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Harry Stratton

Barrister
Call 2021

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Commercial Litigation • Civil Fraud and Economic Torts • Financial Sanctions • Injunctions • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Tax and Revenue

Overview

Harry's practice spans the full spectrum of international commercial disputes, but centres on secrets and lies – fraud, bribery, and libel claims, especially with a conflict of laws or jurisdictional element. As part of a team, he has acted in some of the largest and most complex pieces of litigation in history, including for 1MDB, Skat, and Russian and Ukrainian oligarchs – three of them featured in The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases for the year.

He regularly acts as sole counsel in the High Court and Court of Appeal, including representing MeToo complainants against prominent public figures. He also appears in offshore proceedings, tax appeals and arbitrations.

Before joining One Essex Court, Harry qualified as a solicitor in Australia in 2018; worked at a magic circle firm in London; and won the world championships of the Jessup moot, the largest and most prestigious mooting competition in the world.

Outside of work, Harry's hobbies are more work. He maintains a lively pro bono practice (and is on the 2025 Pro Bono Recognition List), including establishing that it is not defamatory to denounce someone as the Antichrist, and making a claim of racial discrimination against Oxford University. He is one of the co-authors of the leading textbook on English court rules, *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure* (4th ed and 5th ed forthcoming), and sits on the General Council of the Bar. He previously taught advocacy to undergraduate mooters at Oxford University and Sydney University. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and has been called to the Bar of the Republic of Ireland.

Work Highlights

Led (in the High Court and Court of Appeal):

- **Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan**
  Defending a Swiss bank in a billion-dollar claim for bribery and money laundering brought by Kuwait's national pension fund. One of the largest fraud disputes ever heard in the English High Court and one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Camilla Bingham KC and Amy Rogers KC.)
- **Gorbachev v Guriev**
  Acting in the Court of Appeal and in permission to appeal to the Supreme Court for offshore trustees caught in a dispute between two Russian oligarchs. (Led by Richard Mott and Sam O'Leary.)

- Skatteforvaltningen v Solo Capital Partners LLP
  Acting for the Danish tax authorities in a £1.5 billion claim for withholding tax fraud, carried out through a complex series of swaps and derivatives. In the words of Foxton J, "one of the largest and most complex pieces of litigation to be heard in the Commercial Court" and one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Michael Fealy KC and Jamie Goldsmith KC among others.)
- Privatbank v Bogolyubov
  Acting for a Ukrainian oligarch in a US$4.2 billion fraud claim brought by Ukraine's state-owned bank. One of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Clare Montgomery KC.)
- Bourlakova v Bourlakov
  Acting for the wife of a Russian oligarch in a US$3 billion fraud claim against her estranged husband. (Led by Matthew Cook KC.)
- Seahawk v Gold Dragon
  Defending a Lau family entity in a US$1 billion claim in the Cayman Islands for breach of fiduciary duty. Mrs Lau (Zhang Yin) was previously the wealthiest self-made woman in the world. (Led by Graham Chapman KC.)
- Confidential Instruction
  Acting for a FTSE-100 company in a dispute with a whistleblower and a national tabloid newspaper concerning breach of confidence and non-disclosure/non-disparagement agreements. (Led by Alexander Polley KC.)
- 1MDB v White & Case LLP
  Assisting the Malaysian sovereign wealth fund in a billion-pound claim against a leading global law firm in the High Court of Malaya.
- Various Claimants v G4S
  Acting for G4S in shareholder group litigation pursuant to section 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and in criminal proceedings for fraud against former executives. (Led by Laurence Rabinowitz KC.)
- FC Shipping v HMRC
  Acting in the tax tribunals for a subsidiary of the Vroon Shipping Group in a dispute concerning anti-avoidance provisions. (Led by Julian Ghosh KC.)

