

Anthony Peto QC

“He has an extraordinary legal brain and thinks his way around complex legal problems with ease.”

– LEGAL 500, 2015

Year of call: 1985
Appointed to silk: 2009
Degree: MA (Oxon), BCL (Oxon)
Languages: French (working knowledge)



Tony Peto QC has been joint Head of Chambers since 2012.

He has practised commercial and corporate litigation in the Queen's Bench, Chancery Divisions and Commercial Court since 1986. His single largest specialist practice area is in international corporate fraud, but he has also acted in a wide range of Commercial and Public Law matters. He has also represented Government bodies in commercial and public law cases as an 'A' panelist and as a Silk.

Prior to his appointment to Silk, Tony was counsel to the Crown on the Attorney General's 'A' Panel.

Tony is recognised by both the leading independent legal directories, Chambers UK 2019 and Legal 500 2018, for his expertise in commercial litigation, civil fraud and POCA.

EXPERIENCE

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Tony acts as Lead Counsel in complex, high value fraud trials in the Commercial Court, Chancery and Queen's Bench Divisions. Over the last 15 years he has been instructed in hundreds of High Court actions involving civil fraud, abuse of intellectual property, theft of confidential information or similar forms of commercial dishonesty, often leading multi-disciplinary teams of barristers, solicitors, investigators, foreign lawyers, computer experts and forensic accountants.

“A fantastic advocate who is very client-friendly.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2019

Cases

Arcelor Mittal v Essar Steel

Claim for enforcement of foreign arbitral award worth in excess of US\$1bn involving applications for search, freezing and information orders in England and various foreign jurisdictions, including Cayman Islands, Mauritius, USA and India, in dispute between two multi-national companies. Leading large team of lawyers from four jurisdictions.

Mr Suppipat & Ors v Mr Nop Narongdej & Ors

Multi-billion dollar, multi-jurisdictional conspiracy claim re: alleged misappropriation of shares in a Thai windfarm with proceedings in UK, Belize, Singapore, BVI, Hong Kong and Thailand on behalf of Thai political exile. Issues of jurisdiction, conflicts, international human rights and Thai political offences.

Toaz v Uralchem (Ireland)

Multi-jurisdictional action between Russian oligarchs in a claim worth over US\$2bn involving Russia, Cyprus, BVI and Ireland, Switzerland the UK. Case involves unlawful conspiracies to misappropriate a major industry in the Russian Federation. Mr Peto coordinated legal experts from 6 jurisdictions as part of his role as lead counsel.

Advising foreign state owned natural resources organisation

Advising foreign state owned natural resources organisation in \$12bn case of international corruption involving multi-jurisdictional injunctions.

Re: multiple actions between Eastern European oligarchs

Acting for a high net worth individual and his off-shore companies in their action for the fraudulent misappropriation of over US\$700m worth of assets. Highly complex issues of foreign and private international law.

Corbiere Ltd v KE XU

2017 (ongoing)

Multi-million pound claim for fraudulent misappropriation of algorithmic investment strategies from city financial institution. Complex injunctive remedies required from Chancery Division interrelating with judicial review and proceedings in Hong Kong.

Reignwood v Ni

High value joint venture dispute in the Commercial Court involving the Reignwood Group of companies. Associated proceedings in Luxembourg and the U.S. Instructed by the Reignwood Group, a very substantial group of companies headquartered in China (which owns Wentworth Golf Club, amongst other assets in the UK). The claim is brought by a senior former employee who claims to have had a joint venture with the billionaire owner of the Reignwood Group. The claims are very complex in factual terms, and largely governed by Chinese law.

GGG v HHH

High value commercial fraud proceedings in the Commercial Court relating to underlying allegations of bribery. Associated investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. The claim raises novel issues surrounding the interplay of warranty claims made by a purchaser of a company arising out of alleged bribery and claims by the company itself in relation to the same subject matter. There are also substantial third-party claims for contribution and in deceit. Raises issues of US and other foreign law.

Hewlett Packard v Sage

Acting

for Hewlett Packard in an alleged multi-million international fraud over a number of jurisdictions including Pakistan and the Gulf and involving the supply of several thousand servers allegedly in violation of discount schemes. Execution of Freezing Orders, Search Orders and Committal for alleged Contempt of Court.

BFS Group Limited & Otrs v Shaun Foley & Ors

(Queen's Bench Division, 2016, ongoing)

£45M

claim concerning an alleged fraudulent conspiracy against twelve defendants including a former director of the Claimant logistics company..

