E-mail: clerks@oeclaw.co.uk



Ben Strong KC

Barrister
Call 2001 Silk 2014

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Company and Insolvency • Energy and Natural Resources • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Judicial Review • Professional Liability • Restitution • Takeovers, Mergers and Acquisitions • Public Law

Overview

Ben Strong KC is a sought-after advocate in a wide range of high-value commercial disputes. Clients praise Ben's commercially focused advice, clear presentation and easy manner.

Ben's practice spans the banking and financial services sectors including regulatory disputes, general commercial litigation and arbitration, jurisdiction disputes, company law, civil fraud, professional misconduct and professional negligence, as well as insolvency, public law and some taxation aspects of commercial matters.

Recent work includes:

- acting for a defendant to claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire, brought by the Council, and also pursuing a claim for judicial review of the Council's decision to prohibit the company from acting as a sub-contractor on Council projects
- a long-running series of cases for a Dutch social housing association whose treasurer had amassed a EUR 2bn portfolio of interest rate derivatives while taking bribes from an intermediary
- defending a former SFO officer in a claim for misfeasance in public office, unlawful means conspiracy and breach of contract brought by the subject of an investigation
- acting in the leading case on the meaning of "integrity" in the FCA Handbook, a case where the Upper Tribunal found that Ben's private banker did not lacked integrity
- representing a Middle Eastern client in an arbitration concerning a financial services joint venture
- resisting an injunction to require a founder of a Luxembourg investment fund to prevent a company in which he was a shareholder from pursuing a claim for payments due on termination of its role in the fund, a key case on the legal standard for anti-suit injunctions
- acting in the Privy Council in an appeal against a BVI arbitration award, a key case on the law of contractual damages

Ben has been recommended for many years by the legal directories in the fields of banking and finance, financial services and commercial law. He has won praise as "exceptionally bright with a forensic attention to detail, but also a team player" who provides "very commercial advice" and who is "imaginative and good at lateral thinking".

Ben is called to the BVI bar, and has appeared many times before the BVI Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean.

He frequently appears before the FCA's Regulatory Disputes Committee, both on behalf of the FCA's Enforcement Division and on behalf of regulated persons.

Ben has also given expert evidence on English law for use in Russia and the Netherlands, and has made written submissions on English law in the Dutch court.

Examples of Recent Cases

Banking and Financial Services

"Ben is always on top of the detail he gives clear, commercial advice" (Legal 500 2024 - Banking & Finance)"

"Ben is exceptionally bright with a forensic attention to detail, but also a team player. He has a great sense of what arguments play well with the FCA decision makers and is a brilliant advocate" (Legal 500 2024 - Financial Services and Fintech)"

"He is very prepared to get into the weeds and the detail. A complete master." (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Financial Services)

"He's very intelligent and a good advocate." Chambers & Partners UK 2022 - Financial Services

"An excellent team player, who gets thoroughly to grips with the details and is extremely responsive, and provides very commercial advice." Legal 500 2021 - Banking & Finance

"An real team player and very responsive - extremely attentive to the detail of a case whilst also keeping an eye on the bigger picture." Legal 500 2020 - Banking & Finance

"Extremely user-friendly and easy to deal with." "He is a real team player, who gets to grips with the detail and is very responsive." Chambers and Partners 2020 - Banking & Finance

"He is renowned as a very good advocate: if you saw his name on a pleading you would know you need to take him seriously." "A real team player. He gets to grips with the detail and is very responsive." Chambers and Partners 2020 - Financial Services

