

Carmine Conte

“Carmine has a deep understanding of fraud matters and a relentless willingness to scour the details.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Year of call: **2017**
Degree: **BA (Hons), LLB (Hons) (Melb), BCL (Dist), MPhil, DPhil (Oxon), BTT (First) (BPP)**
Languages: **Italian (working knowledge)**



Carmine has a broad practice across the full range of commercial disputes, with specific expertise in commercial contracts, commercial remedies, civil fraud, equity and trusts, insolvency and arbitration. He frequently acts in high value and complex multi-jurisdictional commercial litigation and international arbitration. Carmine is frequently instructed in connection with litigation abroad, being admitted to practise in the British Virgin Islands, the DIFC and Australia. He also brings a diverse professional and academic background to bear on his practice.

Carmine appears as leading, sole and junior Counsel in various jurisdictions (including the English High Court, English Court of Appeal, BVI Commercial Court, DIFC and QFC Civil and Commercial Court), as well as acting as a member of larger teams on heavyweight litigation. Recently, he has been instructed in various significant commercial cases, including: University of Sheffield v Kudos Pharmaceuticals Limited, a fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation claim in which the claimant seeks damages of over USD1 billion; and [Joint Venture Vehicle] v [Middle Eastern Telecom Company], a confidential proceeding in which a joint venture entity seeks to enforce an arbitral award of approximately USD1.7 billion against various entities and individuals. Carmine is also currently leading Counsel representing a property investment company defending an SPV's application which seeks to enforce an undertaking in damages under a Worldwide Freezing Order and seeks to recover USD135 million.

Before being called to the Bar, Carmine was a Senior Lecturer in Private Law at Keble College, Oxford, and a Law Fellow and Director of Studies at Homerton College, Cambridge. He taught subjects including Contract Law, Equity, Trusts and Legal Reasoning. Carmine's research has been published in several leading academic journals. Previously, Carmine completed his doctorate in commercial remedies at Oxford, under the supervision of Lord Burrows of the Supreme Court.

Also, before being called, Carmine practised for several years as a solicitor at Arnold Bloch Leibler, a top-tier commercial law firm in Melbourne. He maintained a broad commercial litigation practice, which included appearing in various Federal and Victorian courts and tribunals. Carmine advised on a range of high-profile and complex disputes for market leading corporates and high net worth individuals.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Carmine is an experienced commercial barrister who acts in relation to commercial disputes across all industries and sectors, both in court and arbitration. He is routinely instructed in high-value, complex, multi-jurisdictional cases, appearing as leading, sole or junior Counsel, and also as a member of larger teams in substantial disputes. Carmine also commonly acts in offshore proceedings, being admitted in the British Virgin Islands, the DIFC and Australia, and having been instructed in cases in the Cayman Islands and the QFC.

A former Senior Lecturer in Private Law at Keble College, Oxford, and a Law Fellow and Director of Studies at Homerton College, Cambridge, Carmine has a particular interest and expertise in commercial contract disputes, commercial remedies (including injunctions, penalties and forfeiture, and specific performance), civil fraud, international arbitration, and interim relief.

Carmine's commercial law practice also draws on his considerable experience as a solicitor in Australia, where he acted for industry leading and high net worth clients in the financial services, communications and construction industries.

“Carmine's knowledge of the law and strategic wisdom is top-class.”

— LEGAL 500, 2026

Cases

[Private equity SPV] v [Former shareholders]

LCIA Arbitration, 2026

Acting for the SPV of a private equity and growth capital firm pursuing claims in deceit and unlawful means conspiracy regarding its entry into a Share Purchase Agreement in which it bought 100 per cent of the shares in a contract research organisation. The SPV seeks various remedies against the former shareholders, including rescission, restitution and damages of over EUR400 million.

Begum v HSBC Bank Middle East Limited

DIFC, 2026

Acting (with Tom Watret) for investors bringing claims under the DIFC Regulatory Law and tortious claims against a Middle Eastern bank seeking damages of approximately USD80 million. The investors seek compensation for the bank's allegedly wrongful conduct which caused their investment monies held with a Guernsey bank to remain frozen for over 10 years, until the Guernsey Court ultimately held that the freeze was baseless and ordered that the funds be released.

Pi Seyahat Teknoloji Dagitim ve Danismanlik AS v Sabre International BV

Commercial Court, 2026

Acting (leading Rowan Stennett) for a Dutch company defending a claim brought by a Turkish company arising out of a joint venture. The Turkish company seeks to have an Options Agreement corrected by construction or rectified for common or unilateral mistake, and claims payment of an alleged debt of approximately USD 15 million.

University of Sheffield v Kudos Pharmaceuticals Limited

[2025] EWHC 1243 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 1252 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 1476 (Ch)

Acting (with Alan Maclean KC) for the defendants resisting the University's claim to recover over USD1 billion for alleged fraudulent and negligent misrepresentations. The case arises out of the variation of a licence agreement concerning patent rights.

NMH v PWT

BVI Commercial Court, 2025

Acting for claimants seeking to enforce an arbitral award of over USD1 billion against the defendant's alleged shareholding, valued at over USD100 million, in an oil company that operates across the Middle East and North Africa.

[French Company] v [Cayman Islands Company]

LMAA Arbitration, 2025

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a French company which is seeking to recover a debt of over EUR 1.5 million for services rendered, and defending a counterclaim brought by a Cayman Islands Company in which the latter alleges breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and deceit, and seeks relief valued at over EUR 25 million.

[Interior Design Company] v [Former Client]

CI Arb Arbitration, 2025

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a claimant seeking injunctive relief restraining the respondent from contacting its suppliers, and seeking negative declarations confirming that it has not breached any of its obligations under an interior design services contract between the parties. The English seated arbitration is part of a multi-jurisdictional dispute between two ultra-high net worth individuals and their associated entities in respect of long-term contracts totalling USD 60 million.

