

Tom Watret

Year of call: 2023
Degree: LLB Hons (Edinburgh, First Class), BCL (Oxford, Distinction)



Tom accepts instructions across all of Chambers' practice areas, including in commercial disputes, civil fraud, competition law, public and regulatory law, sanctions and sport.

Recent highlights of Tom's experience include assisting with the following cases:

- **Dalston Projects Ltd and others v Secretary of State for Transport:** For the Secretary of State in defending the decision to detain the superyacht, the Phi, under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 before the UK Supreme Court (with Sir James Eadie KC, Jason Pobjoy and Emmeline Plews). Together with the appeal in Shvidler, this was the first appeal to the UKSC concerning the application of the Russian sanctions regime, and was named as one of the The Lawyer's Top 10 Appeals of 2025.
- **Viegas and others v Cutrale and another:** Acting for the defendants in a competition damages claim regarding alleged breaches of Brazilian competition law in respect of orange juice production (with Brian Kennelly KC, Paul Luckhurst, Gayatri Sarathy and Sean Butler).
- **R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another:** For the appellant, Elliot Associates, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Monica Carss-Frisk KC and Jason Pobjoy).
- **BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others [2024] CAT 48:** For Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the "market mitigation rule" and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (during pupillage, with Brian Kennelly KC and Jason Pobjoy).
- **Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad [2024] EWHC 673 (Comm):** For the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (during pupillage, with Shane Sibbel).
- **Banque Havilland and others v the FCA [2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC):** For the applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (during pupillage, with Fraser Campbell).

Before coming to the Bar, Tom was a commercial litigation associate at Latham & Watkins in London (qualifying in 2019), where he was ranked in the Legal 500 (2022) as a 'key lawyer' in Commercial Litigation: Premium with the quote "Endlessly resourceful and hard working to get the best possible result for the client."

Tom has also worked as the Judicial Assistant to Lord Hodge, the Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, assisting with complex and high profile appeals across all areas of the law.

Tom studied law at the universities of Oxford and Edinburgh, where he was awarded various prizes and scholarships, including the Monckton Chambers Prize for Competition Law and the Allen & Overy Prize for Corporate Finance Law on the BCL, and prizes for commercial law, competition law, intellectual property law and international private law at Edinburgh.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of commercial disputes. Before coming to the Bar, he worked as a commercial litigation and arbitration associate at Latham & Watkins, where he was ranked in the Legal 500 (2022) as a 'key lawyer' in Commercial Litigation: Premium with the quote "Endlessly resourceful and hard working to get the best possible result for the client." He received academic prizes in various commercial law-related subjects at university, including the Allen & Overy prize in Corporate Finance Law on the BCL, and taught conflict of laws to undergraduates at the University of Edinburgh.

Cases

Viegas & Sanches v Cutrale and others

[2024] EWHC 2609 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 2778 (Comm)

Acting for the defendants in a competition damages claim regarding alleged breach of Brazilian competition law in respect of orange juice production (with Brian Kennelly KC and Paul Luckhurst).

Kahlon v Liberty Steel Group Ltd & Anor

Case No. CFI-070-2022

Acting for the Defendant companies in proceedings before the DIFC Courts, resisting a claim brought by its former CEO seeking damages in excess of US\$32 million (with Andrew Trotter and Grant Kynaston).

Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

Assisted in acting for the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (with Shane Sibbel).

BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others

[2024] CAT 48

Assisted in acting for Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the “market mitigation rule” and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME’s decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer’s Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

Re: commission and loan agreement dispute

Acting (unled) for the Defendant in two jointly case managed claims in the London Circuit Commercial Court for c. £4.5m in commission and under a loan agreement, raising issues around anti-corruption investigations in a Middle Eastern country

Delancey Real Estate and Asset Management & Others v HMRC

Assisted Leona Powell in acting for the claimants in a high value contractual dispute with HMRC.

I v A and others

Assisted in acting for a claimant company in a fraud claim against its former partner in an aviation leasing and consultancy joint venture, relating to the value received for the buyout (with Harry Adamson).

Re: a freezing injunction

Assisted in acting for one of several defendants defending an application for a freezing injunction (with Harry Adamson).

G v S

Assisted in acting for a defendant to a debt claim also involving a corruption investigation by foreign anti-corruption authorities (with Harry Adamson).