- Stichting Vestia v various banks
  Ben acted for a Dutch social housing association on a series of claims in relation to complex derivative products on the basis that the transactions were outside Vestia's capacity and that some of the defendant banks were liable for the bribery of Vestia's treasurer. The proceedings against Credit Suisse are reported at [2014] EWHC 3103 (Comm). Vestia's claim against Deutsche Bank for over €800 million settled midway through the 35 day trial which took place across June/July 2019. Proceedings against BNP, Societe Generale, Nomura and Barclays all settled before trial.
- Seiler v Financial Conduct Authority [2023] UKUT 00133 (TCC), [2023] UKUT 00270 (TCC)
  Ben acted in a 4 week Upper Tribunal trial for a manager of a Swiss private bank whom the FCA sought to prohibit on the basis of alleged recklessness as to a fraud on the bank's client. The claim failed and the tribunal exercised its exceptional jurisdiction to award the manager a portion of his costs.
- Banque Havilland v Financial Conduct Authority [2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC); [2025] UKUT 00197 (TCC)
  Ben acted in FCA disciplinary against a former employee of the bank. The employee did not refer his case to the Upper Tribunal, but the FCA applied for the Tribunal to call him as a "neutral" witness to be cross-examined by all parties. Ben represented the employee in successfully opposing that application, and again when the FCA made a subsequent application to summons the employee as its own witness.
- Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund v FCA

Claim for judicial review in respect of action by FCA taken to freeze client assets held by an investment bank.

- **Netherlands v Deutsche Bank** [2019] EWCA Civ 771
  Claim to determine how negative interest rates are dealt with under the ISDA Collateral Support Agreement. Ben acted for the State of the Netherlands at first instance and in the Court of Appeal.
- **Tinney v Financial Conduct Authority** [2019] UKUT 277 (TCC)
  Ben acted for the FCA in the Upper Tribunal in proceedings alleging a lack of integrity against a former Barclays senior executive.
- **Murray Holdings v Oscatello Investments** [2018] EWHC 162 (Ch)
  Claim for rectification of an agreement restructuring investment and borrowing arrangements between Kaupthing and certain of its clients. Ben acted for the claimant, which obtained judgment for rectification notwithstanding that no witnesses were called at the trial.
- **Hussein v Financial Conduct Authority** [2018] UKUT 186 (TCC)
  Ben acted for the FCA in the Upper Tribunal in proceedings to prohibit a trader from performing regulated functions. The underlying allegations related to attempts to manipulate LIBOR, and the trader was prohibited for providing false evidence.
- **Re Chesterfield, Stanford v McDonald**
  Ben acted for Kaupthing in this application in the BVI (Commercial Court and Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean) by a former customer to prevent payment by the liquidators of a special purpose vehicle to Kaupthing of certain monies.
- **Personal portfolio bonds**
  Advising on structuring of type of investment bond so as to achieve a particular tax treatment
- **Credit Suisse v Titan** [2016] EWCA Civ 1293
  Claim to determine the entitlement of Class X Noteholders in a CMBS note issue. Ben acted for the Class X Noteholders at first instance and in the Court of Appeal.
- **Hannam v Financial Conduct Authority** [2014] UKUT 233 (TCC)
  Market abuse. Ben acted for the FCA in this reference to the Upper Tribunal of a decision of the FCA's Regulatory Decisions Committee to impose a penalty on the former Chairman of Capital Markets at JP Morgan Chase for disclosure of inside information.
- **FCA disciplinary proceedings**
  Ben has appeared at a number of meetings of the Regulatory Disciplinary Committee of the FCA, acting both for the FCA and for individuals who are the subject of proceedings
- **Isis Investments v Ocsatello Investments** [2013] EWCA Civ 1493
  Ben acted for Kaupthing on this claim in which its subsidiary claimed that Kaupthing acted as a shadow director and was liable for losses on a series of transactions. The claim also involved allegations of misleading global financial markets, an attempt to pay an unlawful dividend, cross-border insolvency regulations, and Icelandic law.
- **RBS v Highland**
  Ben was instructed by Highland throughout this long-running dispute. The claim began as a claim by RBS for shortfall on a repayment of a loan intended to facilitate a CDO issue. RBS obtained summary judgment on liability ([2010] EWCA Civ 809). Following the quantum trial, RBS was awarded only half its claim (and nothing in respect of costs) because it had misled Highland about the way in which it had realised the security for the loan: [2010] EWHC 3199 (Comm). Highland then began proceedings against RBS in Texas. RBS responded by applying in England for an anti-suit injunction, and Highland counterclaimed for orders setting aside the previous liability and quantum judgments on the basis that they had been procured by RBS's fraud. Burton J, refused the anti-suit injunction on the grounds that RBS lacked clean hands, but declined to set aside his previous liability and quantum judgments: [2012] EWHC 1278 (Comm). The Court of Appeal refused RBS's appeal on the injunction application and granted Highland's appeal on setting aside the prior judgments for fraud: [2013] EWCA Civ 328.
- **Rawlinson & Hunter v Kaupthing**
  Ben acted for Kaupthing on this claim by the trustees of trusts established for the benefit of members of the Tchenguiz family. The trustees alleged that they had been induced into borrowing money from Kaupthing and providing security as a result of misrepresentations in the published accounts, and had suffered large losses as a result. The case also involved allegations of breach of Icelandic capital regulations and the consequence of such breaches on English law contracts.
- **Finolex Industries Limited v. Credit Agricole CIB**

