

Andrew George KC

"Andrew is diligent, conscientious and always responsive to the needs of his instructing solicitors. His advice is clear, concise and practical, and in terms of his advocacy he is by far the most prepared, effective and charismatic barrister in the room."

– CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2024

Year of call: **1997**
Appointed to silk: **2015**
Degree: **MA (Oxon), Diploma in Law, City University**



Andrew practices in all areas of commercial law, particularly financial services, professional negligence, civil fraud, insurance and media and entertainment. He is a member of the Executive Committee of COMBAR and a member of the Bar Council's Legal Services Committee from 2001 until 2017, representing the profession on the government's Public Legal Education taskforce. He was a founder member of the Bar Council's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. He was the Chairman of Trustees of the Tower-Hamlets based charity, Spitalfields City Farm from 2009 until 2017.

Andrew is recognised as a leading silk in the latest editions of both the leading legal directories, Chambers UK and Legal 500. His areas of practice that feature are; banking and finance, commercial litigation, financial services, civil fraud, professional discipline and regulatory and professional negligence. Recent comments include:

- "He has infallible judgement, an ability to get to the heart of the matter instantly, and an extraordinary work ethic." - Legal 500, 2024
- "Andrew is diligent, conscientious and always responsive to the needs of his instructing solicitors. His advice is clear, concise and practical, and in terms of his advocacy he is by far the most prepared, effective and charismatic barrister in the room." - Chambers & Partners, 2024

Previous comments include:

- "Extremely clever, fantastic with clients and very compelling on his feet. He's a big hitter and always great fun to work with." - Legal 500, 2023
- "He was 100% on top of the detail of the case, as well as the wider strategy. His advocacy was excellent." - Chambers UK, 2023
- "He is an amazing strategist and tactician." - Chambers UK, 2023

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Andrew has an extensive commercial practice, regularly appearing in substantial commercial litigation before the Court. Within this field Andrew's practice incorporates the specialist areas of Professional Negligence, Insurance and Reinsurance, Civil Fraud and Financial Services as well as more general commercial disciplines such as breach of contract, sale of goods, and conflicts of laws.

Andrew has acted in professional negligence cases concerning surveyors, architects, solicitors, barristers, actuaries and insurance brokers. He has also acted in a number of disputes involving allegations of professional negligence against Independent Financial Advisers arising out of the mis-selling of pensions, mortgages and investment products. Andrew acted for 3 1/2 years on the high-profile fraud case arising out of multi-billion-dollar investments made by the Libyan Investment Authority with the French bank, Societe Generale. He has regularly acted for and against regulators in the insurance and reinsurance sphere, in disciplinary cases involving, for example, allegations of mis-selling, accountancy fraud and actuarial negligence.

Andrew has particular experience in the field of insurance and reinsurance having been instructed for the first 8 years of his career in multi-party insurance litigation involving an explosion in an American copper smelter. He subsequently acted as the senior counsel in FCA investigations into Equitable Life and Independent Insurance Company and has recently acted for the Financial Reporting Council in substantial investigations involving allegations of accountancy and actuarial misconduct.

“Andrew is very accessible, bright and hard-working.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Harry Greenhouse v Paysafe Financial Services Ltd.

Acted for the Claimant in his successful Commercial Court claim against an electronic payment facilitation company involving contractual and restitution disputes.

ALG v Cannacord

Andrew successfully acting for the Defendant in this \$200m claim alleging negligent promotion by financial services professionals in connection with the IPO of an American real estate development.

Auden McKenzie & ors v Patel & Patel

(2018)

Acts for the Claimants in this £250m fraud case involving allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of competition law arising from a substantial acquisition in the pharmaceutical industry. In particular, Andrew acted in a successful three-day cross application for summary judgment for commercial court in November 2018.

Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Service v SIS

(2018)

Andrew acts for the Claimant in Commercial Court proceedings concerning international broadcasting rights for greyhound racing.

CPL v CPL (Trinidad & Tobago)

(2018)

Andrew acted for the Claimant in this long-running Commercial dispute concerning contractual rights and obligations in relation Caribbean Premier League 20-20 cricket tournament held annually in the West Indies.

FCA v T & or

(2017)

Andrew successfully acted for a senior banker accused of insider dealing before the FCA's Regulatory Decisions Committee. Following a 2-day hearing, the RDC directed the FCA's Enforcement Division to discontinue its case against Andrew's client in all respects.

GFSC v A

(2018)

Andrew acted for the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission in statutory judicial review proceedings brought against it in relation to the conduct of an investigation and directions it had issued concerning it.

I v C

Andrew acted in a series of arbitral proceedings concerning disputed investments in a luxury Caribbean holiday resort.

New Media v Kuznetsov

Andrew successfully acted in this High Court trial relating to investment in media and industrial concerns in Eastern Europe and involving substantial questions of Ukrainian law.

Standard Life & ors v Corr & ors

(2015)

Acts for the First Defendant Finance Director in this substantial Commercial Court action raising significant issues concerning section 90 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (re misleading statements in listing particulars) in the context of the sub-prime lender, Cattles plc.