Eraaya Lifespaces Limited v Elara Capital Plc

[2025] EWHC 1506 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1924 (Comm)

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC and Tom Watret) for majority bondholders in a dispute concerning the issuance of USD120 million of bonds by an Indian public company, in which the bondholders bring claims for breach of contract, fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation and for declarations recognising that various trusts have arisen. The case has involved several interim applications, including a successful resistance of an application for mandatory injunctive relief and a successful joinder application.

Gort (Holdings) Limited v MRP Brazil Limited

Isle of Man Chancery Procedure, 2025

Acting (leading Grant Kynaston) for a property investment company defending a SPV's application seeking to enforce an undertaking in damages under a Worldwide Freezing Order and recover USD135 million. The application raises among other things various difficult issues concerning causation, mitigation, remoteness and loss quantification.

[Joint Venture Vehicle] v [Middle Eastern Telecom Company]

DIFC, 2025

Acting for a joint venture entity seeking to enforce an arbitral award of approximately USD1.7 billion against various entities and individuals. The underlying DIFC-seated, ICC arbitration concerned an elaborate fraudulent scheme which aimed to defraud the joint venture entity of its investment by procuring decisions from government officials by bribery and corruption. The case has included various complex applications, including an application to appoint a receiver by way of equitable execution.

[Insurer] v [Law Firm]

LCIA Arbitration, 2025

Acting (with Tony Peto KC) for a law firm defending an insurer's reimbursement claim totalling approximately £5 million

Gort (Holdings) Limited v MRP Brazil Limited

Chancery Division, 2025

Acting (leading Grant Kynaston) in a claim concerning the proper construction of several clauses in a Settlement Agreement between a property investment company and the former receivers of a SPV.

[Iraqi businessman] v [Dubai company]

DIFC, 2025

Acting for a corporate defendant defending a claim which an individual claimant has brought seeking negative declaratory relief concerning the transfer to him of a Dubai property valued at approximately USD7 million.

[FinTech Company] v [Trading Analytics and Data Provider]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting for a leading trading analytics and data provider defending a FinTech Company's damages claim for approximately £300 million based on an alleged breach of a non-compete provision in a shareholders agreement. The arbitration raises difficult legal issues regarding the scope of the restraint of trade doctrine.

[Aluminium producer] v [Financial institution]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Andrew Green KC) for an aluminium producer and its subsidiary seeking to challenge an Award issued by a Tribunal ordering either that the subsidiary pay a financial institution approximately EUR215 million under an agreement between the parties, or the aluminium producer pay that same sum pursuant to a guarantee.

Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd v Sassoon

DIFC, 2024

Acting (with Tom Montagu-Smith KC) for a Swiss bank, its DIFC subsidiary and various executives defending a claim brought by a liquidator alleging that the insolvent company's business was fraudulently misappropriated and seeking damages of more than USD 75 million. The claim arises out of the winding up of a joint venture entity licensed by the DFSA to carry out investment advisory and management services.

[Start-up air carrier] v [Airline]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a start-up commercial air carrier bringing a claim against an established airline seeking damages of over USD25m for various wrongs, including breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, deceit and unlawful means conspiracy, arising out of a failed joint venture which had aimed to offer low-cost international flights to passengers.

Alliance Petrochemical Investment (Singapore) Pte Ltd v Mazagatti

Commercial Court, 2024

Acting (with Tom Weisselberg KC) for a former CEO and accountant resisting allegations that they misappropriated funds totalling about EUR144 million from a Singaporean company. The causes of action alleged include various common law claims (including deceit, unlawful means conspiracy and conversion) and equitable claims (such as breach of fiduciary duty, dishonest assistance and unconscionable receipt).

McAdam v Ignatova

Commercial Court, 2024

Acting (with Anthony Peto KC and Andrew Trotter) for a group of over 400 investors in the allegedly fraudulent 'OneCoin' cryptocurrency scheme who have brought claims against its fugitive founder, Dr Ruja Ignatova, and others involved in its promotion and/or laundering of the proceeds. The OneCoin scheme is thought to have been one of the largest international frauds of all time, having defrauded millions of investors worldwide of USD4-15 billion. To date, the group have obtained various forms of interim relief, including worldwide freezing orders and electronic imaging orders.

Invenia Technical Computing Corp v Hudson

[2022] EWHC 3459 (KB), [2024] EWHC 1481 (KB)

Acting (leading Ram Lakshman and Jason Mitchell) for a software development company who claims against its former CEO for various breaches of fiduciary duty and breaches of contract, seeking relief of £11.5 million, and against a third party for unconscionable receipt, seeking proprietary relief valued at £3.5 million. To date, the company has obtained a range of interim orders, including an electronic imaging order, passport order and alternative service order.

Manolete Partners Plc v Hamilton

Chancery Division, 2024

Acting for an individual defendant in a case in which an insolvency litigation financing company alleges that the defendant participated in a fraudulent VAT scheme, which resulted in his former employer company suffering losses of about £12 million. The claimant makes claims of dishonest breach of directors' duties, fraudulent trading, transactions defrauding creditors, transactions at an undervalue, dishonest assistance and unconscionable receipt.

India v CC Devas (Mauritius) Limited

The Hague District Court and The Hague Court of Appeal, 2024

Instructed (with Robert Anderson KC) to provide expert evidence concerning various common law doctrines (including maintenance and champerty, shams and foreign illegality) in relation to the enforcement of investment arbitration awards rendered pursuant to the Mauritius-India Bilateral Investment Treaty.

[Insurance company] v [Motor vehicle rental company]

2024

Acting (leading Ram Lakshman) for a car hire company defending breach of contract and indemnity claims brought against it by an insurance company, arising out of a terms of business agreement and a commission agreement. The case raises issues concerning contractual interpretation, good faith and promissory estoppel.

