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Hannah Brown KC

Barrister
Call 1992 Silk 2017

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Energy and Natural Resources • Injunctions and Other Interim Relief • Insurance and Reinsurance • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws

Overview

Recommended by both Chambers UK and Legal 500, Hannah Brown is a commercial lawyer with a substantial litigation, international and domestic commercial arbitration and advisory practice, with particular expertise in banking and finance. She also has considerable experience in cases involving allegations of large-scale fraud and asset tracing actions.

In addition to her experience before the High and Appellate Courts, Hannah has appeared before a range of arbitral tribunals, including LCIA, ICC and in ad hoc proceedings governed by UNCITRAL. She also has experience of the laws and legal system of Russia and is fluent in French.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration

- **Confidential LCIA Arbitration**
  Acting for an African parastatal minority shareholder in an arbitration concerned with the vailidity of a purported cash management services agreement and the transfer of US$520 million between a mining company and members of the majority sharholder's group. Successfully resisted applications for urgent injunctive relief concerning related criminal proceedings and alleged breaches of confidentiality.
- **Confidential LCIA Arbitration**
  LCIA Arbitration under Settlement Agreement alleging breach of the agreement by the Bank initiating criminal proceedings in Kazakhstan and Russia.
- **Confidential Arbitration Claim**
  Acting for an African parastatal in an arbitration claim seeking to set aside an Award made in UNCITRAL proceedings in relation to a derivative claim valued at circa. US$267 million. Arbitration claim made under section 68(2)(a), (d) and (g) of the Arbitration Act 1996, namely serious irregularity by reason of failure of Tribunal to comply with section 33 of the Act and to deal with all the issues put to it and procurement of the Award by fraud.

- LCIA Proceeding
  Advising and representing Russian Clients in US$10 million arbitration arising out of English law SPA to purchase substantial café chain. Issues concerning construction and application of purchase price adjustment clause and claims under working capital warranty, restrictive covenants and other express provisions of the SPA.
- LCIA Proceedings
  For Claimant company, in proceedings alleging breach of contractual obligations, under a management agreement, relating to intermodal containers, entitling the owners to terminate.
- UNCITRAL Proceedings
  For the Respondent wholly owned subsidiary of a Russian State owned oil company, defending 2 separate and very substantial (approx $640m and $750m respectively) multi jurisdictional claims by a French energy major arising from issues concerning the sale of the majority interest / participation in two oil companies, being the owners of licenses to operate in two large adjoining Siberian oil fields.
- ICC Proceedings
  Defending US$100m insurance arbitration claim, arising in connection with liability insurance excess of loss cover of US pharmaceutical companies.
- ICC Proceedings
  For Zambia, defending ($160m) ICC proceedings concerning the Zambian National Lottery.
- Arbitration Proceedings
  For representative Name before Lord Bridge in proceedings arising on the construction of Holman Wade Stop Loss Policy wording for the purpose of determining the construction to be applied for Reconstruction and Renewal.
- Arbitration Proceedings
  For Reinsured in arbitral proceedings under Variable Quota Share Treaty on issues including title to sue, illegality (categorisation of business and s.132 FSA 1986), limitation and subsequently on Reinsurer's application for leave to appeal to the Commercial Court on limitation and illegality issues.
- Arbitration Proceedings
  Acting in arbitral and subsequent high court proceedings brought under Quota Share Treaties arising out of a dispute concerning the nature of a direct and facultative account and negligent underwriting, continuing duty of disclosure and affirmation.

