributory's winding up proceedings
- ***Re Fiddlesticks Games Ltd v Curve Digital Publishing*** [2019] 6 WLUK 461. Acting as sole counsel for the directors of a company in a successful application to strike out proceedings issued in a company's name by a former director without authority.
- ***Taparis v Siddiqi.*** Acting as sole counsel for the claimants seeking specific performance of a share sale deed.
- Acting for both petitioners and respondents in winding up proceedings relating to both partnerships and LLPs.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Rowena has extensive experience in commercial disputes.

In recent years she has acted as part of a large counsel team in multi-million and multi-billion pound claims proceeding in the High Court, in addition to acting in cases in her own right.

Recent work has included:

- ***4VV Ltd & Others v Spence & Others.*** Acting as junior to for defendants to a multi-million pound claim brought by 435 claimants alleging unlawful means conspiracy and fraudulent misrepresentation, amongst other things.
- ***WWRT Ltd v Carosan Trading & Boris Kaufman BVIHCMAP 2022/0002.*** Led by , Rowena acted for Mr Kaufman in a successful appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal to challenge an order granting permission to serve Mr Kaufman out of the jurisdiction.
- ***Re Jackup Ltd.*** Acting as sole counsel in an on-going unfair prejudice petition and associated interlocutory applications.
- ***Municipality of Mariana and others v BHP Billiton Plc and others***. Acting as part of a counsel team for the claimants in a c.£5bn class action against BHP Biliton Plc over the collapse of an iron tailings dam (and ensuing environmental disaster) in Brazil in 2015.
- Actingaspartofacounselteamfor Brazilianclaimantsinasubstantialcartelclaim.
- ***Wilson James SPRL v MSL Recruitment Ltd.*** Acting as junior to James Pickering KC for the claimants in substantial Commercial Court proceedings concerning the supply of workers in mainland Europe.
- ***Sullivan v Royal Bank of Scotland***. Sole counsel. Acting for the Bank of Scotland in a claim brought by a former director against RBS alleging that it improperly distressed a property portfolio following the financial crash of 2007/8.

CIVIL FRAUD

Rowena's work regularly comprises or includes disputes in respect of which allegations of fraud are central. Her experience in this area extends to include fraud claims that are both national and international in nature with recent work including:

- Acting as junior to and advising BVI liquidators regarding an extensive and high value fraud on a multi-jurisdictional level.
- ***4VV Ltd & Others v Spence & Others***. Acting as junior to for defendants to a multi-million pound claim brought by 435 claimants alleging unlawful means conspiracy and fraudulent misrepresentation in a property investment scheme, amongst other things.
- ***WWRT Ltd v Carosan Trading & Boris Kaufman*** BVICMAP 2022/0002. Acting as junior to in a successful appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal to challenge an order granting permission to serve proceedings out of the jurisdiction in fraud proceedings.
- ***Chander & Others v Vale & Others.*** Acting as sole counsel in proceedings alleging dishonesty and fraud in the context of a property investment scheme.
- ***Re PJSC Bank Finance and Credit***[2021]EWHC1100(Ch). Acting as sole counsel for the Ukrainian liquidator of a bank in a cross-border recognition application (brought under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulation 2006), and as junior to Charles Samek KC in related proceedings.
- Acting as part of a junior counsel team in proposed proceedings relating to a Brazilian cartel claim.

OFFSHORE & TRUSTS

Rowena was called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, British Virgin Islands in 2021. In addition to a generally international practice, her recent offshore work has included:

- ***WWRT Ltd v Carosan Trading & Boris Kaufman*** BVICMAP 2022/0002. Acting as junior to in a successful appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal to challenge an order granting permission to serve proceedings out of the jurisdiction in fraud proceedings.
- Acting as junior to and advising BVI liquidators regarding an extensive and high value fraud on a multi-jurisdictional level.
- Acting for liquidators in Nevis & St Kitts in respect of property proceedings brought in England and Wales.
- Acting as part of a counsel team in respect of proposed proceedings arising from an alleged Brazilian cartel.

She also has extensive experience in recognition applications (both common-law and under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulation 2006) and associated applications. Her work has included:

- Acting for the insolvency administrator of a German bank seeking disclosure of documents in the jurisdiction.
- Acting for the insolvency administrator of a Ukrainian bank in a CBIR recognition application and associated relief.
- Advising on recognition applications generally.