For the Claimant, which sought a declaration that it has no liability in respect of derivative transaction entered into under an ISDA Master Agreement. The action gave rise to a significant jurisdictional dispute.

- **Hall & Ors v. Cable & Wireless Plc** [2009] EWHC 1793 (Comm)
  For the Defendant telecommunications giant C&W. This appears to be the first decision on civil liability for alleged market abuse. Ben made a successful application to strike out claims relating to statements alleged to have been in breach of the Listing Rules.
- **Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank v Bank of America**
  Claim by lender against agent bank in syndicated loan.
- **Financial Services Compensation Scheme v NDF Administration**
  Acting for product provider in claim brought on behalf of 1,600 investors relating to marketing materials for structured capital at risk products.
- **Equitable Life**
  Advising and appearing for Equitable Life on claims brought by policy holders relating to the House of Lords decision on guaranteed annuity rates.

Arbitration

- **Supply agreement dispute**
  LCIA Arbitration of claim regarding alleged termination of English law supply agreement and Belgian law lease.
- **Global Water Associates v AG of BVI** [2020] UKPC 18
  Ben acted in the Privy Council (and at all stages below) in this application to remit an award to the arbitrators for error of law. The arbitration was an ad hoc arbitration under BVI law for failure to complete a public works project. The appeals in the BVI Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean raised questions of the basis on which the award could be challenged and how damages for breach of contract are to be calculated. The Privy Council's decision is an important restatement of the principles of remoteness of damages for breach of contract.
- **Joint venture dispute**
  19 year long LCIA Arbitration of dispute, governed by New York law, concerning allocation of profits from a consumer credit joint venture.
- **Confidential arbitration**
  Claim against solicitors for negligence in respect of drafting a settlement agreement.
- **Investment fund**
  LCIA Arbitration of dispute between investment fund and its placement agent.
- **Breach of warranty**
  ICC Arbitration of warranty claim in a share purchase agreement.
- **Share Sale**
  ICC Arbitration regarding completion accounts provisions in a multi-billion Euro sale, following multiple challenges to nominations of arbitrators.
- **Investment fund – alleged management fraud**
  Major, and highly complex LCIA arbitration dispute between an investment fund and its manager, in which the fund alleged that the manager had fraudulently appropriated assets and, in breach of fiduciary duty, diverted corporate opportunities to itself in a series of transactions. Ben also advised on related litigation in Mauritius.
- **Franchising**
  Acting for Middle Eastern company in an Ohio law dispute relating to failure to grant a franchise in a LCIA Arbitration.
- **Derivatives**
  Acting for Indian corporates in a number of separate arbitrations of disputes relating to derivatives entered into under ISDA Master Agreements. The issues involved allegations of breach of Indian exchange control regulations and the effect that has on English law contracts, as well as issues of agency
- **Aircraft leasing**
  Counsel for the claimant in claim for redelivery of aircraft and for tens of millions of dollars in damages for breach of aircraft lease.
- **Investment banking**

Dispute as to whether an investment bank was entitled to a fee, also involving a challenge to LCIA Court arbitrator on grounds of alleged bias.

- Ship building
  Ad hoc arbitration relating to communications and electronics issues and involving over 20 expert witnesses.