Banking and Financial Services

- Crane Bank Limited & Ors v DRCU Bank Limited & Ors
  Acting for Ugandan Bank and its shareholders in proceedings alleging unlawful means conspiracy in relation to the take over and resolution of the Bank by the Bank of Uganda and involving the sale of the substantial part of its assets and liabilities to the First Defendant. Raising issues concerning act of state.
- Various Claimants v Gulf Bank
  Acting for Defendant Bank in proceedings in Queen's Bench Division and Commercial Court alleging involvement in terrorist financing in Syria. Raising issues concerning state immunity. Judgments include [2021] EWHC 1499 (QB); [2021] EWHC 2551 (QB)
- AELF MSN 242, LLC v SURINAM AIRWAYS
  Acting for Claimant aircraft leasing company in claim under settlement agreement. Raising service issues including under State Immunity Act. [2021] EWHC 3482 (Comm)
- Confidential LCIA Arbitration
  Acting for an African parastatal minority shareholder in an arbitration concerned with the validity of a purported cash management services agreement and the transfer of US$520 million between a mining company and members of the majority shareholder's group. Successfully resisted applications for urgent injunctive relief concerning related criminal proceedings and alleged breaches of confidentiality.
- Evison Holdings Ltd v LLC Finvision & Orient Express Bank PJSC [2019] EWHC 3057 (Comm)
  Successfully defended application for anti-suit injunction against client bank based on allegation of collusion with co-defendant to impede arbitration proceedings.
- AMC III Purple BV v Amethyst Radiotherapy Ltd [2019] EWHC 1503 (Comm)
  Acting on successful application for summary judgment (and resisting application for a stay) under mezzanine finance agreements.
- Libyan Investment Authority v Societe Generale & Ors

Acting for the defendant bank in connection with multi-billion dollar claims brought by the Libyan sovereign wealth fund alleging fraud and corruption, with particular responsibility for regulatory and compliance issues.

- **Open Joint Stock Company Alfa-Bank v. Georgy Trefilov [2014] EWHC 1806 (Comm)**
  Advising and representing Russian Bank in proceedings, including successful summary judgment application, to enforce Russian judgment. Defendant raising allegations of fraud and alleging Russian proceedings conducted in breach of natural justice and enforcement would be contrary to public policy.
- **MTMR Realty LLC & another v NEVEQ Capital Partners Limited & Others (Comm)**
  For Claimants in complex claim arising out of investments in a Limited Partnership investment vehicle providing venture capital investment in Bulgaria and Romania; involving allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation, conflict of interest, breach of fiduciary duties and duties of good faith and fair dealing. Involving foreign law issues including Californian and Bulgarian law issues.
- **Ramiiilaj (A Limited Partnership) & Ors v. Marquess of Milford Haven & Ors (Comm)**
  For Schroders Trust, defending a claim involving substantial allegations of fraud against beneficiaries under trust arising in circumstances where shareholders of uSwitch Ltd claim they were dishonestly induced to sell their shareholdings in uSwitch at a gross undervalue.
- **Credit Suisse Trust Ltd & Anr v. Ansbacher & Co Ltd, and Goodarzi**
  For Claimant administrators and beneficiaries of the Blue Sky Trust, in Commercial Court proceedings concerning a dispute with the investment management company arising out of the acquisition of a 50% stake in an SPV; Involving allegations of serious breach of fiduciary duty and conflict of interest.
- **Equity Special Situtations v. Landsbanki Islands HF (Ch)**
  For Claimant hedge fund, arising out of the Icelandic banking and global economic crisis, in successful and urgent applications to prevent the sale of £12m in shares.
- **BBGP Managing General Partner Ltd & Ors v. Babcock & Brown Global Partners (Ch)**
  Defending claims over legally privileged advice in the context of ongoing fund management litigation.
- Advising bond holders in relation to 2 separate and potential proceedings concerning potential default on and restructure / amendment of US$500m and UD$200m Ukrainian loan notes.
- **Donegal International Ltd v. The Republic of Zambia & Anr [2007] EWHC 197 (Comm)**
  For Zambia, in (US$55m) Commercial Court proceedings arising over Sovereign Debt acquired by commercial creditors and involving allegations of corruption.

Commercial Litigation

- **[redacted]Crane Bank Limited & Ors v DRCU Bank Limited & Ors**
  Acting for Ugandan Bank and its shareholders in proceedings alleging unlawful means conspiracy in relation to the take over and resolution of the Bank by the Bank of Uganda and involving the sale of the substantial part of its assets and liabilities to the First Defendant. Raising issues concerning the act of state doctrine.
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- **Atlas Residential Solutions Management UK Lts & Anor v Greengate SARL [2019] EWHC 2788 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 366 (Comm)**
  Successfully defending application for an interim injunction to require the client to allow the Applicants to resume management of £100 million BTR property in Manchester and then, following trial, the claim alleging wrongful termination of the property management contract.
- **Confidential Arbitration Claim**
  Acting for an African parastatal in an arbitration claim seeking to set aside an Award made in UNCITRAL

proceedings in relation to a derivative claim valued at circa. US$267 million. Arbitration claim made under section 68(2)(a), (d) and (g) of the Arbitration Act 1996, namely serious irregularity by reason of failure of Tribunal to comply with section 33 of the Act and to deal with all the issues put to it and procurement of the Award by fraud.