As Sole Counsel (in the High Court and Court of Appeal):

- Various Young Women v Various Prominent Public Figures
  Acting unled in MeToo claims for libel, breach of confidence, and harassment against various prominent public figures.
- A Journalist v An Oligarch
  Acting unled for a journalist and activist against a foreign oligarch represented by Carter-Ruck LLP.
- R (Balakrishnan) v Oxford University & Office of Independent Adjudicator
  Representing an international student alleging her wrongful exclusion from Oxford University, including on the basis of racial discrimination.
- Re Festicket
  Acting unled against Thomas Munby KC in a million-pound insolvency claim on behalf of creditors asserting particular funds were held on trust for them.
- Hayes v Pack
  Acting (including unled) for the Liberal Democrats in proceedings brought by a failed candidate for the Party's presidency.
- Ukraine/Russian Sanctions
  Advising parties dealing with sanctioned individuals and the supply of dual use goods following the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Examples of Recent Cases

Commercial Litigation

- **Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan**
  Defending a Swiss bank in a billion-dollar claim for bribery and money laundering brought by Kuwait's national pension fund. One of the largest fraud disputes ever heard in the English High Court and one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Camilla Bingham KC and Amy Rogers KC.)
- **Gorbachev v Guriev**
  Acting in the Court of Appeal and in permission to appeal to the Supreme Court for offshore trustees caught in a dispute between two Russian oligarchs. (Led by Richard Mott and Sam O'Leary.)
- **Skatteforvaltningen v Solo Capital Partners LLP**
  Acting for the Danish tax authorities in a £1.5 billion claim for withholding tax fraud, carried out through a complex series of swaps and derivatives. In the words of Foxton J, "one of the largest and most complex pieces of litigation to be heard in the Commercial Court" and one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Michael Fealy KC and Jamie Goldsmith KC among others.)
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  Acting for a Ukrainian oligarch in a US$4.2 billion fraud claim brought by Ukraine's state-owned bank. One of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Clare Montgomery KC.)
- **Bourlakova v Bourlakov**
  Acting for the wife of a Russian oligarch in a US$3 billion fraud claim against her estranged husband. (Led by Matthew Cook KC.)
- **1MDB v White & Case LLP**
  Assisting the Malaysian sovereign wealth fund in a billion-pound claim against a leading global law firm in the High Court of Malaya.
- **Vale SA v Steinmetz**
  As a pupil, assisting in acting for a Brazilian mining conglomerate in a US$1.8 billion claim in relation to foreign corrupt practices, including alleged bribery of a former President and First Lady of the Republic of Guinea. (Led by Sonia Tolaney KC.)
- **Lonestar Communications v Kaye**
  As a pupil, assisted in acting for Orange in Commercial Court proceedings arising out of alleged cyberattacks on a telecommunications company in Liberia, involving allegations of vicarious liability for economic torts in connection with the alleged cyberattacks. One of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of the year. (Led by Neil Kitchener KC.)

Offshore

- **Seahawk v Gold Dragon**
  Defending a Lau family entity in a US$1 billion claim in the Cayman Islands for breach of fiduciary duty. Mrs Lau (Zhang Yin) was previously the wealthiest self-made woman in the world. (Led by Graham Chapman KC.)
- **African Minerals (AML) v Madison Pacific & Shandong Iron & Steel**
  Acting in proceedings in Bermuda arising out of an alleged unlawful means conspiracy by a Chinese mining group to appropriate an interest in an African metals mine, claiming hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. (Led by Camilla Bingham KC.)

Tax and Revenue

- **FC Shipping v HMRC**
  Acting in the tax tribunals for a subsidiary of the Vroon Shipping Group in a dispute concerning anti-avoidance provisions. (Led by Julian Ghosh KC.)
- **ScottishPower v HMRC**
  At Linklaters, acted for the taxpayer in a tax appeal concerning whether the taxpayer could deduct penalties and redress required by a regulator.
- At Linklaters, acting in a confidential tax dispute concerning a £2 billion tax avoidance claim against a major UK bank.

Arbitration

- Confidential SCC arbitration concerning a shareholder valuation dispute in France.

- Confidential ICC arbitration concerning the construction of a shipping terminal in Russia.
- At Linklaters, acted in a confidential HKIAC arbitration concerning $300 million claim for breach of an international contract for the supply of minerals.