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Rowena is a very diligent and supremely well prepared brief whose ability exceeds her level of call. Her advocacy style is very measured but quietly determined."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"Formidable. Huge brain. User-friendly."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2027)

"Rowena is a detail-oriented barrister. Her calm and measured approach is reassuring to both clients and instructing solicitors."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2027)

"Rowena is clever, helpful, very user friendly and someone who clients like. She has excellent cross examination skills and written work is faultless."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2026)

"Rowena is an exceptionally persuasive advocate whose submissions are always meticulously prepared and delivered with quiet authority. She commands the confidence of the bench."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2027)

"Rowena's advocacy is brilliant. She's pleasant to work with, and her analysis is on point."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2027)

"Rowena is the sort of person you want on every case. Her advocacy, both written and oral, is brilliant."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2027)

"She is recognised by the judges as being someone who is really on top of the technical details of the insolvency act."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2026)

"She has a fantastic tactical sense in relation to insolvency litigation and is she is good on paper and is a very effective advocate."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2026)

"Her knowledge and preparation is excellent and her advice is well considered and balanced."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2026)

"Rowena doesn't just understand the technical aspects, she also has judgement and knows which points to take. She's got a real instinct for where to go in a case."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Rowena is extremely bright and a forceful advocate."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2026)

"Rowena's oral submissions are clear and well constructed. She's a very pragmatic individual."

Chambers UK Chancery Commercial (2026)

"Extremely smart, analytical and quick thinking. Excellent on her feet."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2025)

"She is a technically excellent and thorough barrister. "

CHAMBERS UK: RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY (2025)

"Rowena is a thorough barrister. She's hard-working and leaves no stone unturned."

CHAMBERS UK: RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY (2025)

"Rowena is very hard-working and really responsive, and gets to grips with the issues quickly."

CHAMBERS UK: CHANCERY COMMERCIAL (2025)

"Rowena is an excellent, skilled advocate who delivers succinct, commercial and robust advice. She is well liked by clients and extremely user-friendly."

CHAMBERS UK: CHANCERY COMMERCIAL (2025)

"Rowena is utterly brilliant. She is ferociously bright, extremely personable and very bullish – she's willing to take a difficult position and argue it."

CHAMBERS UK: CHANCERY COMMERCIAL (2025)

"'Rowena is measured and thorough and a trusted counsel. Very bright and commercially astute, an excellent advocate and delightful to deal with."

LEGAL 500 INSOLVENCY (2024)

'Rowena is both technically minded and a gifted advocate. She is highly commercial, but still approachable and easy to deal with.'

Legal 500 Insolvency (2023)

"I love the way that Rowena speaks to clients: she is able to explain complex legal technical issues in a way that they can understand. She has a lot of empathy, and is always clear and concise in her advice."

Chambers UK Commercial Chancery (2023)

"Rowena is fearless and great to work with. She is a very effective barrister."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2023)

"Very pragmatic, and sees the bigger picture. She is a star for the future."

Chambers UK Chancery: Commercial (2022)

"She combines her excellent technical knowledge and unflappable manner with superb tactical and advocacy skills."

Legal 500 UK Insolvency (2022)

"She is very good - very measured and strong on the technical legal arguments." "A tremendous barrister."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2022)

"She is very, very thorough in her preparation and extremely knowledgeable."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2021)

"She gives excellent advice and is hugely commercially minded and very proactive on cases."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2020)

"She is assertive and fair and is a real force to be reckoned with in court. She is a determined and eloquent advocate."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2020)

"She is absolutely excellent, super sharp and friendly. She's great to work with, gets straight to the point and is unflappable on her feet."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2019)

"She is technically robust, provides excellent client service and is a pleasure to work with."

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2019)

"Very bright and hard-working, with good commercial sense"

Chambers UK Restructuring/Insolvency (2019)

MEMBERSHIPS

- R3 Association of Business Recovery Professionals

- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association
- INSOL

QUALIFICATIONS

- BPTC (Outstanding) – Kaplan Bar School
- MA (Cantab), Law – Emmanuel College, Cambridge, First Class (1st in College; 5th in University)

AWARDS

Advocacy Scholar, Kaplan Bar School

James Crouch Scholarship, Gray's Inn

Cambridge University Mistress of Moots

APPOINTMENTS

- Deputy ICC Judge

NOTABLE CASES

- *Patley Wood Farm LLP v Kicks [2023] EWCA Civ 901*