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  Successfully acted for the claimants in connection with libel proceedings brought in the US arising out of the publication by Buzzfeed of the Trump Dossier. Opposing application by Christopher Steele to set aside an order made under section 2 Evidence (proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act 1975 that Mr Steele be subject to examination.
- Sir Owen Glenn & Anr v Eric Watson & Others (Ch)
  A very substantial claim (c.£125million) arising out of property investments in the UK. Involving complex issues of trust law and allegations of fraud.
- Libyan Investment Authority v Societe Generale & Ors
  Acting for the defendant bank in connection with multi-billion dollar claims brought by the Libyan sovereign wealth fund alleging fraud and corruption, with particular responsibility for regulatory and compliance issues.
- Harrington Scott Ltd v Kinross Gold Corp & Anr (QB)
  Defending claim for $4.1million under executive search contract involving complex jurisdiction, service and conflicts of law issues. Successfully struck out the proceedings.
- Nelly Caby v. (1) Guy Chomette (2) Charlotte Chomette (Ch)
  A claim for £1+million arising out of the alleged misappropriation of client's monies, involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, breach of trust and undue influence and knowing receipt. Acting against litigants in person. Required fluent French.
- Open Joint Stock Company Alfa-Bank v. Georgy Trefilov [2014] EWHC 1806 (Comm)
  Advising and representing Russian Bank in proceedings, including successful summary judgment application, to enforce Russian judgment. Defendant raising allegations of fraud and alleging Russian proceedings conducted in breach of natural justice and enforcement would be contrary to public policy.
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  Advising and representing Claimants in complex claim arising out of investments in a Limited Partnership investment vehicle providing venture capital investment in Bulgaria and Romania; involving allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation, conflict of interest, breach of fiduciary duties and duties of good faith and fair dealing. Involving foreign law issues including Californian and Bulgarian law issues.
- East Star Shipping holding Ltd & Ors v Mr S S Pai (QB)
  For Claimants in claim arising out of an alleged fraudulent conspiracy involving the establishment of a competing business in breach of fiduciary and other duties and misuse of confidential information and diversion of business opportunities. Involving issues of foreign law. Claim commencing with without notice application for a worldwide freezing injunction, search order and passport delivery up order.
- Kanev-Lipinksi v Lipinski (QB)
  For Applicant obtaining a without notice worldwide freezing injunction and computer imaging order under the Civil Jurisdiction & Judgments Act 1982 in support of proceedings in Israel.
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  For Claimant company, in proceedings alleging breach of contractual obligations, under a management agreement, relating to intermodal containers, entitling the owners to terminate.
- **Ryanair Ltd v. SR Technics Ireland Ltd [2007] EWHC 3089 (QB)**
  For Ryanair Ltd, where the failure of SRT to obtain the consent of the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) to the grant of a licence for Ryanair to occupy hangar space at Dublin Airport, or in the alternative the failure to make available to Ryanair hangar space at that airport, constituted a breach on the part of SRT of its contractual obligations.
- **Gambit Corporate Finance v. Hunt & Anr (2009)**
  For Defendants, in trial of claim for fees arising out of financial services advice given in connection with sale of care homes business.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