[Financial institution] v [Former shareholder]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Graham Dunning KC, Mubarak Waseem and Ellen Timms) for a former shareholder defending breach of contract claims made by a financial institution pursuant to a sale and purchase agreement. The shareholder is also pursuing factually and legally complex counterclaims which raise issues of duress to the person, economic duress and unlawful means conspiracy, and seek relief totalling approximately USD670 million.

[Financial institution] v [Broker]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting for an FCA-regulated derivatives and commodities broker defending a claim brought by a foreign bank seeking to recover USD10.8 million. The complicated contractual dispute arises out of the bank's closing out of all of its outstanding trades under an ISDA Master Agreement between the parties.

[Businessman] v [Holding Company]

HKAIC Arbitration, 2024

Acting for a joint venture holding company resisting a foreign businessman's breach of contract claim under a sale and purchase agreement. The arbitration raises issues concerning the proper construction and effect of exemption clauses.

Manek v 360 ONE WAM Limited

Commercial Court, 2023

Acting (with Lord Falconer of Thoroton) for an asset and wealth management company and its subsidiaries in a claim brought against them for £42 million, arising out of a sale of shares in an Indian company. The causes of action alleged include deceit, intimidation, conspiracy and joint liability.

Media Entertainment NV v Ely Hamilton Limited

[2023] EWHC 1405 (Ch), [2023] EWHC 1802 (Ch)

Acted for a business-to-business gaming and gambling websites operator seeking to recover about USD9 million from an investment and management company due to alleged breaches of a safe custody agreement and alleged breaches of trust. The proceedings involved successful applications for a proprietary injunction, third party disclosure orders and default judgment.

[Ultra high net worth individual] v [Ultra high net worth individual]

LCIA Arbitration, 2023

Acted (with Tony Peto KC and Robert Howe KC) for a former shareholder who alleged that the ultimate beneficial owner of a financial institution made unlawful threats which coerced him into selling his shares to that institution for a significant undervalue. The shareholder sought damages totalling about USD1 billion.

Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad

[2022] EWHC 2399 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 673 (Comm), [2024] 4 WLR 35

Acted (with Tony Peto KC and Shane Sibbel) for a shareholder of a Saudi company who brings claims in unlawful means conspiracy and breach of contract against other investors, seeking damages of over £10 million. The case has involved various interim applications, including an application for a domestic freezing order and a jurisdiction challenge.

Re Smith Brothers (Contracting) Limited (in administration)

High Court, 2023

Acted for a Chinese battery technology and services supplier bringing various personal and proprietary claims totalling approximately £10 million following the collapse of an electrical installation company.

Transomas Ltd v Lime Green Investments Ltd

Circuit Commercial Court, 2022

Acting for an asset-holding entity and an operator of business properties suing two related entities for debts owing under two complex loan note instruments.

Dismatrix SPC v Equiti Capital UK Ltd

Commercial Court, 2022

Acting (with Tony Peto QC) for investors in a Belizean company which traded in the foreign current markets. The investors allege that the company obtained the investments fraudulently and misappropriated most of those monies. The investors therefore claim relief of about USD3 million from an FCA-regulated broker who was involved with the trading, based on unconscionable receipt.

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Principal Investing Fund I Ltd

Cayman Grand Court, 2021

Acting (with Andrew Hunter QC, Tom Weissenberg QC and Tom Mountford) for an asset management and investment company resisting winding up petitions brought against several investment fund companies. The contributory petitioner contends that serious misconduct (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and charging of unlawful fees) occurred in relation to a total USD300 million investment. The case has also involved an application to discharge an order appointing a provisional liquidator.

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Real Assets (RA) Global Opportunity Fund I Ltd

BVI Commercial Court, 2021

Acting (with Andrew Hunter QC and Tom Mountford) for a shareholder resisting a winding up petition which another shareholder has brought against an investment fund. The shareholder petitioner alleges that various forms of wrongdoing (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and misrepresentation) occurred in connection with a USD200 million investment. The case has also involved an application to discharge an order appointing a provisional liquidator.

PJSC National Bank Trust v Mints

Commercial Court, 2021

Acted (with Lord Falconer of Thoroton) for an individual defendant in a case in which the claimant banks alleged conspiracy, fraud and breach of statutory duty under Russian law and sought damages of about USD800 million. The case arose out of the Central Bank of Russia's nationalisation of both claimant banks in 2017.

LPCM v Utkan

[2021] EWHC 423 (Comm); [2021] EWHC 830 (Comm)

Acting (with Tony Peto QC) for a regulated financial services provider in a claim against its former de facto CEO and his company alleging fraudulent misappropriation of assets worth approximately EUR146 million and seeking extensive personal and proprietary relief. The case has involved various interim applications, including an application for a search and imaging order, a proprietary injunction and ancillary disclosure order, and a complex summary judgment application.

ASSIA Inc v British Telecommunications Plc

Chancery Division, 2021

Acting (with James Segal QC) in a Part 8 claim concerning the proper construction of various clauses in a Patent Licence Agreement and a Settlement Agreement.

JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov

Commercial Court, 2020

Acted (with Robert Anderson QC and Andrew Scott) for several defendants regarding their successful challenge to a range of orders, including an unlimited worldwide freezing order and a provision of information order. The underlying proceedings involved claims for unlawful means conspiracy and transactions to defraud creditors seeking over USD6 billion.

Vale SA v Steinmetz

Commercial Court, 2020

Acted (with Robert Weekes) for an individual defending a claim for deceit, unlawful means conspiracy and proprietary relief for £1.25 billion, arising out of a failed joint venture agreement. The case involved various interim applications, including regarding the proper scope of the relevant worldwide freezing order.

Vale SA v BSG Resources Ltd

[2020] EWHC 2021 (Comm)

Acted (with Robert Weekes) for a director of a judgment debtor held liable for fraud and owing approximately USD2.2 billion. The director applied to vary or set aside an order requiring him to produce documents regarding the debtor's affairs, and to attend for cross-examination.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd v Ambani

Commercial Court, 2020

Acted (with Robert Howe QC, Harish Salve QC and Peter Head) for an individual defending a personal guarantee claim for a sum of USD657 million. The case raised issues of contractual interpretation and the authority of agents.