Commercial Litigation

"Extremely user friendly, commercial and excellent with client", "absolutely prompt in his response to enquiries, and his advice is balanced and simple to understand" (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Ben has an encyclopedic knowledge of the case." (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Very good on paper and in conference with the clients, he is a pleasure to work with." Chambers & Partners UK 2022 - Commercial Dispute Resolution

"He listens carefully to his clients and instructing solicitors, and he's imaginative and good at thinking laterally." "Extremely user-friendly and responsive, he has an incisive mind and good judgement." Chambers and Partners 2020 - Commercial Dispute Resolution

- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea v Artelia Projects UK Limited
  Ben acts for the employer's agent in this multi-party claim by the Council to recover losses caused by the fire at Grenfell Tower. The action gives rise to complex issues fundamental to the law of negligence. Ben also acted on a claim for judicial review of the Council's decision to prohibit Artelia from acting as a sub-contractor on Council projects.
- BRG NOAL v Kowski [2023] EWHC 867 (Ch) Ben opposed the jurisdiction of the English court and defended an application for an anti-suit injunction over control of a Luxembourg private equity fund.
- Expert evidence on English law
  Ben provided an expert report in Russian proceedings bought against banks to explain certain features of English civil procedure
- Global Water Associates v Attorney General of BVI [2020] UKPC 18
  Ben acted in the Privy Council (and at all stages below) in this application to remit an award to the arbitrators for error of law. The arbitration was an ad hoc arbitration under BVI law for failure to complete a public works project. The appeals in the BVI Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean raised questions of the basis on which the award could be challenged and how damages for breach of contract are to be calculated. The Privy Council's decision is an important restatement of the principles of remoteness of damages for breach of contract.
- Stichting Vestia v various banks
  Ben acted for a Dutch social housing association on a series of claims in relation to complex derivative products on the basis that the transactions were outside Vestia's capacity and that some of the defendant banks are liable for the bribery of Vestia's treasurer. The proceedings against Credit Suisse are reported at [2014] EWHC 3103 (Comm). Vestia's claim against Deutsche Bank for over €800 million settled midway through the 35 day trial which took place across June/July 2019. Proceedings against BNP, Societe Generale, Nomura and Barclays all settled before trial.
- Osiris v Oakley
  Advising trustees in litigation in the Isle of Man in relation to claim on an undertaking in damages given when obtaining an injunction, and in relation to claims for negligence by a solicitor. Subsequently acting in English proceedings for malicious prosecution brought by the solicitor.
- J Trust Asia v Konoshita
  Ben acted for the defendant, seeking to set aside a freezing injunction granted in in the BVI, in a set of inter-rated proceedings in Singapore and Thailand.
- Murray Holdings v Oscatello Investments [2018] EWHC 162 (Ch)
  Claim for rectification of an agreement restructuring investment and borrowing arrangements between Kaupthing and certain of its clients. Ben acted for the claimant, which obtained judgment for rectification notwithstanding that no witnesses were called at the trial.
- Airbus v Generali Italia [2018] EWHC 2737 (Comm)
  Jurisdiction challenge in claim for declaration that Italian proceedings were brought in breach of a

jurisdiction clause.