VR v Exotix & CVI

Successfully acted as Leading Counsel in a substantial Commercial Court trial relating to Loan Market Association (LMA) trading in a Ukrainian steel manufacturer.

Rio Tinto v Vale

[2015] EWHC 1865(QB)

Acted for the recipient of a Letter of Request in the context of multi-million dollar proceedings in the USA between substantial international mining companies in its successful application to discharge various disclosure obligations on public policy and commercial confidentiality grounds.

Libyan Investment Authority v Goldman Sachs

(2014)

Acts for the Claimant in this US\$1 billion Chancery Division claim by a sovereign wealth fund arising out of actions by Goldman Sachs in Gadaffi-era Libya which are alleged to have constituted undue influence and an unconscionable bargain.

Libyan Investment Authority v Societe Generale

(2014)

Acted for the Claimant in this US\$2 billion Commercial Court claim by a sovereign wealth fund involving allegations of bribery by a large French bank in Gadaffi-era Libya.

Baturina v Chistyakov

[2014] EWCA Civ 1134 ; [2014] 2 CLC 209

Acts for the Claimant in this long-running dispute between two Russian businesspeople concerning the operation of a €100m property investment in Morocco. Amongst other things, Andrew acted in the Claimant's successful appeal to the Court of Appeal against the Defendant's application to stay the proceedings on jurisdictional grounds.

Gul Bottlers (PVT) Ltd v Nichols plc

[2014] EWHC 2173 (Comm)

Acted as sole advocate for the Defendant in this 8-day Commercial Court trial concerning the exportation of the popular soft drink "Vimto" to Pakistan.

Pyrrho Investments Ltd. V MWB Properties Ltd. & ors

(2013)

Acts for a former director of the Malmaison and Hotel du Vin hotel chains facing claims for breach of fiduciary duty arising out of alleged wrongful dividend distributions and non-disclosures of allegedly conflicting interests. The 6-week Chancery Division trial involves claims in excess of £20m.

Brown & ors v Collyer-Bristow & ors – the Innovator litigation

[2012] EWHC 1321

Successfully acted for a former partner of Collyer-Bristow in claims for alleged negligence and dishonest assistance arising out of technology investment schemes designed to be tax efficient. Andrew was sole Counsel for his client during the 53-day Commercial Court trial, identified by The Lawyer as one of the Top 20 cases of 2011.

Financial Services & Banking

Andrew has considerable expertise in the areas of financial services and City regulation acting both for and against the Financial Services (now Financial Conduct) Authority (FSA) including in hearings before the Regulatory Disciplinary Committee (RDC) of the FSA. He has also acted for and against the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in disciplinary cases involving accountants and actuaries and in proceedings brought by the Takeover Panel.

Andrew appeared in the first ever RDC hearing, the first ever hearing in the Financial Services and Markets Tribunal, and the first market abuse trial to be heard by that Tribunal. He also appeared in the first Tribunal hearing before the Qatar Financial Services Tribunal and the first substantive hearing before the Dubai Financial Services Tribunal.

Andrew has successfully defended cases before the RDC relating to alleged senior management negligence, benchmark (LIBOR) manipulation, inside dealing and retail misconduct in selling and advising.

“Andrew's advocacy is excellent as are his draftings.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases**FCA v Carphone Warehouse**

Acted in this substantial regulatory enforcement action arising out of systemic and substantial mis-selling of mobile phone insurance.

Harry Greenhouse v Paysafe Financial Services Ltd.

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FCA v Standard Chartered Bank

Acted in this major regulatory battle over breaches of money laundering regulations and international sanctions by Standard Chartered Bank leading to global regulatory fines in excess of £1bn.

R (Berkeley Burke) v FOS

Instructed in Court of Appeal proceedings raising significant issues of public importance concerning the FCA Principles and the scope of the duties of personal pension trustees involving interventions by the FCA and the personal pension industry trade body.

FCA/HMRC/FRC v Carillion

Acts for a former director of Carillion in relation to multiple regulatory investigations following that firm's widely-publicised collapse.

DFSA v Waterhouse

(2018)

Represents the Dubai financial services regulator in its first substantive Tribunal hearing. The case, which has been heard in both London and Dubai, involves allegations concerning banking compliance in the "off-shore" Dubai International Financial Centre.

AADB v Corr

Andrew acted against the Accountancy and Actuarial Disciplinary Board in relation to proceedings brought against a Mr James Corr, the former Finance Director of the sub-prime lender Cattles plc. The case raised, amongst other things, important issues concerning the inter-relationship between connected AADB and Financial Services Authority/ Financial Conduct Authority proceedings.

ALG v Cannacord

Andrew successfully acting for the Defendant in this \$200m claim alleging negligent promotion by financial services professionals in connection with the IPO of an American real estate development.

