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Daniel Benedyk

Barrister
Call 2016

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Asset Tracing and Recovery • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Economic Torts • Commercial Litigation • Construction and Energy • Group Actions • Injunctions and Interim Applications • Investment Treaty Arbitrations • Jurisdiction, Conflict of Laws and Sovereign Immunity • Regulation • Restitution and Unjust Enrichment • Administrative & Public Law • Trusts and Equity

Overview

Daniel is regularly instructed in the most significant cases in the commercial sphere. He is ranked as a Leading Junior across all his practice areas (Civil Fraud, Commercial Litigation, Group Litigation, Banking and Finance and Competition), and is described as *"a star of his generation"*, a *"fantastic strategist and advocate"* and *"an extraordinarily hardworking, legally-gifted self-starter"*. Daniel appears regularly as sole counsel, and is comfortable leading others as well as within wider teams.

Daniel Benedyk has extensive experience of substantial and high-value commercial litigation and arbitration disputes. He has a wide-ranging practice and acts both led and unled, appearing as sole counsel in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal.

In addition to a broad spectrum of commercial disputes, Daniel has particular expertise in civil fraud cases and he has been instructed in several of the most significant disputes in this field. Recent high-profile instructions include deceit and conspiracy claims arising out of the acquisition of media rights to Italian Serie A football matches and the 2022/2026 FIFA World Cup (one of the Top 20 Cases of 2025), the alleged expropriation of an international airport in Eastern Europe, deceit and bad faith in the Saudi Arabian energy sector, international art fraud and claims arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire. Daniel's recent work includes disputes requiring the determination of complex jurisdiction, conflict of laws and state immunity issues.

Daniel also has substantial experience in banking and finance litigation. He is instructed in several of the largest claims currently before the English courts, such as (for the defendants) in the *Merricks v MasterCard* litigation brought on behalf of c.45.5m individuals, once estimated to be worth around £16.7bn, and in wide-ranging claims arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.

In arbitration, Daniel's recent work includes disputes administered under a variety of rules (e.g., SCC, SIAC, UNCITRAL) and in challenges before the High Court.

Current and recent instructions include:

- The Grenfell Tower Litigation
  Acting (with Craig Orr KC, Sophie Weber and James Fox) for a product manufacturer in high-profile civil proceedings arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire. Daniel also represented the manufacturer in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry.
- Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Ltd
  Acting (with Simon Colton KC and Constantine Fraser) for two defendants in deceit and conspiracy claims worth in excess of US$660m following the sale of a global sports media agency, whose primary business was the acquisition and international resale of media rights for sporting events. The claims concern alleged bribery, corruption and similar misconduct in the acquisition of media rights to Italian Serie A football matches and the 2022/2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Matthew Cook KC) for MasterCard in a class action lawsuit brought by c.45.5m consumers and once estimated to be worth some £16.7bn; the largest civil damages claim ever filed in the UK.
- The Umbrella Interchange Fee Litigation
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC, Matthew Cook KC and Owain Draper) for MasterCard in a class action lawsuit brought by hundreds of merchants in relation to interchange fees paid for debit and credit card transactions.
- UBS Asset Management Switzerland AG v (1) R.W. Chelsea Holdings Ltd; (2) NapCap Litd; (3) Ferranti Holdings
  Acting as sole counsel for the Claimant in claims worth c.$20m arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- Dynasty Company for Oil & Gas Trading Limited v (1) The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq; and (2) Dr Ashti Hawrami
  Acting (with Charles Kimmins KC and Richard Waller KC) for an oil and gas company in a USD$1.6bn economic torts claim against the Kurdistan Regional Government and its former Minister for Natural Resources. The case involves the determination of the entitlement to state immunity of a regional government under the fiercely-disputed Iraqi Constitution, including its authority unilaterally to exploit the area's most valuable natural resources. The case featured in The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases" for 2021.
- Credit Suisse Asset Management (Schweiz AG) vs (1) Dr Michael C. Frege (2) Greensill Bank AG
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Douglas Paine) in proceedings brought by investment funds in connection with the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- LCIA Arbitration
  Acting (with Neil Kitchener KC) for an international construction consortium in a USD120m arbitration involving allegations of deceit and bad faith in the Saudi Arabian energy sector.
- SCC Arbitration
  Acting (with James Ramsden KC) for an aviation investor in an EUR900m bilateral investment treaty arbitration arising out of the alleged expropriation of an international airport in Eastern Europe.
- The Mayor Gallery v Herta Wittgenstein
  Acting for the claimant art gallery in large-scale international art fraud. The case concerns several pieces of valuable artwork purported to have been painted by a renowned expressionist artist, but allegedly forged by her former associate.