T v A

Worked on advice on obtaining interim charging orders enforcement against English property in enforcement proceedings arising from a multi-jurisdictional dispute (with Harry Adamson).

R v D

Worked on advice on bringing Part 8 proceedings to obtain declaratory relief to force a contested share sale to complete (with Harry Adamson).

A v G

Assisted in acting for the defendants in a claim for alleged unpaid commission arising from the sale of a business (with Harry Adamson).

Re HMRC

Worked on advice for HMRC regarding the construction of various intra-group claims and set-offs as part of an investigation into unpaid tax (with Harry Adamson).

G v S

Assisted in acting for the claimant, the owner of a catalogue of reggae and dub music recordings, against a multinational record company, seeking declaratory relief as to the status of the licences to the recordings (with Shane Sibbel).

S and another v S and others

Assisted in acting for the defendants in a fraud claim concerning the acquisition of a villa, involving issues of foreign law (with Shane Sibbel).

O v T

Assisted in acting for an investment firm in the oil and gas sector in a summary judgment application for c. US\$5 million, raising issues concerning the penalty clause doctrine (with Fraser Campbell).

Re a re-insurance company

Assisted in acting for the petitioner in an unfair prejudice petition concerning the fair valuation of the petitioner's shares (with Fraser Campbell).

Shield v Shield

Assisted in acting for the defendants in an ongoing dispute relating to a company reorganisation (with Fraser Campbell).

A v A and another

Assisted in acting for the defendants, a technology company and its owner-director, in a c. US\$20m claim for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations made in a share sale (with Fraser Campbell).

W v C

Assisted in acting for the claimants, a global hotel business, in claims against the licensors of its intellectual property for breach of contract following a complex business acquisition and subsequent restructuring (with Fraser Campbell).

R (on the application of Annington Property) v The Secretary of State for Defence

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Annington, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning challenges to decisions of the Ministry of Defence relating to enfranchisement of service family accommodation, one of The Lawyer's Top 10 Appeals of 2024 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

The Football Association Premier League Ltd v Everton Football Club

Assisted in acting for the Premier League in an appeal concerning the costs of Section W proceedings against Everton Football Club (with Jason Pobjoy).

Competition

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of competition law. He was awarded the Monckton Chambers prize for competition law on the BCL, and also came top in his year in competition law at the University of Edinburgh. He is currently instructed for the defendants in the major Viegas & Sanches v Cutrale proceedings.

Cases

Viegas & Sanches v Cutrale and others

[2024] EWHC 2609 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 2778 (Comm)

Acting for the defendants in a competition damages claim regarding alleged breach of Brazilian competition law in respect of orange juice production (with Brian Kennelly KC and Paul Luckhurst).

BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others

[2024] CAT 48

Assisted in acting for Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the "market mitigation rule" and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

BIRA v Amazon

Assisted in acting for the British Independent Retailers Association in collective proceedings seeking damages of c.£1 billion in the CAT, relating to Amazon's alleged use of proprietary seller data for its own product entry strategies (with Jason Pobjoy).

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of civil fraud, asset recovery & injunctive relief law.

Cases

Delancey Real Estate and Asset Management & Others v HMRC

Assisted Leona Powell in acting for the claimants in a high value contractual dispute with HMRC.

Re: a freezing injunction

Advice to a global firm regarding the availability of freezing injunction and other relief in England .

Re: a freezing injunction

Assisted in acting for one of several defendants defending an application for a freezing injunction (with Harry Adamson).

Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

Assisted in acting for the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (with Shane Sibbel).

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G v S

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T v A

Worked on advice on obtaining interim charging orders enforcement against English property in enforcement proceedings arising from a multi-jurisdictional dispute (with Harry Adamson).

Public & Regulatory

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of public & regulatory law. He gained wide experience of public law cases of all kinds during pupillage and while acting as the judicial assistant to Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court. He was previously awarded the Marion Simmons QC essay prize (2018) by the Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers for his essay on the purpose of regulation.

Cases

Dalston Projects Ltd and others v Secretary of State for Transport

Acted for the Secretary of State for Transport in response to the claimants' challenge to the decision to detain the superyacht, the Phi, under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (with Sir James Eadie KC, Jason Pobjoy, and Emmeline Plews). Together with the appeal in Shvidler, this was the first appeal to the UK Supreme Court to consider the application of the Russian sanctions regime.