- **Flycaboverde Operations v Smartlynx Airlines** (Dutch proceedings)
  Ben provided English law submissions to the Dutch court in a claim for breach of an alleged contract providing for the operation of flights between the Netherlands and Cape Verde.
- **Gerald Metals v Timis** [2016] EWHC 2327 (Ch)
  Acting for the defendant in successfully resisting an application for a freezing injunction in a claim alleging deceit and procuring a breach of contract in relation to an investment in an African mining project.
- **Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets v Motor Trades Association of Australia Superannuation Fund**
  Dispute regarding proper construction of fee provisions in agreement between an investment advisor and an Australian pension fund.
- **Protides v Nucana**
  Acting for the claimant in a claim for licence fees in respect of a pharmaceutical compound in development.
- **Mainfirst Austria v US Bank Trustees**
  Claim in respect of removal of investment adviser to note issuer.
- **Levy v Mosheim**
  Claim for loss suffered by purchaser as a result of damage to a property caused by the seller; Judge accepted Ben's submission that the claim was fabricated.
- **Halton v Dhanani**
  Dispute between care home group and its former chief executive.
- **GBST v Smith Hamilton**
  Claim for breach of accounting warranties given in a Share Purchase Agreement.
- **Computer Software Group v Sanderson** [2009] EWHC 3827 (QB)
  Trial of claim for indemnity in relation to software licensing.
- **Tele2 v Post Office** [2009] EWCA Civ 9
  Trial and appeal of dispute arising out of termination of contract for provision of telecommunications services.
- **Imarhiagbe v GMAC-RFC Limited**
  Acting for the claimant in the Court of Appeal. The action raised fundamental issues as to the obligations of a lender before completion of house purchases, and the enforceability of their standard terms.
- **Greencore v Elementis** [2005] EWHC 1590 (Comm)
  Trial of preliminary issue on construction of share purchase agreement.
- **Expert Determination**
  Trial of claim for losses arising from failure to fund joint venture company.
- **United Nations Compensation Commission**
  Appeal case claim for losses to investment arising out of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- **Hi-Flyers v Linde Gas**
  High Court trial of claim for profits lost as a result of supply of allegedly defective helium gas.
- **Thakrar litigation and mediation**
  Acting on claims under the Insolvency Act 1986 to set aside charges and on tracing claims in complex multi-party dispute.

Company and Insolvency

- **Nicholson v Insolvency Practitioners Association** [2026] EWHC 686 (Ch)
  Claim for a declaration that insolvency practitioner bonds (which protect against the fraud or dishonesty of insolvency practitioners) are held by the relevant recognised professional body on trust for the insolvent estate. Ben acted for the successful claimant insolvency practitioners who sought to make claims on the bonds in circumstances where the named beneficiary, the IPA, declined to do so.
- **Re CGL Realisations (formerly Comet Group)** [2020] EWHC 1707 (Ch)
  Claim in respect of alleged preference by repayment of intra-group debt in the context of the sale of a company which subsequently went into insolvency. Ben acted for Darty, the recipient of the payment.

- **Re Chesterfield, Stanford v McDonald**
  Ben acted for Kaupthing in this application in the BVI (Commercial Court and Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean) by a former customer to prevent payment by the liquidators of a special purpose vehicle to Kaupthing of certain monies.
- **Isis Investments v Ocsatello Investments** [2013] EWCA Civ 1493
  Ben acted for Kaupthing on this claim in which its subsidiary claimed that Kaupthing acted as a shadow director and was liable for losses on a series of transactions. The claim also involved allegations of misleading global financial markets, an attempt to pay an unlawful dividend, cross-border insolvency regulations, and Icelandic law.
- **Re Fairfield**
  Ben acted in BVI proceedings for shareholders in an investment fund whose value collapsed as a result of the discovery of the fraud of Bernard Madoff.
- **Sakraney v Eastsan**
  Unfair prejudice petition in BVI Commercial Court
- **Motive Television v Vanyi-Robin**
  Acting for AIM listed company on claim to enforce agreement restricting sale of its shares, and on cross-claim under share purchase agreement and for allegedly inducing wrongful termination of a Spanish employment contract.
- **Re Dobbies Garden Centres** [2008] CSOH 72
  Assisting Richard Keen KC (Dean of Faculty of Advocates) on claim in Court of Session for injunction to restrain rights issue on grounds of unfair prejudice.
- **Re New Gadget Shop** [2005] All ER (D) 346 (Dec)
  Trial of unfair prejudice petition alleging diversion of corporate opportunity.
- Advice and advocacy in various unfair prejudice petitions.

Tax and Revenue

- Transfer pricing - acting for taxpayer on very high value dispute over arm's length value of intellectual property rights transferred between members of major multinational.
- Franked Investment Income Group Litigation Order - acting for Lead Claimants.
- Transfer pricing – advising on arrangements between building societies and their off-shore subsidiaries.