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- Complete Retreats Liquidating Trust v. Logue & Ors [2010] EWHC 1864 (Ch)
  For Applicant, in expedited 2-day injunctive proceedings in the Chancery Division under the Civil Jurisdiction & Judgments Act 1982 in support of proceedings before the US Bankruptcy Court in respect of transfer of money and real property alleged to have been fraudulent and made at an under and preferential value.
- Itsalat International Co Ltd & Anr v. Alkadhi & Ors [2009] EWHC 1265 (Ch)
  For Claimant companies, in proceedings in fraud brought against the Alkadhi Brothers and their company Ramy Ltd. The claims consisted, inter alia, of serious and dishonest breaches of fiduciary duties and analogous duties that the Alkadhi Brothers owed to the Claimants under Saudi law and misappropriation of the Claimants' monies.
- Attorney General of Zambia v. Meer Care Desai (a firm) & Ors [2007] EWHC 952 (Ch); [2008] EWCA Civ 754 (Boutique Basile); [2008] EWCA Civ 875 (Main Action)
  For Zambia, in a claim for fraud and corruption, alleging theft involving a secret service bank account in London and a fictitious arms contract and US$100m loan facility. The trial (4 months at first instance), involved allegations of misappropriation and laundering of Government monies through bank accounts (including solicitor client accounts) in London and other jurisdictions. For related litigation see below and: Republic of Zambia v. Meer Care Desai (a firm) & Ors [2005] EWHC 2102 (Ch); [2006] EWHC 1179 (Ch); [2006] EWCA 390; [2006] 1 CLC 436; [2008] EWCA Civ 1007
- Donegal International Ltd v. The Republic of Zambia & Anr [2007] EWHC 197 (Comm)
  For Zambia, defending Commercial Court proceedings in a claim ($55m) arising over Sovereign Debt acquired by commercial creditors and involving allegations of corruption.
- ICC Proceedings
  For Zambia, defending ($160m) ICC proceedings concerning the Zambian National Lottery.
- CIBC Mellon Trust Co & Ors v. Stolzenberg & Ors [2003] EWHC 13 (Ch); [2004] EWCA Civ 117; [2004] EWHC 413 (Ch); [2004] EWCA Civ 827; [2005] CILL 2237; [2005] 2 BCLC 618
  For the Claimant, in the long running claim in fraud. Issues of jurisdiction and conflicts of law, worldwide asset freezing, asset tracing, lifting the corporate veil, trust issues, issues of law relating to fraudulent conspiracy and numerous procedural issues.

Energy and Natural Resources

- UNCITRAL Proceedings
  For the Respondent wholly owned subsidiary of a Russian State owned oil company, defending 2 separate and very substantial (approx $640m and $750m respectively) multi jurisdictional claims by a French energy major

arising from issues concerning the sale of the majority interest / participation in two oil companies, being the owners of licenses to operate in two large adjoining Siberian oil fields.

Injunctions and Other Interim Relief

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  For Claimant hedge fund, arising out of the Icelandic banking and global economic crisis, in successful and urgent applications to prevent the sale of £12m in shares.
- **Ryanair v IAS (QB)**
  For Applicant, obtaining without notice and then on notice mandatory injunction requiring the Defendant to provide services in respect of Ryanair's fleet operating out of the UK.
- **Complete Retreats Liquidating Trust v. Logue & Ors (Ch)**
  For Applicant, in expedited 2-day injunctive proceedings in the Chancery Division under the Civil Jurisdiction & Judgments Act 1982 in support of proceedings before the US Bankruptcy Court in respect of transfer of money and real property alleged to have been fraudulent and made at an under and preferential value.
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  For the Claimant, in the long running claim in fraud. Issues of jurisdiction and conflicts of law, worldwide asset freezing, asset tracing, lifting the corporate veil, trust issues, issues of law relating to fraudulent conspiracy and numerous procedural issues.

Insurance and Reinsurance

- **ICC Proceedings**
  Defending US$100m insurance arbitration claim, arising in connection with liability insurance excess of loss cover of US pharmaceutical companies.
- **Arbuthnott v. Feltrim Underwriting Agencies (No. 2)**
  For Names in a group action concerning negligent underwriting of LMX reinsurance business and negligent advice of Members' Agents.
- **Brown v. KMR Services Ltd; Sword-Daniels v. Pitel & Ors [1994] 4 All ER 385**

Test case portfolio selection. For Names in portfolio selection actions and in subsequent Order 14 proceedings brought by Lloyd's against non-accepting Names.

- Arbitration Proceedings
  For representative Name before Lord Bridge in proceedings arising on the construction of Holman Wade Stop Loss Policy wording for the purpose of determining the construction to be applied for Reconstruction and Renewal.
- Arbitration Proceedings
  For Reinsured in arbitral proceedings under Variable Quota Share Treaty on issues including title to sue, illegality (categorisation of business and s.132 FSA 1986), limitation and subsequently on Reinsurer's application for leave to appeal to the Commercial Court on limitation and illegality issues.
- Arbitration Proceedings
  Acting in arbitral and subsequent high court proceedings brought under Quota Share Treaties arising out of a dispute concerning the nature of a direct and facultative account and negligent underwriting, continuing duty of disclosure and affirmation.