[Real Estate Development Group] v [Real Estate Development Group]

ICC Arbitration, 2020

Acted (with Adam Baradon and Barnaby Lowe) for a leading real estate development group in its multi-jurisdictional USD3 billion breach of trust and breach of contract claim against its former joint venture partner.

Alsanad v Kuwaiti European Holding Company KSC and Al-Humaidi

London Circuit Commercial Court, 2020

Representing a businessman in his claim under a personal guarantee to recover the sum of £8 million. The case has included a complicated jurisdiction challenge.

Matrix Alternative Asset Management LLP (in liq) v Foster

High Court, 2020

Acted for a former member of a limited liability partnership sued by a liquidator who is seeking to recover an alleged debt. The case has included various interim applications, including an application to set aside an order obtained without notice and a jurisdiction challenge.

ArcelorMittal USA v Essar Steel

Commercial Court, 2019

Acted (with Tony Peto QC, Harish Salve QC, Victoria Windle and Andrew Scott) for a steel and mining company who sought to enforce a foreign arbitral award of USD1.5 billion. The case involved applications for worldwide freezing and information orders in England and abroad, including in the USA, India and the Cayman Islands.

Chernovetskyi v Velvet Travel Ltd and Le Barthélemy Hotel and Spa

London Circuit Commercial Court, 2019

Represented a luxury hotel in its defence of a holidaymaker's claim for relief against forfeiture of his deposit.

[Art collector] v [Exhibition Organiser]

Business and Property Courts, 2019

Acted (with Mark Vinall) for an art collector who claimed against an exhibition organiser alleging that, whilst on loan, the organiser damaged a rare and valuable artwork by the artist Banksy. The case involved technical expert evidence regarding restoration and valuation.

PCP Capital Partners LLP v Barclays Bank Plc

Commercial Court, 2018

Acted (with Robert Weekes) for a private equity firm in its deceit claim for in excess of £700 million against Barclays, arising out of the Bank's recapitalisation at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

Ukraine v Law Debenture Trust Corp Plc

[2018] EWCA Civ 2026, [2019] 2 WLR 655

Acted (with Ben Jaffey QC) in a successful appeal against summary judgment regarding the Russian Federation's claim against Ukraine for its failure to repay a loan of USD3 billion. The case raised difficult and important issues concerning duress and authority of agents.

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Carmine has a specific interest in and experience of civil fraud litigation. He is frequently instructed in high value, international fraud claims, which often raise complex conflict of laws issues. Carmine has particular experience of applying for and resisting applications for interim relief, including freezing orders, search and imaging orders, Norwich Pharmacal orders and disclosure orders.

As a commercial litigator, Carmine routinely acted for banks, business leaders and listed companies in complicated civil fraud and asset-tracing and recovery matters. For instance, he represented: several Singaporean banks in a long-running cross-border dispute involving allegations of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty; a leading merchant banker in a deceit claim worth over AUD20 million arising out of an allegedly fraudulent ski resort development; and a major Australian corporation in an extended Australian Federal Police bribery and fraud investigation.

Whilst a Senior Lecturer and Law Fellow, Carmine taught on aspects of fraud and asset recovery whilst teaching Contract, Equity and Trusts. Further, his research on bribery and constructive trusts has been published in distinguished journals such as the Law Quarterly Review and the Restitution Law Review.

“Carmine’s written work is always outstanding, and he is an utterly magnetic advocate.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

[Private equity SPV] v [Former shareholders]

LCIA Arbitration, 2026

Acting for the SPV of a private equity and growth capital firm pursuing claims in deceit and unlawful means conspiracy regarding its entry into a Share Purchase Agreement in which it bought 100 per cent of the shares in a contract research organisation. The SPV seeks various remedies against the former shareholders, including rescission, restitution and damages of over EUR400 million.

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[2025] EWHC 1243 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 1252 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 1476 (Ch)

Acting (with Alan Maclean KC) for the defendants resisting the University’s claim to recover over USD1 billion for alleged fraudulent and negligent misrepresentations. The case arises out of the variation of a licence agreement concerning patent rights.

[French Company] v [Cayman Islands Company]

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Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a French company which is seeking to recover a debt of over EUR 1.5 million for services rendered, and defending a counterclaim brought by a Cayman Islands Company in which the latter alleges breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and deceit, and seeks relief valued at over EUR 25 million.

[Joint Venture Vehicle] v [Middle Eastern Telecom Company]

DIFC, 2025

Acting for a joint venture entity seeking to enforce an arbitral award of approximately USD1.7 billion against various entities and individuals. The underlying DIFC-seated, ICC arbitration concerned an elaborate fraudulent scheme which aimed to defraud the joint venture entity of its investment by procuring decisions from government officials by bribery and corruption. The case has included various complex applications, including an application to appoint a receiver by way of equitable execution.

Eraaya Lifespaces Limited v Elara Capital Plc

[2025] EWHC 1506 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1924 (Comm)

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC and Tom Watret) for majority bondholders in a dispute concerning the issuance of USD120 million of bonds by an Indian public company, in which the bondholders bring claims for breach of contract, fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation and for declarations recognising that various trusts have arisen. The case has involved several interim applications, including a successful resistance of an application for mandatory injunctive relief and a successful joinder application.

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Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a start-up commercial air carrier bringing a claim against an established airline seeking damages of over USD25m for various wrongs, including breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, deceit and unlawful means conspiracy, arising out of a failed joint venture which had aimed to offer low-cost international flights to passengers.

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Acted (with Tony Peto KC and Shane Sibbel) for a shareholder of a Saudi company who brings claims in unlawful means conspiracy and breach of contract against other investors, seeking damages of over £10 million. The case has involved various interim applications, including an application for a domestic freezing order and a jurisdiction challenge.