Sabbagh v Khoury

(ongoing)

Acting

for the Claimant in a case of alleged international conspiracy to defraud dispute worth over US\$500m in relation to interests in a multi-national middle eastern construction company (the world's largest private construction and infrastructure company) with a capitalisation of several billion Us dollars. Complex issues of jurisdiction, EU law and Private International Law, involving the co-ordination of multi-national teams of lawyers.

Russian Oligarchs Dispute

Multi-jurisdictional action between Russian oligarchs in a claim worth over US\$2bn. Case involves unlawful conspiracies to misappropriate a major industry in the Russian Federation. Tony is coordinating legal experts from six jurisdictions as part of his role as lead counsel.

Multiple actions between Eastern European oligarchs

(2014)

Acting for a high net worth individual and his off-shore companies in their action for the fraudulent misappropriation of over US\$700m worth of assets. Highly complex issues of foreign and private international law.

Oakmont v Thomas

(Chancery Division) 2014

Acting for Brazilian based mining companies in multi-million dollar dispute involving misappropriation of company assets and dispute over shares. Multiple applications for domestic and foreign freezing orders.

Otkritie Bank v Urumov and Others

(Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, 2013)

Lead Counsel for the Defence for over 6 Defendants in a 12 week Commercial Court trial in a claim for over US\$170m in an alleged Russian banking fraud attracting international media interest. Issues of private international law, foreign law, privilege and public policy. Over 120 files to digest and over a dozen witnesses to cross-examine.

Fern Advisors v Burford

(2013 Queen's Bench Division)

Lead Counsel for a Russian "family office" obtaining freezing orders for over £10m in relation to allegedly fraudulent investment advice.

Topa v Tomdal

(Commercial Court) (2012)

Lead Counsel for Claimants in multi-jurisdictional US\$70m fraud case against the Deputy Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament and alleged associates of the Moldovan Mafia. Obtaining Norwich Pharmacal orders and "doorstep raiding" orders to assist civil and criminal proceedings in Moldova, Germany and Scotland and to assist Human Rights proceedings in the ECHR, Strasbourg. Involved complex issues of jurisdiction and private international law.

Dar Al Arkan v Al Refai

[2012] EWHC 3539 (Comm)

Lead Counsel for the Defendant against a Bahraini Bank in a US\$500m claim arising out of alleged fraudulent "connected party" transactions. Defending allegations of conspiracy to injure, misappropriation of confidential banking information and malicious falsehood.

Serious Organised Crime Agency v Perry

[2009] EWHC 1960 and 2673 (Admin); [2010] EWHC 1711 (Admin); [2010] EWCA Civ 907; [2011] EWCA Civ 578

Acted for SOCA in a civil recovery claim worth over £100m in relation to an alleged international pension and insurance fraud involving two Court of Appeal appearances on questions of international jurisdiction.

Bank of Ireland v Bailey

(2012)

Acted for the Bank of Ireland against allegedly corrupt and fraudulent conspirators who had taken bribes in exchange for multi-million pound loans.

Commercial

Tony practises extensively in commercial litigation and examples of his current and recent work in this area can be found below.

“He's tremendously charismatic, confident and intelligent, and is both able to grasp complex issues quickly and impressively committed to clients.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2019

Cases

BFS Group Limited & Otrs v Shaun Foley & Ors

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Sabbagh v Khoury

(ongoing)

Acting

for the Claimant in a case of alleged international conspiracy to defraud dispute worth over US\$500m in relation to interests in a multi-national middle eastern construction company (the world's largest private construction and infrastructure company) with a capitalisation of several billion Us dollars. Complex issues of jurisdiction, EU law and Private International Law, involving the co-ordination of multi-national teams of lawyers.

Filmflex v Pixel

Multi-million pound dispute over rights in proprietary software for video streaming platform.

Acqua Global Solutions v FinServe

Multi-million pound dispute over rights in software used by Tesco to provide banking services to over 6 million customers.

Newell v US Risk Insurance

(2013) Chancery Division

Lead Counsel for an American Insurance Company in an unfair prejudice petition.

S v N

Stockholm Institute of Commerce Arbitration (2013)

Lead Counsel in multi-million dollar international arbitration involving a share valuation dispute between Norwegian suppliers and Pakistani distributors.

Solland v Salem

[2012] EWHC 1957

Lead Counsel for the Defendant in a trial arising out of an alleged joint venture relating to a £100m property in Belgravia.