R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

R (Duff) v the Secretary of State for Justice

[2024] EWHC 917 (Admin)

Assisted in acting for the Parole Board in a judicial review concerning a decision of the Secretary of State for Justice to terminate the appointment of a member of the Parole Board (with Fraser Campbell).

Banque Havilland and others v the FCA

[2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC)

Successfully acted for the third party rights applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (with Fraser Campbell).

Re: anti-publication injunctions:

Worked on advice to a regulator on defending anti-publication injunctions (with Harry Adamson).

R (on the application of Annington Property) v The Secretary of State for Defence

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Annington, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning challenges to decisions of the Ministry of Defence relating to enfranchisement of service family accommodation, one of The Lawyer's Top 10 Appeals of 2024 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

Re: the Legal Aid Agency

Assisted in acting for the Lord Chancellor in a judicial review concerning the lawfulness of part of the Exceptional Funding Guidance (with Shane Sibbel).

Re: Cabinet Office FOI

Assisted in acting for the Cabinet Office in proceedings under the Freedom of Information Act (with Fraser Campbell).

H v S

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings concerning the disclosure of information about spent convictions (with Fraser Campbell).

Re a public body

Worked on advice to a public body on various issues concerning disclosure obligations and redactions (with Fraser Campbell).

Attorney General's Office v S

Assisted in acting for the Attorney General in seeking an order for committal against a person who had repeatedly breached an extended civil restraint order (with Fraser Campbell).

Re MA

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings before the Parole Board concerning the imposition of a polygraph condition (with Jason Pobjoy).

Re: a public body

Assisted in acting for a public body in relation to a claim seeking additional reasons for a refusal to investigate certain historic allegations (with Jason Pobjoy).

Re: FOIA matter for a public body

Assisted in acting for a public body in responding to a FOIA appeal concerning a report into alleged misconduct (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of sanctions law. During pupillage, he assisted Jason Pobjoy with a wide array of sanctions matters, both for public bodies and private individuals. He has continued to act on a variety of sanctions matters since becoming a tenant, including the Supreme Court appeal in Dalston.

Cases

Sanctions advice on designation of financial institution

Advising the FCDO on the possible designation of a foreign financial institution (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for designated person

Worked on advice to a designated person on possible divestments of relevant assets and challenging their designation (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for HMT

Worked on advice to the Treasury on enforcing certain agreements with a designated person (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for insolvency administrators

Worked on advice to insolvency administrators in relation to the possible distribution of funds from a company formerly owned by a designated person (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for OFSI

Worked on advice to OFSI on the interpretation and application of sanctions legislation relating to the concept of 'economic resources' (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for the FCDO

Worked on advice to the FCDO on claims for damages under SAMLA (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on settlement agreements

Worked on advice on the lawfulness of entering into a settlement agreement with a designated person under UK and EU sanctions law (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice for the FCDO

Worked on advice on issues under UK sanctions law arising from the possible distribution of funds from an insolvent person's estate (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on supply chains

Worked on advice to UK and EU companies on agreements relating to the export of products from Russia and related transfers of funds (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

Sanctions advice for the FCDO

Worked on advice to the FCDO on the interpretation of SAMLA (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on offshore company services

Worked on advice to an offshore company providing registered office, agent and trust services on the application of EU sanctions (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on licences for payments for legal services

Worked on advice to a law firm regarding the receipt of payments for legal services (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on legal services and “economic resources”

Worked on advice concerning whether taking certain steps in litigation complied with UK and EU sanctions (with Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions advice on set-off and release

Worked on advice concerning the compliance with UK sanctions of various contractual mechanisms to set-off and release claims (with Jason Pobjoy).

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties & human rights law, which also frequently arise in the course of his public & regulatory and sanctions practices.

Cases

Dalston Projects Ltd and others v Secretary of State for Transport

Acted for the Secretary of State for Transport in response to the claimants' challenge to the decision to detain the superyacht, the Phi, under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (with Sir James Eadie KC, Jason Pobjoy, and Emmeline Plews). Together with the appeal in Shvidler, this was the first appeal to the UK Supreme Court to consider the application of the Russian sanctions regime.

R (Duff) v the Secretary of State for Justice

[2024] EWHC 917 (Admin)

Assisted in acting for the Parole Board in a judicial review concerning a decision of the Secretary of State for Justice to terminate the appointment of a member of the Parole Board (with Fraser Campbell).