Invenia Technical Computing Corp v Hudson

[2022] EWHC 3459 (KB), [2024] EWHC 1481 (KB)

Acting (leading Ram Lakshman and Jason Mitchell) for a software development company who claims against its former CEO for various breaches of fiduciary duty and breaches of contract, seeking relief of £11.5 million, and against a third party for unconscionable receipt, seeking proprietary relief valued at £3.5 million. To date, the company has obtained a range of interim orders, including an electronic imaging order, passport order and alternative service order.

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Acted (with Robert Weekes) for a director of a judgment debtor held liable for fraud and owing approximately USD2.2 billion. The director applied to vary or set aside an order requiring him to produce documents regarding the debtor's affairs, and to attend for cross-examination.

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Commercial Court, 2019

Acted (with Tony Peto QC, Harish Salve QC, Victoria Windle and Andrew Scott) for a steel and mining company who sought to enforce a foreign arbitral award of USD1.5 billion. The case involved applications for worldwide freezing and information orders in England and abroad, including in the USA, India and the Cayman Islands.

PCP Capital Partners LLP v Barclays Bank Plc

Commercial Court, 2018

Acted (with Robert Weekes) for a private equity firm in its deceit claim for in excess of £700 million against Barclays, arising out of the Bank's recapitalisation at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

Arbitration

Carmine regularly acts for both claimants and respondents in international arbitrations, before major arbitral institutions such as the LCIA, ICC, LMAA, CIArb and HKIAC. He also has extensive experience in enforcing arbitral awards.

Cases

[Private equity SPV] v [Former shareholders]

LCIA Arbitration, 2026

Acting for the SPV of a private equity and growth capital firm pursuing claims in deceit and unlawful means conspiracy regarding its entry into a Share Purchase Agreement in which it bought 100 per cent of the shares in a contract research organisation. The SPV seeks various remedies against the former shareholders, including rescission, restitution and damages of over EUR400 million.

NMH v PWT

BVI Commercial Court, 2025

Acting for claimants seeking to enforce an arbitral award of over USD1 billion against the defendant's alleged shareholding, valued at over USD100 million, in an oil company that operates across the Middle East and North Africa.

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Acting for a leading trading analytics and data provider defending a FinTech Company's damages claim for approximately £300 million based on an alleged breach of a non-compete provision in a shareholders agreement. The arbitration raises difficult legal issues regarding the scope of the restraint of trade doctrine.

[Aluminium producer] v [Financial institution]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Andrew Green KC) for an aluminium producer and its subsidiary seeking to challenge an Award issued by a Tribunal ordering either that the subsidiary pay a financial institution approximately EUR215 million under an agreement between the parties, or the aluminium producer pay that same sum pursuant to a guarantee.

[Start-up air carrier] v [Airline]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a start-up commercial air carrier bringing a claim against an established airline seeking damages of over USD25m for various wrongs, including breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, deceit and unlawful means conspiracy, arising out of a failed joint venture which had aimed to offer low-cost international flights to passengers.

[Financial institution] v [Former shareholder]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting (with Graham Dunning KC, Mubarak Waseem and Ellen Timms) for a former shareholder defending breach of contract claims made by a financial institution pursuant to a sale and purchase agreement. The shareholder is also pursuing factually and legally complex counterclaims which raise issues of duress to the person, economic duress and unlawful means conspiracy, and seek relief totalling approximately USD670 million.

[Financial institution] v [Broker]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting for an FCA-regulated derivatives and commodities broker defending a claim brought by a foreign bank seeking to recover USD10.8 million. The complicated contractual dispute arises out of the bank's closing out of all of its outstanding trades under an ISDA Master Agreement between the parties.

[Businessman] v [Holding Company]

HKAIC Arbitration, 2024

Acting for a joint venture holding company resisting a foreign businessman's breach of contract claim under a sale and purchase agreement. The arbitration raises issues concerning the proper construction and effect of exemption clauses.

India v CC Devas (Mauritius) Limited

The Hague District Court and The Hague Court of Appeal, 2024

Instructed (with Robert Anderson KC) to provide expert evidence concerning various common law doctrines (including maintenance and champerty, shams and foreign illegality) in relation to the enforcement of investment arbitration awards rendered pursuant to the Mauritius-India Bilateral Investment Treaty.

[Ultra high net worth individual] v [Ultra high net worth individual]

LCIA Arbitration, 2023

Acted (with Tony Peto KC and Robert Howe KC) for a former shareholder who alleged that the ultimate beneficial owner of a financial institution made unlawful threats which coerced him into selling his shares to that institution for a significant undervalue. The shareholder sought damages totalling about USD1 billion.

[Energy Company] v [Financial Services Provider]

LCIA Arbitration, 2021

Acting for a leading energy company in a cross-jurisdictional dispute with a regulated financial services provider, arising out of a fiduciary employee's misappropriation of assets and unauthorised trading. The energy company seeks relief of about £3 million for various wrongs, including for dishonest assistance, unconscionable receipt, breach of contract and breach of the Quincecare duty.

[Real Estate Development Group] v [Real Estate Development Group]

ICC Arbitration, 2020

Acted (with Adam Baradon and Barnaby Lowe) for a leading real estate development group in its multi-jurisdictional USD3 billion breach of trust and breach of contract claim against its former joint venture partner.

ArcelorMittal USA v Essar Steel

Commercial Court, 2019

Acted (with Tony Peto QC, Harish Salve QC, Victoria Windle and Andrew Scott) for a steel and mining company who sought to enforce a foreign arbitral award of USD1.5 billion. The case involved applications for worldwide freezing and information orders in England and abroad, including in the USA, India and the Cayman Islands.