Professional Liability

- **Confidential arbitration**
  Claim against solicitors for negligence in respect of drafting a settlement agreement.
- **Treveria v Norton Rose Fulbright**
  Acting for the defendant in a claim relating to a German tax issue arising on a corporate restructuring.
- **Sun Capital v Hammonds**
  Acting for defendants in a claim relating to advice on the implications of a European cartel investigation for a corporate acquisition.
- Confidential advice to solicitors on conflicts of interest in respect of a complex cross-border litigation.
- Confidential solicitors negligence claim in relation to prime brokerage agreement.
- Confidential solicitors negligence claim in relation to lodging claims with Enron examiner.
- **Cox v Clearwater Futures**
  Cross-examination of solicitor on application for costs to be paid by solicitor on grounds of misconduct.

Regulatory and Disciplinary Breaches

"Ben is exceptionally bright with a forensic attention to detail, but also a team player. (Legal 500 2024 - Financial Services and Fintech)

"He is very prepared to get into the weeds and the detail. A complete master." (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Financial Services)

"Strong writing, strategy, dedication, good humour, and judgement – he is a joy to work with and the consummate professional." Legal 500 2020 - Financial Services Regulation

- **Banque Havilland v Financial Conduct Authority [2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC); [2025] UKUT 00197 (TCC)**
  Ben acted in the RDC for FCA disciplinary against a former employee of the bank. The employee did not refer his case to the Upper Tribunal, but the FCA applied for the Tribunal to call him as a "neutral" witness to be cross-examined by all parties. Ben represented the employee in successfully opposing that application, and again when the FCA made a subsequent application to summons the employee as its own witness.
- **Seiler v Financial Conduct Authority [2023] UKUT 00133 (TCC), [2023] UKUT 00270 (TCC)**
  Ben acted in a 4 week Upper Tribunal trial for a manager of a Swiss private bank whom the FCA sought to prohibit on the basis of alleged recklessness as to a fraud on the bank's client. The claim failed and the tribunal exercised its exceptional jurisdiction to award the manager a portion of his costs.
- **Tinney v Financial Conduct Authority** [2019] UKUT 277 (TCC)
  Ben acted for the FCA in an Upper Tribunal trial which upheld a finding that a former Barclays senior executive lacked integrity.
- **Hussein v Financial Conduct Authority** [2018] UKUT 186 (TCC)
  Ben acted for the FCA in the Upper Tribunal in proceedings to prohibit a trader from performing regulated functions. The underlying allegations related to attempts to manipulate LIBOR, and the trader was prohibited for providing false evidence.
- **Hannam v Financial Conduct Authority** [2014] UKUT 233 (TCC)
  Market abuse. Ben acted for the FCA in this reference to the Upper Tribunal of a decision of the FCA's Regulatory Decisions Committee to impose a penalty on the former Chairman of Capital Markets at JP Morgan Chase for disclosure of inside information.
- **FCA disciplinary proceedings**
  Ben has appeared at a number of meetings of the Regulatory Disciplinary Committee of the FCA, acting both for the FCA and for individuals who are the subject of proceedings
- **Verrier v FCA**
  Ben was instructed by the FCA in this reference to the Upper Tribunal of a decision of the FCA's Regulatory Decisions Committee to prohibit Anthony Verrier from performing any function in relation to any regulated activity. The case arose as a result of finding in Tullet Prebon v BGC that found Mr Verrier had procured breaches of contracts of employment of certain Tullet brokers whom he recruited to BGC. The matter settled before a hearing.
- Advice on disciplinary proceedings brought by the Bar Standards Board.
- Acting for the FSA in the bank charges test case.
- Advice in relation to FSA investigation into split capital investment trusts.

Public Law

Ben advises on public law issues which arise in commercial and financial services contexts.