What the Directories Say

"Hannah is a superb advocate. She is very good with clients, very good on her feet, very collaborative, fights clients' corners hard and is always very prepared." (Chambers UK 2027 - Banking & Finance)

"Hannah is always super up for a discussion of things at short notice, very responsive and happy to be part of the team; super sharp and client-friendly." (Chambers UK 2027 - Banking & Finance)

"She is excellent. Her advocacy is cut-throat and take no prisoners, and she is on point. She is clever and awesome." (Chambers UK 2027 - Banking & Finance)

"Hannah's advocacy and ability to get over the detail of a matter are second to none. She has brilliant strategic instincts and is a delight to work with." (Chambers UK 2027 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah is an excellent advocate whose hands-on approach always helps to deliver top quality service to my clients. She is very knowledgeable and not afraid to come up with extraordinary solutions. She is also a great listener and her analytical skills are second to none." (Chambers UK 2027 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah's advocacy is cutthroat; she takes no prisoners." (Chambers UK 2027 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah just gets on with it. She has a no-nonsense approach." (Chambers UK 2027 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah is very strong on her feet and has a keen analytical mind." (Chambers UK 2027 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She is excellent; her advocacy is cut-throat. She takes no prisoners and is on point. She is awesome." (Chambers UK 2027 - Fraud: Civil)

"Hannah Brown is a superb advocate; very good with clients and very collaborative. Her style is very robust in a way that is convincing to the court." (Chambers UK 2027 - Fraud: Civil)

"Hannah is a very experienced barrister who can provide succinct and to-the-point advice under tight deadlines. She is a great team player and will always make herself available when urgent assistance is required. Her commitment to the case and commercial acumen are second to none." (Legal 500 2027 - Banking and finance (Consumer Credit))

"Hannah is a very experienced advocate who is very efficient, attentive to detail, and able to provide concise advice promptly. She is a great team player, very commercially aware, and her advocacy style is sharp, succinct, and punchy - she is always well prepared." (Legal 500 2027 - Commercial Litigation)

"Hannah is a brilliant advocate, excellent to work with and a master of the detail." (Chambers UK 2026 - Banking & Finance)

"She is very smart and an amazing advocate. You can put your faith in her to do a good job." (Chambers UK 2026 - Banking & Finance)

"She is excellent at oral advocacy. She is forthright in her delivery style, has good instincts as to which points to take and builds a good rapport with the judge." (Chambers UK 2026 - Banking & Finance)

"Hannah is an outstanding lawyer and advocate who is always on top of the matters. She is very responsive and not afraid of challenges." (Chambers UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah is a brilliant advocate who is excellent to work with and a master of the detail. Clients adore her." (Chambers UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She has an authority with tribunals, which deserves mention." (Chambers UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah is quick-thinking and unflappable on her feet. She is a delight to work with." (Chambers UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah has excellent oral advocacy and is forthright in her delivery style. She has good instincts as to which points to take and a good rapport with the judge." (Chambers UK 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"An excellent advocate who is thorough in her preparation and exceptional on her feet." (Legal 500 2026 - Banking and Finance)

"Hannah is a powerful advocate, who is always well prepared. Her communication skills are second to none." (Legal 500 2026 - Commercial Litigation)

"A really capable barrister." (Chambers UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah Brown is an excellent court advocate." (Chambers UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Hannah is very responsive and her advice is clear. Her drafting is very focused and she is a powerful advocate who keeps the judge's attention." (Chambers UK 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Excellent to work with, very intelligent, and is always all across the case law." (Legal 500 - Banking and Finance)

"*A very personable and tenacious advocate.*" (Legal 500)

"she is simply perfect in all respects - very smart and wonderful at handling complex ideas." (Chambers UK)

"Has a practice spanning banking, negligence, insurance and fraud. She also has specialist experience in international commercial arbitration. "She's brilliant. She's very clever, fun to be around and good with clients." (Chambers UK)

"Has a wide-ranging practice with notable experience in banking, negligence, insurance and fraud matters. She also has substantial expertise in international commercial arbitration." (Chambers UK)

"Brilliant in every aspect." (Chambers UK)

"terrifically hard-working, has an excellent reputation"due to her efficient and analytical approach to banking and finance matters." (Chambers UK)

Awards

LEADING SILK
Legal500
UNITED KINGDOM
2026

Chambers
TOP RANKED
UK
Bar
2026
One Essex Court

ONE ESSEX COURT

Contact Clerks



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