Equity, Trusts & Restitution

Carmine's equity and restitution practice covers all disputes involving actions for equitable wrongs, equitable remedies, unjust enrichment claims and restitutionary remedies. He often acts in legally difficult cases involving claims for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty, dishonest assistance and unconscionable receipt, and where both proprietary relief (including following tracing) and personal relief is sought.

As an academic, Carmine published pieces on breach of fiduciary duty, trusts and restitutionary relief in leading journals and books, whilst he also taught undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge in these areas. Further, his doctoral thesis – supervised by Lord Burrows of the Supreme Court – covered various commercial remedies which included contractual penalties and relief against forfeiture. As a solicitor, Carmine was involved in a broad range of equity and trusts disputes and advisory work, including several high-profile and complex matters.

Cases

Pi Seyahat Teknoloji Dagitim ve Danismanlik AS v Sabre International BV

Commercial Court, 2026

Acting (leading Rowan Stennett) for a Dutch company defending a claim brought by a Turkish company arising out of a joint venture. The Turkish company seeks to have an Options Agreement corrected by construction or rectified for common or unilateral mistake, and claims payment of an alleged debt of approximately USD 15 million.

[French Company] v [Cayman Islands Company]

LMAA Arbitration, 2025

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC) for a French company which is seeking to recover a debt of over EUR 1.5 million for services rendered, and defending a counterclaim brought by a Cayman Islands Company in which the latter alleges breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and deceit, and seeks relief valued at over EUR 25 million.

Eraaya Lifespaces Limited v Elara Capital Plc

[2025] EWHC 1506 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1924 (Comm)

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC and Tom Watret) for majority bondholders in a dispute concerning the issuance of USD120 million of bonds by an Indian public company, in which the bondholders bring claims for breach of contract, fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation and for declarations recognising that various trusts have arisen. The case has involved several interim applications, including a successful resistance of an application for mandatory injunctive relief and a successful joinder application.

McAdam v Ignatova

Commercial Court, 2024

Acting (with Anthony Peto KC and Andrew Trotter) for a group of over 400 investors in the allegedly fraudulent 'OneCoin' cryptocurrency scheme who have brought claims against its fugitive founder, Dr Ruja Ignatova, and others involved in its promotion and/or laundering of the proceeds. The OneCoin scheme is thought to have been one of the largest international frauds of all time, having defrauded millions of investors worldwide of USD4-15 billion. To date, the group have obtained various forms of interim relief, including worldwide freezing orders and electronic imaging orders.

Invenia Technical Computing Corp v Hudson

[2022] EWHC 3459 (KB), [2024] EWHC 1481 (KB)

Acting (leading Ram Lakshman and Jason Mitchell) for a software development company who claims against its former CEO for various breaches of fiduciary duty and breaches of contract, seeking relief of £11.5 million, and against a third party for unconscionable receipt, seeking proprietary relief valued at £3.5 million. To date, the company has obtained a range of interim orders, including an electronic imaging order, passport order and alternative service order.

Media Entertainment NV v Ely Hamilton Limited

[2023] EWHC 1405 (Ch), [2023] EWHC 1802 (Ch)

Acted for a business-to-business gaming and gambling websites operator seeking to recover about USD9 million from an investment and management company due to alleged breaches of a safe custody agreement and alleged breaches of trust. The proceedings involved successful applications for a proprietary injunction, third party disclosure orders and default judgment.

[Energy Company] v [Financial Services Provider]

LCIA Arbitration, 2021

Acting for a leading energy company in a cross-jurisdictional dispute with a regulated financial services provider, arising out of a fiduciary employee's misappropriation of assets and unauthorised trading. The energy company seeks relief of about £3 million for various wrongs, including for dishonest assistance, unconscionable receipt, breach of contract and breach of the Quincecare duty.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 1)

[2021] EWHC 2285 (Ch)

Acted (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a directions application brought by the administrators of a high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform that collapsed. The case raised issues regarding breach of fiduciary duty and equitable proprietary relief, trustee discretions and the proper analysis of 'limited recourse' arrangements. The Court decided each contested issue in favour of the investor group.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 2)

High Court, 2021

Acting (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a second directions application brought by the administrators of a former high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform. This directions application raises issues concerning breach of fiduciary duty, 'miselling' claims and Berkeley Applegate orders.

Vale SA v Steinmetz

Commercial Court, 2020

Acted (with Robert Weekes) for an individual defending a claim for deceit, unlawful means conspiracy and proprietary relief for £1.25 billion, arising out of a failed joint venture agreement. The case involved various interim applications, including regarding the proper scope of the relevant worldwide freezing order.

[Real Estate Development Group] v [Real Estate Development Group]

ICC Arbitration, 2020

Acted (with Adam Baradon and Barnaby Lowe) for a leading real estate development group in its multi-jurisdictional USD3 billion breach of trust and breach of contract claim against its former joint venture partner.

Chernovetskyi v Velvet Travel Ltd and Le Barthélemy Hotel and Spa

London Circuit Commercial Court, 2019

Represented a luxury hotel in its defence of a holidaymaker's claim for relief against forfeiture of his deposit.

Restructuring & Insolvency

Carmine has been involved in several high value and complicated insolvency matters, acting for various parties, including officeholders, shareholders and investors. He appears in all divisions of the High Court, and has experience of both trial work and interlocutory proceedings. Carmine's recent insolvency experience includes officeholder's applications for directions, winding up and unfair prejudice petitions, provisional liquidator applications and claims regarding transactions to defraud creditors.

Cases

Gort (Holdings) Limited v MRP Brazil Limited

Chancery Division, 2025

Acting (leading Grant Kynaston) in a claim concerning the proper construction of several clauses in a Settlement Agreement between a property investment company and the former receivers of a SPV.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 3)

High Court, 2023

Acted for a group of investors in a loan who successfully sought to have the administrators of a former, high-profile, peer-to-peer lending platform recognise the group's proprietary rights to the traceable proceeds of the funds used to repay the loan. The case raised difficult issues concerning the authority of agents, ratification and limitation.