Examples of Recent Cases

Commercial Litigation

- Abdel-Kader & Others v Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea & Others
  Acting (with Craig Orr KC) for a product manufacturer in high-profile civil proceedings arising out of the Grenfell Tower fire. Daniel also represented the manufacturer in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry.
- Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Matthew Cook KC) for MasterCard in a class action lawsuit brought by c.45.5m consumers and once estimated to be worth around £16.7bn; the largest civil damages claim ever filed in the UK.

- Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Ltd
  Acting (with Simon Colton KC and Constantine Fraser) for two defendants in claims for fraudulent misrepresentation and deceit following the sale of a majority holding in a global sports media agency, whose primary business was the acquisition and international resale of media rights for sporting events. The claims concern alleged bribery, corruption and similar misconduct in the acquisition of media rights to Italian Serie A football matches and the 2022/2026 FIFA World Cup.
- UBS Asset Management Switzerland AG v (1) R.W. Chelsea Holdings Ltd; (2) NapCap Litd; (3) Ferranti Holdings
  Acting as sole counsel for the Claimant in claims worth c.$20m arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- Dolphin Capital Partners Limited v DCI Advisors Limited
  Acting (with Camilla Bingham KC) for the Claimant in proceedings arising out of the sale of a luxury report in Porto Heli, Greece, known as "the Amanzoe".
- Dynasty Company for Oil & Gas Trading Limited v (1) The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq; and (2) Dr Ashti Hawrami
  Acting (with Charles Kimmins QC and Richard Waller QC) for an oil and gas company in a USD$1.6bn economic torts claim against the Kurdistan Regional Government and its former Minister for Natural Resources. The case featured in The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases" for 2021, and involves the determination of several matters of legal significance including: (a) the lawful exercise of the sovereign authority of Iraq; (b) validity of personal service on a former minister; and (c) whether a fair trial can be obtained in Kurdistan.
- Credit Suisse Asset Management (Schweiz AG) vs (1) Dr Michael C. Frege (2) Greensill Bank AG
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Douglas Paine) in proceedings brought by investment funds in connection with the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- UK building crisis
  Acting (with Lord Grabiner KC and Alexander Nissen KC) in proceedings arising out of the UK building crisis; in particular, in claims envisaged under the new Building Safety Act 2022.
- International energy crisis
  Acting (as sole counsel) for numerous companies in claims arising out of the international energy crisis; for instance, in claims concerning the gas hedging sector. Daniel brings particular knowledge and expertise to the wholesale and retail gas and electricity markets following a secondment at Ofgem, during which he worked on matters such as the retail price restriction for domestic customers supplied under default tariffs, smart metering, back-billing and warrants.
- International sanctions
  Advising (with Lord Wolfson KC) on the application and effect of international sanctions. Prior to the commercial Bar, Daniel gained significant experience advising on sanctions from a Magic Circle law firm's overseas office. This required a detailed and practical understanding of the nature and effect of sanctions and involved (for example) advising on international capital markets, contractual and IPO matters in a distressed sanctions-driven environment.
- Acting (with James Ramsden KC) for a large group of Russian citizens and investors in civil fraud claims worth USD137m following the dishonest asset-stripping and collapse of a major Russian bank.
- The Mayor Gallery v Herta Wittgenstein
  Acting for the claimant art gallery in a large-scale international art fraud. The case concerns several pieces of valuable artwork purported to have been painted by a renowned expressionist artist, but allegedly forged by her former associate.
- GFH Capital Limited v David Lawrence Haigh and Others
  Acting (including as sole counsel) for a Dubai-based bank in proceedings to enforce a judgment of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts against the former managing director of Leeds United Football Club. The DIFC courts found that Mr Haigh expropriated multi-million-pound sums in a sustained and sophisticated campaign of dishonesty. The case includes a detailed analysis of the common law requirements for the enforcement of a foreign judgment.
- Taylor v (1) Mohammed Khodabakhsh; (2) New Beginnings Technologies LLC; and (3) Rhino Overseas Inc
  Acting (with Richard Lissack KC) for an ultra-high-net-worth businessman in long-running proceedings to set aside a High Court judgment for having been procured by fraud. The litigation arises out of admissions of a witness that he and his co-conspirators gave perjured evidence and forged critical documents at trial. The underlying claim includes the first detailed consideration of the rule in Kendall v Hamilton (1879) 4 App. Cas. 504