- **Nicholson v Insolvency Practitioners Association** [2026] EWHC 686 (Ch)
  Ben was brought into the claimants' team specifically to advise on public law issues, and then to address those issues at this Part 8 trial. The claimant insolvency practitioners sought a declaration that the IPA (a recognized professional body) holds insolvency practitioner bonds on trust for insolvent estates. The defence most emphasised was that there was no room for a trust because the IPA was exercising a public function. The Court accepted Ben's submissions that the IPA's decisions in relation to IP bonds were not amenable to judicial, and went on to hold those bonds are held in trust
- **Artelia Projects UK Limited v Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**
  Ben acted for Artelia in this claim for judicial review. Following publication of the report of the inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, the Council adopted a policy banning certain suppliers from being used in Council building contracts. Artelia sought the quashing of that decision so far as it concerned Artelia. Shortly before the trial was due to start, the Council agreed to withdraw its decision in respect of Artelia
- **Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund v Financial Conduct Authority**
  Ben acted for the claimant investment fund in this claim for judicial review of a decision of the FCA regarding client assets held by a company on which requirements had been imposed under section 55L of the Financial

Services and Markets Act 2000. The claim was settled.

What the Directories Say

"...a pleasure to work with and is extremely commercial" (Chambers & Partners UK 2026 - Financial Services)

"He really gets involved in the details of a matter and has incisive intelligence... good at black-letter law and writes persuasively." (Chambers & Partners UK 2026 - Financial Services)

"Ben is extremely commercial." (Chambers & Partners UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"He is an extremely fast thinker and worker, who is really responsive to deadlines." (Chambers & Partners UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Ben is extremely smart and strategic in his thinking." (Chambers & Partners UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Ben is very commercial in his approach. He is on top of the details and very hands on. Extremely user-friendly." (Legal 500 2026 - Banking and Finance)

"Ben is absolutely prompt in his response to enquiries, his advice is balanced and good to understand"; "the client has an absolute confidence in his capabilities." (Chambers & Partners UK 2025 and 2024 - Financial Services and Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"... extremely user-friendly, commercial and excellent with clients"; "absolutely prompt in his response to enquiries, and his advice is balanced and simple to understand" (Chambers & Partners UK 2025 and 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"... is excellent with clients and he really knows the details." (Chambers & Partners UK 2025 - Financial Services)

"He is a superstar - a go-to for contentious regulation." (Chambers & Partners UK 2025 - Financial Services)

"Ben is always on top of the detail he gives clear, commercial advice" (Legal 500 2024 - Banking & Finance)

"Ben is exceptionally bright with a forensic attention to detail, but also a team player. He has a great sense of what arguments play well with the FCA decision makers and is a brilliant advocate" (Legal 500 2024 - Financial Services and Fintech)

"Ben has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the case." (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"He is very prepared to get into the weeds and the detail. A complete master." (Chambers & Partners UK 2024 - Financial Services)

"He's very intelligent and a good advocate." (Chambers & Partners UK 2022 - Financial Services)

"An excellent team player. He gets thoroughly to grips with the details, is extremely responsive, and provides very commercial advice." (Legal 500 2021 - Banking & Finance)

"He listens carefully to his clients and instructing solicitors, and he's imaginative and good at thinking laterally." "Extremely user-friendly and responsive, he has an incisive mind and good judgement." (Chambers and Partners 2020 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Very good on paper and in conference with the clients, he is a pleasure to work with." (Chambers & Partners UK 2022 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"He is very good, highly attentive and strong on the facts." "For a very knotty case he is the person to go to because he is very clever and able to master a lot of issues quickly." (Chambers Global 2021 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"*An excellent team player, who gets thoroughly to grips with the details and is extremely responsive."* (Legal 500 2021 - Financial Services Regulation)

"Strong writing, strategy, dedication, good humour, and judgement – he is a joy to work with and the consummate professional." (Legal 500 2020 - Financial Services Regulation)

"A real team player and very responsive – extremely attentive to the detail of a case whilst also keeping an eye on the bigger picture." (Legal 500 2020 - Banking & Finance)

"Extremely user-friendly and easy to deal with." "He is a real team player, who gets to grips with the detail and is very responsive." (Chambers and Partners 2020 - Banking & Finance)

"He is renowned as a very good advocate: if you saw his name on a pleading you would know you need to take him seriously." "A real team player. He gets to grips with the detail and is very responsive." (Chambers and Partners 2020 - Financial Services)