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Principal Investing Fund I Ltd

Cayman Grand Court, 2021

Acting (with Andrew Hunter QC, Tom Weisselberg QC and Tom Mountford) for an asset management and investment company resisting winding up petitions brought against several investment fund companies. The contributory petitioner contends that serious misconduct (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and charging of unlawful fees) occurred in relation to a total USD300 million investment. The case has also involved an application to discharge an order appointing a provisional liquidator.

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Real Assets (RA) Global Opportunity Fund I Ltd

BVI Commercial Court, 2021

Acting (with Andrew Hunter QC and Tom Mountford) for a shareholder resisting a winding up petition which another shareholder has brought against an investment fund. The shareholder petitioner alleges that various forms of wrongdoing (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and misrepresentation) occurred in connection with a USD200 million investment. The case has also involved an application to discharge an order appointing a provisional liquidator.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 1)

[2021] EWHC 2285 (Ch)

Acted (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a directions application brought by the administrators of a high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform that collapsed. The case raised issues regarding breach of fiduciary duty and equitable proprietary relief, trustee discretions and the proper analysis of 'limited recourse' arrangements. The Court decided each contested issue in favour of the investor group.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 2)

High Court, 2021

Acting (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a second directions application brought by the administrators of a former high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform. This directions application raises issues concerning breach of fiduciary duty, 'miselling' claims and Berkeley Applegate orders.

JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov

Commercial Court, 2020

Acted (with Robert Anderson QC and Andrew Scott) for several defendants regarding their successful challenge to a range of orders, including an unlimited worldwide freezing order and a provision of information order. The underlying proceedings involved claims for unlawful means conspiracy and transactions to defraud creditors seeking over USD6 billion.

Matrix Alternative Asset Management LLP (in liq) v Foster

High Court, 2020

Acted for a former member of a limited liability partnership sued by a liquidator who is seeking to recover an alleged debt. The case has included various interim applications, including an application to set aside an order obtained without notice and a jurisdiction challenge.

Financial Services & Banking

Carmine's practice covers a range of financial services disputes, arising both in England and overseas. He appears in financial services matters as sole Counsel or with a leader. In 2020, Carmine acted for the regulators in the first appeal to be heard under the Qatar anti-money laundering regime, in which the regulators successfully secured financial penalties of USD8.5million.

Cases

Begum v HSBC Bank Middle East Limited

DIFC, 2026

Acting (with Tom Watret) for investors bringing claims under the DIFC Regulatory Law and tortious claims against a Middle Eastern bank seeking damages of approximately USD80 million. The investors seek compensation for the bank's allegedly wrongful conduct which caused their investment monies held with a Guernsey bank to remain frozen for over 10 years, until the Guernsey Court ultimately held that the freeze was baseless and ordered that the funds be released.

Eraaya Lifespaces Limited v Elara Capital Plc

[2025] EWHC 1506 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1924 (Comm)

Acting (with Robert Anderson KC and Tom Watret) for majority bondholders in a dispute concerning the issuance of USD120 million of bonds by an Indian public company, in which the bondholders bring claims for breach of contract, fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation and for declarations recognising that various trusts have arisen. The case has involved several interim applications, including a successful resistance of an application for mandatory injunctive relief and a successful joinder application.

[FinTech Company] v [Trading Analytics and Data Provider]

LCIA Arbitration, 2024

Acting for a leading trading analytics and data provider defending a FinTech Company's damages claim for approximately £300 million based on an alleged breach of a non-compete provision in a shareholders agreement. The arbitration raises difficult legal issues regarding the scope of the restraint of trade doctrine.

Crearea LLC v Qatar Financial Centre Authority

QFC Civil and Commercial Court, 2024

Acted for the Qatar Financial Centre Authority in its successful defence of a claim issued by a company and its director alleging negligence and breach of statutory duty against it. The case raised issues about the operation and scope of the authority's statutory immunity under Article 16 of the Qatar Financial Centre Law 2005.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 3)

High Court, 2023

Acted for a group of investors in a loan who successfully sought to have the administrators of a former, high-profile, peer-to-peer lending platform recognise the group's proprietary rights to the traceable proceeds of the funds used to repay the loan. The case raised difficult issues concerning the authority of agents, ratification and limitation.

Re Smith Brothers (Contracting) Limited (in administration)

High Court, 2023

Acted for a Chinese battery technology and services supplier bringing various personal and proprietary claims totalling approximately £10 million following the collapse of an electrical installation company.

Manek v 360 ONE WAM Limited

Commercial Court, 2023

Acting (with Lord Falconer of Thoroton) for an asset and wealth management company and its subsidiaries in a claim brought against them for £42 million, arising out of a sale of shares in an Indian company. The causes of action alleged include deceit, intimidation, conspiracy and joint liability.

Dismatrix SPC v Equiti Capital UK Ltd

Commercial Court, 2022

Acting (with Tony Peto QC) for investors in a Belizean company which traded in the foreign current markets. The investors allege that the company obtained the investments fraudulently and misappropriated most of those monies. The investors therefore claim relief of about USD3 million from an FCA-regulated broker who was involved with the trading, based on unconscionable receipt.

[Energy Company] v [Financial Services Provider]

LCIA Arbitration, 2021

Acting for a leading energy company in a cross-jurisdictional dispute with a regulated financial services provider, arising out of a fiduciary employee's misappropriation of assets and unauthorised trading. The energy company seeks relief of about £3 million for various wrongs, including for dishonest assistance, unconscionable receipt, breach of contract and breach of the Qunicicare duty.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 1)

[2021] EWHC 2285 (Ch)

Acted (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a directions application brought by the administrators of a high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform that collapsed. The case raised issues regarding breach of fiduciary duty and equitable proprietary relief, trustee discretions and the proper analysis of 'limited recourse' arrangements. The Court decided each contested issue in favour of the investor group.