- Smart Practice Expert Ltd -v- Ixcellerate Limited
  Acting (as sole counsel) for the defendant in complex commercial proceedings concerning the delivery of specialist equipment to the Russian Federation.
- Dr Salim Satir v (1) Gatehub Limited; and (2) Bitstamp Limited
  Acting (as sole counsel) for a cryptocurrency exchange in proceedings raising a range of novel issues including the legal consequences of the transfer of cryptocurrency "bonds" on the secondary market.
- Acting (as sole counsel) for a cryptocurrency exchange in several different proceedings arising out of the "hard fork" by which Bitcoin Cash was credited to cryptocurrency investors.
- First Boston Global Custody and Trust Company v Bacavalley Energy Pte Ltd
  Acting for an industrial group based in Singapore and the Philippines in proceedings arising out of the allegedly unlawful termination of a joint venture agreement for the development of a waste-to-energy facility.
- Acting as an advisor on English banking law (with Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, PC) for a financial institution incorporated in Singapore in a USD43m claim for mis-delivery of gasoil which a carrier was transporting from Taiwan. This case arises out of the bankruptcy of a major Singaporean entity caused by oil price speculation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Acting as an advisor on English insolvency law (with Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, PC) for an international financial institution in long-running proceedings worth c.USD440m arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- Junior for the claimants in a multi-million-pound fraud claim, involving complex multi-jurisdictional transactions (the UK, Netherlands and Moldova) where it is alleged that the UBO was unlawfully deprived of assets valued at hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Sole counsel for the claimant in proceedings arising out of the theft of a large quantity of expensive wine. The case raises issues in bailment, wrongful interference with goods and fraudulent misrepresentation.
- Acting for the defendant contesting allegations of serious breaches of warranties and misrepresentation following the Icelandic banking crisis.

Arbitration

- ICSID Proceedings
  Acting for an Estonian investor in an arbitration concerning the alleged expropriation of significant real estate assets.
- SCC Proceedings
  Acting for an aviation investor in a high-profile and long-running EUR900 million bilateral investment treaty arbitration against a state following the alleged expropriation of an international airport.
- SIAC Proceedings
  Acting for the contractor in a SIAC arbitration concerning the design and construction of a road of national significance in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- Rail infrastructure arbitration concerning disputes between rail network operators and electricity cable maintenance providers.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acting (with Neil Kitchener KC) for an international construction consortium in a USD120m arbitration concerning the Saudi Arabian gas and renewable energy sectors.

Banking and Financial Services

Daniel has extensive experience of banking and financial services disputes having worked in the Enforcement Division of the Financial Conduct Authority, during which he advised on a range of high-profile financial services disputes and conducted enforcement cases.

Recent instructions include:

- Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Matthew Cook KC) for MasterCard in a class action lawsuit brought by c.45.5m consumers and once estimated to be worth around £16.7bn; the largest civil damages claim ever filed in the UK.
- UBS Asset Management Switzerland AG v (1) R.W. Chelsea Holdings Ltd; (2) NapCap Litd; (3) Ferranti

Holdings
Acting as sole counsel for the Claimant in claims worth c.$20m arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.