Case C-202/24 Alchaster

Assisted in acting for the Secretaries of State for Justice and the Home Office in proceedings before the Grand Chamber of the CJEU concerning the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and extradition arrangements between the EU and the UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (with Jason Pobjoy and Sir James Eadie KC).

The J. Paul Getty Trust v Italy

Assisted in acting for the Getty Trust in relation to proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights concerning the application of Article 1, Protocol 1, to an order for the confiscation of an object of cultural heritage (with Jason Pobjoy).

Re: the Legal Aid Agency

Assisted in acting for the Lord Chancellor in a judicial review concerning the lawfulness of part of the Exceptional Funding Guidance (with Shane Sibbel).

H v S

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings concerning the disclosure of information about spent convictions (with Fraser Campbell).

Re MA

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings before the Parole Board concerning the imposition of a polygraph condition (with Jason Pobjoy).

B v G

Assisted in acting for a UK media group in defending claims by a religious organisation (with Jason Pobjoy and Ben Jaffey KC).

R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

Sport

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of sports law.

Cases

The Football Association Premier League Ltd v Everton Football Club

Assisted in acting for the Premier League in an appeal concerning the costs of Section W proceedings against Everton Football Club (with Jason Pobjoy).

Media & Entertainment

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of media & entertainment law.

Cases

G v S

Assisted in acting for a defendant to a debt claim also involving a corruption investigation by foreign anti-corruption authorities (with Harry Adamson).

Public International Law

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of public international law.

Cases

Proceedings before the ICJ

Assisted in acting for the FCDO in proceedings before the International Court of Justice seeking an advisory opinion on States' climate change obligations under international law (with Jason Pobjoy).

Advice on the International Criminal Courts Act 2001

Worked on advice to a public body on the application of the International Criminal Courts Act 2001 (with Jason Pobjoy).

Re: international law advice

Worked on advice concerning the International Court of Justice (with Jason Pobjoy).

EU Law

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of EU law.

Cases

Re: a pharma matter

Acting on an application to the General Court to annul the grant of a conditional marketing authorisation to a medical product.

Case C-202/24 Alchaster

Assisted in acting for the Secretaries of State for Justice and the Home Office in proceedings before the Grand Chamber of the CJEU concerning the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and extradition arrangements between the EU and the UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (with Jason Pobjoy and Sir James Eadie KC).

Environment

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of environment law.

Cases

Proceedings before the ICJ

Assisted in acting for the FCDO in proceedings before the International Court of Justice seeking an advisory opinion on States' climate change obligations under international law (with Jason Pobjoy).

Financial Services & Banking

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of financial services & banking.

Cases

Banque Havilland and others v the FCA

[2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC)

Successfully acted for the third party rights applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (with Fraser Campbell).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- LPC (Distinction), BPP University
- BCL (Distinction), University of Oxford
- LLB (Hons)(First Class), University of Edinburgh

Scholarships, Awards, Prizes

- Monckton Chambers Prize for best performance in Competition Law (University of Oxford, 2015)
- Allen & Overy Prize for best performance in Corporate Finance (University of Oxford, 2015)
- South Square Scholarship (University of Oxford, 2014)
- Clark Foundation for Legal Education Award 2014
- Lorimer Scholarship (University of Edinburgh, 2014)
- Best performance in Commercial Law (University of Edinburgh, 2013)
- Best performance in Competition Law (University of Edinburgh, 2012)
- Best performance in Intellectual Property Law (University of Edinburgh, 2012)
- Best performance in International Private Law (University of Edinburgh, 2013)
- President of University of Edinburgh Mooting Society 2012-13
- Winner, University of Edinburgh Senior Mooting Competition 2011
- Sheriff TP MacDonald Memorial Prize for Advocacy 2011
- Runner-up, University of Edinburgh Junior Mooting Competition 2010

Professional Experience

- Judicial Assistant to Lord Hodge, UK Supreme Court (2021-2022)
- Litigation associate, Latham & Watkins (2019-2022)
- Trainee solicitor, Latham & Watkins (2017-2019)
- Tutor, Conflict of Laws / Private International Law, University of Edinburgh (2015-2016)
- Legal Assistant, Scottish Law Commission (2014-2015)

VAT registration number: 000

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board