Re Lendy Ltd; Webb v Taylor (No 2)

High Court, 2021

Acting (with Andreas Gledhill QC) for a group of investors in a second directions application brought by the administrators of a former high-profile peer-to-peer lending platform. This directions application raises issues concerning breach of fiduciary duty, 'miselling' claims and Berkeley Applegate orders.

LPCM v Utkan

[2021] EWHC 423 (Comm); [2021] EWHC 830 (Comm)

Acting (with Tony Peto QC) for a regulated financial services provider in a claim against its former de facto CEO and his company alleging fraudulent misappropriation of assets worth approximately EUR146 million and seeking extensive personal and proprietary relief. The case has involved various interim applications, including an application for a search and imaging order, a proprietary injunction and ancillary disclosure order, and a complex summary judgment application.

Horizon Crescent Wealth LLC v QFCA and QFCRA

[2020] QIC (RT) 1

Acted (with Ben Jaffey QC) for the Qatar Financial Centre Authority and Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority in successful appeals concerning breaches of the Qatar anti-money laundering regime and involving financial penalties of USD8,500,000.

Offshore

Carmine is frequently instructed in connection with high value, complex commercial litigation abroad. He has experience of acting in disputes before various overseas courts, including those in Australia, the BVI, the Cayman Islands, the DIFC and the QFC.

Cases

Begum v HSBC Bank Middle East Limited

DIFC, 2026

Acting (with Tom Watret) for investors bringing claims under the DIFC Regulatory Law and tortious claims against a Middle Eastern bank seeking damages of approximately USD80 million. The investors seek compensation for the bank's allegedly wrongful conduct which caused their investment monies held with a Guernsey bank to remain frozen for over 10 years, until the Guernsey Court ultimately held that the freeze was baseless and ordered that the funds be released.

NMH v PWT

BVI Commercial Court, 2025

Acting for claimants seeking to enforce an arbitral award of over USD1 billion against the defendant's alleged shareholding, valued at over USD100 million, in an oil company that operates across the Middle East and North Africa.

[Joint Venture Vehicle] v [Middle Eastern Telecom Company]

DIFC, 2025

Acting for a joint venture entity seeking to enforce an arbitral award of approximately USD1.7 billion against various entities and individuals. The underlying DIFC-seated, ICC arbitration concerned an elaborate fraudulent scheme which aimed to defraud the joint venture entity of its investment by procuring decisions from government officials by bribery and corruption. The case has included various complex applications, including an application to appoint a receiver by way of equitable execution.

Gort (Holdings) Limited v MRP Brazil Limited

Isle of Man Chancery Procedure, 2025

Acting (leading Grant Kynaston) for a property investment company defending a SPV's application seeking to enforce an undertaking in damages under a Worldwide Freezing Order and recover USD135 million. The application raises among other things various difficult issues concerning causation, mitigation, remoteness and loss quantification.

[Iraqi businessman] v [Dubai company]

DIFC, 2025

Acting for a corporate defendant defending a claim which an individual claimant has brought seeking negative declaratory relief concerning the transfer to him of a Dubai property valued at approximately USD7 million.

Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd v Sassoon

DIFC, 2024

Acting (with Tom Montagu-Smith KC) for a Swiss bank, its DIFC subsidiary and various executives defending a claim brought by a liquidator alleging that the insolvent company's business was fraudulently misappropriated and seeking damages of more than USD 75 million. The claim arises out of the winding up of a joint venture entity licensed by the DFSA to carry out investment advisory and management services.

[Businessman] v [Holding Company]

HKAIC Arbitration, 2024

Acting for a joint venture holding company resisting a foreign businessman's breach of contract claim under a sale and purchase agreement. The arbitration raises issues concerning the proper construction and effect of exemption clauses.

India v CC Devas (Mauritius) Limited

The Hague District Court and The Hague Court of Appeal, 2024

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Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Principal Investing Fund I Ltd

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Horizon Crescent Wealth LLC v QFCA and QFCRA

[2020] QIC (RT) 1

Acted (with Ben Jaffey QC) for the Qatar Financial Centre Authority and Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority in successful appeals concerning breaches of the Qatar anti-money laundering regime and involving financial penalties of USD8,500,000.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) (University of Melbourne)

Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) (University of Melbourne)

Bachelor of Civil Law (Distinction) (University of Oxford)

Master of Philosophy in Law (University of Oxford), for the thesis 'Penalties and Forfeitures Reinterpreted' (supervised by Lord Burrows)

Doctor of Philosophy in Law (University of Oxford), for the thesis 'Penalties Reworked: The Rule against Penalties Restated, Justified and Refined' (supervised by Lord Burrows)

Bar Transfer Test (Top of Year) (BPP University)

Scholarships and awards

- Allan Myers Oxford Law Faculty Scholarship (to read for the BCL)
- Leggatt Melbourne Law Faculty Scholarship (for outstanding academic performance)
- Highest ranked student (Advanced Torts, Contract Law, Civil Litigation, Political Theory, Property Law, Insolvency Law and Modern Political Thought)

Publications

- 'Deposit Clauses' in Graham Virgo and Sarah Worthington (eds), *Commercial Remedies: Resolving Controversies* (CUP 2017)
- 'The Penalty Rule Revisited' (2016) 142 LQR 382
- 'From Only the 'Bottom-up'? Legitimate Forms of Judicial Reasoning in Private Law' (2015) 35 OJLS 1
- 'No Proprietary Relief for Breach of Fiduciary Duty' (2012) 128 LQR 184
- 'The Death Knell Tolls for Attorney-General for Hong Kong v Reid' [2012] RLR 118
- 'The Continued Obscurity of Economic Duress' [2011] LMCLQ 333
- 'The Jurisdiction to Relieve Against Penalties and Forfeitures' (2010) 126 LQR 529
- Edwin Peel, *Treitel on the Law of Contract* (13th edn, Sweet and Maxwell 2011) (Research Assistant)

VAT registration number: 331021273

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