- **Credit Suisse Asset Management (Schweiz AG) vs (1) Dr Michael C. Frege (2) Greensill Bank AG**
  Acting (with Sonia Tolaney KC and Douglas Paine) in proceedings brought by investment funds in connection with the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- Acting as an advisor on English banking law (with Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, PC) for a financial institution incorporated in Singapore in a USD43m claim for mis-delivery of gasoil which a carrier was transporting from Taiwan. This case arises out of the bankruptcy of a major Singaporean entity caused by oil price speculation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Acting as an advisor on English insolvency law (with Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, PC) for an international financial institution in long-running proceedings worth c.USD440m arising out of the collapse of the Greensill group of companies.
- Acting (with James Ramsden KC) for a large group of Russian citizens and investors in civil fraud claims worth USD137m arising out of the dishonest asset-stripping and collapse of a major Russian bank.
- **GFH Capital Limited v David Lawrence Haigh and Others**
  Acting for a Dubai-based bank in proceedings to enforce a judgment of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts against the former managing director of Leeds United Football Club. The DIFC courts found that Mr Haigh expropriated multi-million-pound sums in a sustained and sophisticated campaign of dishonesty. The case includes a detailed analysis of the common law requirements for the enforcement of a foreign judgment.
- Sole counsel for the Financial Conduct Authority advising on the regulation and authorisation of peer-to-peer lending, with a particular focus on Article 36H of the Regulated Activities Order, collective investment schemes and alternative investment funds.
- Advising the Prudential Regulation Authority in an investigation arising out of a major financial institution's regulatory reporting.
- Advising the Financial Ombudsman Service frequently as sole counsel across the scope of its jurisdiction.
- Acting for the defendant contesting allegations of serious breaches of warranties and misrepresentation during the Icelandic banking crisis.
- **R. (on the application of THL Insurance Services Limited) v The Financial Ombudsman Service**
  Sole counsel for the Financial Ombudsman Service in the judicial review of a decision of its Ombudsman.

Construction and Energy

- **Abdel-Kader & Others v Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea & Others**
  Acting (with Craig Orr KC) for a product manufacturer in high-profile civil proceedings following the Grenfell Tower fire. Daniel also represented the manufacturer in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry. This matter has unprecedented significance for the construction, manufacturing, regulatory and fire-fighting industries.
- **LCIA Proceedings**
  Acting (with Neil Kitchener KC) for an international construction consortium in a USD120m arbitration concerning the Saudi Arabian gas and renewable energy sectors.
- **UK building crisis**
  Acting (with Lord Grabiner KC) in proceedings arising out of the UK building crisis; in particular, in claims envisaged under the new Building Safety Act 2022.
- **International energy crisis**
  Acting (as sole counsel) for numerous companies in claims arising out of the international energy crisis; for instance, in claims concerning the gas hedging sector. Daniel brings particular knowledge and expertise to the wholesale and retail gas and electricity markets following a secondment at Ofgem, during which he worked on matters such as the retail price restriction for domestic customers supplied under default tariffs, smart metering, back-billing and warrants.
- **SIAC Proceedings**
  Acting for the contractor in a SIAC arbitration concerning the design and construction of a road of national significance in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (FIDIC Pink Book).
- Acting (with Richard Wilmot-Smith KC) for the contractor in final account adjudication proceedings, raising

a broad spectrum of issues including practical completion, partial possession, extensions of time and liquidated damages (JCT 2011 Standard Building Contract Without Quantities).