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FCA v XY

Andrew successfully acted for a bank trader facing disciplinary proceedings brought by the FCA in connection with the widely-publicised LIBOR rigging allegations. The FCA had been seeking one of the highest financial penalties it has imposed on an individual.

FCA v Ford & Owen

Andrew acts for the FCA in Tribunal proceedings relating to alleged misconduct by the former senior managers of Keydata Investment Services Limited, a financial services company whose collapse left consumers facing £450m worth of losses. The FCA is seeking to impose the largest financial penalty in its history on the former CEO of Keydata, Stewart Ford. The 6-week contested hearing in the Upper Tribunal (ongoing as at the end of October 2017) is scheduled to be the longest ever financial services disciplinary hearing.

Carrimjee v FCA, Upper Tribunal

[2015] Lloyd's Rep F.C. 256

Acted for a wealth manager accused of market abuse by the FCA in connection with allegedly manipulative transactions placed by a Mr Goenka in the London Stock Exchange's Closing Auction. The FCA's allegations that Mr Carrimjee's conduct was dishonest and/or lacked integrity were dismissed by the Upper Tribunal.

FRC v X

Andrew acted for the Financial Reporting Council ("FRC") in proceedings involving multiple defendants arising out of eight-figure losses within an insurance syndicate and involving allegations of accountancy and actuarial misconduct.

R (London Capital Group) v Financial Ombudsman Service

[2014] ACD 3

Acted for a major provider of financial trading services in a claim for judicial review against the Financial Ombudsman Service in relation to FOS's jurisdiction to consider complaints concerning Spot Foreign Exchange contracts and the circumstances in which foreign exchange transactions could correctly be classified as spread bets.

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Acts for a number of individual bankers accused of having acted inappropriately in relation to the manipulation of LIBOR rates and facing criminal and regulatory investigation.

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FSA Regulatory Decisions Committee, March 2013

Acted for Prudential plc and Prudential Assurance Company Limited in their defence of regulatory charges brought by the FSA concerning Prudential's possible acquisition of AIA, an Asian subsidiary of the American insurer AIG, in early 2010.

FSA v Hannam

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Acted for Ian Hannam, the former Chairman of Capital Markets at JP Morgan Cazenove who was penalised by the FSA for the disclosure of inside information contrary to section 118 (3) of FSMA. The disclosure was made in the course of negotiating a corporate transaction for the purpose of encouraging an offer in the interest of the client who had given implicit authority for the disclosure. The FSA decided that the information was not disclosed in the proper course and constituted inside information, taking a wide view of the effect of section 118C.

FSA v Cummings

(2012)

Acted for Peter Cummings, a senior manager at HBOS, in relation to FSA disciplinary proceedings concerning allegations arising out of the difficulties suffered by the bank during the financial crisis of 2008.

FSA v Ollerenshaw / Reeh

(2012)

Acted for the FSA in a 2-week Upper Tribunal hearing concerning alleged misconduct in the context of a sub-prime mortgage broker.

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Andrew practises extensively in civil fraud. He is currently instructed for the Claimants in a US\$250m fraud claim arising out of the acquisition of a pharmaceutical company. Between 2014 and 2017 he acted for the Libyan Investment Authority in their substantial fraud and corruption claim arising out of multi-billion dollar investments made with the French bank, Societe Generale during the Gaddafi era. He has previously acted in relation to allegations of misconduct and intimidation brought by Boris Berezovsky against Roman Abramovich and conducted the successful defence of a 6-month trial involving solicitors from Collyer Bristow accused of acting dishonestly in connection with a financial promotion.

“He is an amazing strategist and tactician.”

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Professional Negligence

Andrew practises extensively in professional negligence. His work has involved cases involving allegations against solicitors, barristers, architects, accountants, actuaries, surveyors, company directors and bankers. He is particularly experienced in acting in disciplinary and regulatory cases involving allegations of professional negligence, often acting for individuals and entities defending parallel regulatory and disciplinary cases brought by, for example, the Financial Conduct Authority and/or Financial Reporting Council.

“Easy to deal with and a team player. He is excellent, particularly as part of a big counsel team.”

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Arbitration

Andrew has substantial arbitration experience acting in domestic and international arbitrations relating to American hurricane insurance coverage, joint venture arrangements in a luxury Caribbean holiday resort, academic publishing and multi-million pound commodity trading.

Cases

I v C

Andrew acted in a series of arbitral proceedings concerning disputed investments in a luxury Caribbean holiday resort.

Insurance & Reinsurance

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FRC v X

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Other relevant information

Andrew has worked extensively in Europe and America as a speech and advocacy trainer. He was the world's top-ranked debater in 1997 and, in 1998, he was part of the first English team to win the World Debating Championship for 10 years.

Andrew received Gray's Inn's top student award in each of his three student years and, in 1997, undertook a coast-to-coast mooted tour under the captaincy of Lord Justice Mummery.

Andrew's debut poetry collection Milk Round was shortlisted for the Live Canon First Collection Prize and was subsequently published by Live Canon in 2015.

VAT registration number: 447008068

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