"A real team player, he gets to grips with the detail and is very responsive." (Legal 500 2019 - Banking & Finance)

"A junior silk whose star is on the rise – a legal brainbox." (Legal 500 2019 - Financial Services Litigation)

"Brilliant advocacy, both in writing and on his feet." (Legal 500 -2018 Banking & Finance)

"An intellectual heavyweight, focuses on getting to the right outcome."(Legal 500 2018 -Financial Services)

"Very good at seeing the wood for the trees, and at handling emotional clients in a highly charged environment." "Thorough and analytical, Ben is practical and client-friendly." (Chambers and Partners 2018 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"He is an extremely brainy silk who is building up a fearsome reputation." "Ben is extremely intelligent and delights in getting stuck into complex factual scenarios, legal issues and documentation. He is also practical and client-friendly, and on his feet he is both calm and persuasive". (Chambers and Partners 2018 - Banking and Finance)

"He is great with clients and quick to grasp and identify solutions to complex issues.' 'A bright, tenacious and hungry new silk.' (Chambers and Partners 2017 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

'He is great with clients, very responsive and quick to grasp and indentify solutions to complex issues.' 'Outstanding. His ability to consume and assimilate a vast amount of material and provide very cogent advice and oral advocacy is very impressive.' (Chambers and Partners 2017 - Banking and Finance)

'A very capable and approachable lawyer who works well within a team, no trace of competing egos.' 'He gives meticulous and measured advice, and is unflappable on his feet.' (Chambers UK 2016 - Banking & Finance)

'Conscientious, hard working and intelligent. He has a thirst for legal complexity and is very good at analysing accounts and financial statements'. 'Excellent and very commercial'. (Chambers UK 2016 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

'has a gift for getting across very complex facts and legal documents very, very quickly.' 'A very capable and approachable lawyer who works well within a team, with no trace of competing egos.' ' He gives meticulous and measured advice, and is unflappable on his feet.' (Chambers UK 2016 - Banking & Finance)

'absolutely fantastic' on derivatives work, and is described by fellow barristers as 'an intimidating opponent, who cuts to the quick and knows what is going on'. 'He is incredibly bright and capable of unpicking the most complex commercial arrangements.' (Chambers UK 2013 - Banking & Finance)

'Hard working and talented', hailed by sources as 'a true details man with a particular aptitute for complex, paper-heavy disputes'. (Chambers UK 2013 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

'Consistently comes up with creative ideas and new angles to improve the client's position.'(Legal 500 2012 - Banking & Finance)

"'Ben Strong continues to impress with his 'hard-working and likeable manner.' His practice has a significant focus on banking and financial services disputes." Chambers UK 2012 - (Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Ben Strong elicits praise for his 'ability to unpack the most complex commercial arrangements.' Sources say that he demonstrates excellent judgment and 'approaches legal problems thoroughly and intelligently.'" (Chambers UK 2012 - Banking & Finance)

'Ben Strong wins market support, [handling] complex international banking and finance litigation and FSA regulatory actions.'" (Chambers UK 2012 - Financial Services)

Education

Jesus College, Cambridge - MA (Hons) Cantab, First Class

Awards

LEADING SILK
Legal500
UNITED KINGDOM
2026

Chambers
RANKED IN
UK
Bar
2026
Benjamin Strong KC

ONE ESSEX COURT

Contact Clerks



Darren Burrows
Senior Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4611
dburrows@oeclaw.co.uk



Rob Smith
Deputy Senior Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4612
rsmith@oeclaw.co.uk



Jade Cassell
Deputy Team Leader
+44 (0)20 7520 4614
jcassell@oeclaw.co.uk



Ben O'Hanlon

Deputy Team Leader
+44 (0)20 7520 4604
bohanlon@oeclaw.co.uk



Jodie Ellerington

Team Leader's Assistant
+44 (0)20 7520 4620
JEllerington@oeclaw.co.uk



Calum Jenkins

Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4821
cjenkins@oeclaw.co.uk



Isabella Uzal

Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4780
iuzal@oeclaw.co.uk