- Acting (with Jess Connors) for the contractor in an extension of time dispute arising out of the construction and refurbishment of a major food manufacturing facility (JCT 2011 Standard Building Contract Without Quantities).
- Sole counsel for the employer in TCC proceedings involving the delayed and defective construction of an education college and offices.
- Sole counsel for the contractor in adjudication proceedings concerning multiple variations, forced phasing of construction works and the imposition of various impediments during the course of a lengthy project (JCT 2011 Standard Building Contract Without Quantities).
- Sole counsel for the main contractor in adjudication proceedings against a sub-contractor involving issues of repudiatory breach, contractual termination and the submission of the sub-contractor's final account (JCT 2011 Design and Build Sub-Contract).
- Sole counsel for the defendant in a claim concerning the allegedly defective construction of luxury accommodation, raising complex issues of contractual interpretation and rectification.
- Sole counsel in various claims for the defective and dangerous construction of new-build residential developments.
- Advising on a complex suite of rail contracts (in particular performance regimes) following an incident causing significant damage to infrastructure, delays and cancellations.

Regulation

Daniel frequently advises and represents a diverse range of regulators, including as sole counsel in judicial review proceedings. He has a particular experience in disputes with a commercial or financial element, and his instructions extend to matters involving the Financial Conduct Authority, the Financial Ombudsman Service, Ofgem, the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Matters include:

- Advising the Financial Conduct Authority on the regulation and authorisation of peer-to-peer lending.
- Advising Ofgem on the retail price restriction for domestic customers supplied under default tariffs, smart metering, back-billing and warrants.
- Representing the Financial Ombudsman Service as sole counsel in judicial review proceedings before the High Court, and advising it regularly across the scope of its jurisdiction.
- Advising the Prudential Regulation Authority in an investigation arising out of a major financial institution's regulatory reporting.
- **Ekperigin v Bar Standards Board**
  Sole counsel for the Bar Standards Board in an appeal concerning the regulation of pupillage.
- **R. (on the application of Ogun) v Solicitors Regulation Authority**
  Sole counsel for the Solicitors Regulation Authority in judicial review proceedings concerning the regulation of higher rights of audience.
- Sole counsel for the Solicitors Regulation Authority in long-running BVI trust litigation.
- Sole counsel for the Solicitors Regulation Authority in its investigation into the "ground rent scandal" (i.e., exponentially increasing charges levied by freeholders on long-term leaseholders causing purchasers to become unable to re-mortgage or move home).
- Advising the Office for Students on decisions to refuse the registration of higher education providers.

What the Directories Say

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil) "He is very good at getting into the detail whilst maintaining his commercial significance."

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil) "He is strategic about how he does things, and his drafting is very clear and concise."

Legal 500 2026 (Commercial Litigation) "A star of his generation. Extraordinarily hard-working, legally gifted, self-starter whose work is of the highest quality."

Legal 500 2026 (Banking and Finance (including consumer credit)) "Daniel is a fantastic strategist and advocate."

Legal 500 2026 (Group Litigation) "He is hard-working, very able, responsive and supportive."

Legal 500 2026 (Fraud: Civil) "An intelligent, reliable barrister with a focused approach."

Legal 500 2026 (Competition)

Legal 500 2025 (Banking & Finance) *"Daniel is an excellent all round commercial junior. He has a real ability to get to the heart of a problem and to make it simple, and also to keep the court focused upon that heart."*

Legal 500 2025 (Commercial Litigation) *"Daniel is a truly outstanding junior barrister. His command of the authorities, facts and evidence is exceptional, and he is able to synthesise those into clear and concise written submissions."*

Legal 500 2025 (Fraud: Civil) *"Daniel is thorough and persuasive. He prepares well and assimilates facts quickly. A bright junior."*

Legal 500 2025 (Group Litigation)

Legal 500 2024 (Fraud: Civil) *'A star of his generation. An extraordinarily hardworking, legally-gifted, self-starter, whose work is of the highest quality.'*

Legal 500 2024 (Group Litigation)

Qualifications

2015: Solicitor (England and Wales)
2013: Legal Practice Course (Distinction)
2011: De Hart Prize in Law (Christ's College, University of Cambridge)
2011: BA, Law, Christ's College, University of Cambridge (First Class)

Awards

Chambers TOP RANKED UK Bar 2026 One Essex Court

LEADING JUNIOR Legal500 UNITED KINGDOM 2026

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