Lloyds Bank v Mogens Hauschildt

(2012)

Represented Lloyds Bank as an intervenor in a confiscation case involving complex questions of property law.

DWPF Ltd v Lydon

(2012)

Claim for over £8 million for breaches of fiduciary duty, breaches of contract and theft of confidential information involving complex search orders and electronic evidence.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Tony's commercial and fraud work often overlaps with public law and human rights.

Cases

ABC Queen's Bench Division

(2014)

Acting for a number of ex patriates from a foreign human rights abusive regime in a "right to life" and Article 6 application against the foreign government to prevent them from naming the clients in public High Court proceedings. Successfully obtaining orders and indemnity costs against the foreign government in question.

Members of the Liberal Democrat Party v The Liberal Democrat Party and Lord Rennard

(2014)

Acting for the Claimants in their claim against the Liberal Democrat Party and Lord Rennard in a claim that they had suffered sexual harassment and discrimination and that the Party had not properly investigated their complaints.

Re the Security and Justice Bill and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

(2012-2013)

Advising Members of Parliament and Peers on the APPG on Extraordinary Rendition as to the Human Rights and Civil Libertarian consequences of the provisions relating to Closed Material Proceedings in the Bill; drafting amendments for Peers to put before the House of Lords and advising as to Parliamentary procedure.

Topa v Tomdal

(Commercial Court) (2012)

Lead Counsel for Claimants in multi-jurisdictional US\$70m fraud case against the Deputy Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament and alleged associates of the Moldovan Mafia. Obtaining Norwich Pharmacal orders and "doorstep raiding" orders to assist civil and criminal proceedings in Moldova, Germany and Scotland and to assist Human Rights proceedings in the ECHR, Strasbourg. Involved complex issues of jurisdiction and private international law.

Dar Al Arkan v Al Refai

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Lead Counsel for the Defendant against a Bahraini Bank in a US\$500m claim arising out of alleged fraudulent "connected party" transactions. Defending allegations of conspiracy to injure, misappropriation of confidential banking information and malicious falsehood.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Publications

- Neither Just Nor Secure: The Justice and Security Bill by Anthony Peto QC and Andrew Tyrie MP. Published by the Centre for Policy Studies (January 2013).
- In June 2013 Anthony won the Prospect Think Tank Publication of the Year award for 'Neither Just nor Secure'.

Research / Lecturing

Tony has had considerable experience in providing continuing education courses approved by The Law Society, especially courses on pre-emptive remedies, fraud law and practice, human rights in civil fraud cases and in advanced advocacy. He was also a part-time tutor at Churchill College, Cambridge 1984-7.

Memberships

- COMBAR
- ALBA

Selected earlier reported cases

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

- Serious Organised Crimes Agency v Gale [2009] EWHC 1015 (QB), [2010] EWCA Civ 759, [2011] UKSC 49
- Rybak & ors v Langbar International Ltd. [2011] EWHC 452 (Ch)
- JSC Bank v Ablyazov and others (2011)
- 3i Group plc v Holyoake (2010)
- AB v XY & Others (Ch D) (2009 – 10)
- Treasury Solicitors v Doveton Ch.(2006-2008)
- Secretary of State v R (2007)
- ESur v Rahman (2006-7)
- WestLB v Yacub QB (2007)
- Cinar Corporation v Panju (2006)
- Electrolux v Rumble (2006)
- Daraydan v Solland [2004] 3 WLR 1106
- Medina Dairy v Nijjav (2004)
- Federal Republic of Nigeria v Abacha (2001– 2003)
- Defended ex-company Directors in relation to a £30 million VAT fraud.
- Defended a US\$100 million claim arising out of alleged complicity in a “prime bank guarantee” fraud.
- Defended Jersey Trustees from allegations of complicity in a £20 million fraud.

Commercial

- Meind Bank (2011)
- Rusal & Anor v Corbiere & Anor (2011)
- Izodia Plc v (1) Edward Vandyk (2) Corporate Synergy Holdings Ltd (Chancery Division, 2010 -2011)
- Counsel to Microsoft (2000-2008) in over a dozen anti-counterfeiting and IP abuse actions in which the claims amounted to over US\$100 million.
- Counsel to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals (2007-2008) in three multi-million pound actions; one involving corruption in the pharmaceutical industry and the other against a group dealing in counterfeit drugs.
- K v X QB (2007) Lead counsel for USA party to US\$400 million litigation.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

- Shell International v Greenpeace [2012]
- SOCA v Gale [2011] UKSC 49
- Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT) v BAE Systems and Mercer QB (2007)