Libel & Breach of Confidence

- **Confidential Instruction**
  Acting for a FTSE-100 company in a dispute with a whistleblower and a national tabloid newspaper concerning breach of confidence and non-disclosure/non-disparagement agreements. (Led by Alexander Polley KC.)
- **Various Young Women v Various Prominent Public Figures**
  Acting unled in MeToo claims for libel, breach of confidence, and harassment against various prominent public figures.
- **A Journalist v An Oligarch**
  Acting unled for a journalist and activist against a foreign oligarch represented by Carter-Ruck LLP.
- **Uyi v Abraham**
  Acting unled in a High Court libel claim (KBD Media & Communications List), defending a religious leader who accused a rival religious leader of being the Antichrist.

General Commercial Disputes

- **Various Claimants v G4S**
  Acting for G4S in shareholder group litigation pursuant to section 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and in criminal proceedings for fraud against former executives. (Led by Laurence Rabinowitz KC.)
- **R (Balakrishnan) v Oxford University & Office of Independent Adjudicator**
  Representing an international student alleging her wrongful exclusion from Oxford University, including on the basis of racial discrimination.
- **Delivery Hero v Mastercard**
  Acting (including sometimes appearing as sole counsel) in a US$40 million dispute with Mastercard in relation to payment systems processing throughout South East Asia. (Led by Sa'ad Hossain KC.)
- **Confidential Shareholder Dispute**
  As a pupil, assisted in advising on claims by shareholders concerning failure to disclose material information in a $90bn merger.

Transactional Experience

- At Linklaters, worked on matters including the unification of Unilever's dual-listed structure, the administration of Victoria's Secret, the restructuring of Clarks Shoes and Steinhoff International, and the Lehman Brothers International (Europe) insolvency.

Competition

- **Utilita v PayPoint**
  Acting in the Competition Appeal Tribunal for a power company in a claim concerning abuse of dominant position. (Led by Derek Spitz.)
- At Linklaters, acting for Visa in a £2 billion competition claim.

Sanctions

- **Ukraine/Russian Sanctions**
  Advising parties dealing with sanctioned individuals and the supply of dual use goods following the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Political Parties & Election Law

- **Hayes v Pack**
  Acting (including unled) for the Liberal Democrats in proceedings brought by a failed candidate for the Party's presidency.

- Advised political and campaigning organisations (including an affiliate of a major UK political party) on their corporate structuring, constitutions, and compliance with statutory reporting obligations.
- Acted in applications to expel a former head of government and former general secretary from a political party following allegations of corrupt conduct alleged to bring the party into disrepute.

Sole Counsel / Advocacy

- **Uyi v Abraham**
  Acting unled in the High Court (KBD Media & Communications List), defending a religious leader who accused a rival religious leader of being the Antichrist.
- **Re Festicket**
  Acting unled against Thomas Munby KC in a million-pound insolvency claim on behalf of creditors asserting particular funds were held on trust for them.
- **Doyle v Hazell**
  Acting unled in the High Court on an £800,000 breach of contract claim.
- **Henderson & Jones v Watson**
  Acting unled in the High Court on a £400,000 insolvency claim.
- **Ward v Squibb**
  Acting unled in the High Court on a £400,000 guarantee claim.
- **UEFA claims**
  Advising on potential claims arising out of police violence towards Liverpool fans in the 2022 Champions League final in Paris.

What the Directories Say

"Harry is very sharp, hardworking and detail-oriented. He can get to grips with a significant volume of complex information quickly and effectively. His technical skills are on par with his soft skills."

Legal 500 2026 (Fraud: Civil)

"Harry is very communicative and a real team player."

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil)

Education

Bachelor of Civil Law (Distinction)
Magdalen College, University of Oxford

- First place in two out of four subjects (Conflict of Laws and Trusts Tax).
- Associate editor, *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal.*
- University Challenge team member, 2019-2020 season.

Bachelor of Laws (Hons I, Medal) / Bachelor of Science (Advanced)
University of Sydney

- University Medal for first place in Law.
- First Class Honours and High Distinction average.
- Prizes include Ian Joye Prize for highest GPA on graduation; Nancy Gordon Smith Prize for Honours Thesis;

Outstanding Merit Scholarship; Monahan Prize for First in Evidence; University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize; James Aitken Scholarship; Walter Reid Memorial Prize; RG Henderson (NSW Bar Association) Memorial Prize; and a place on the Dean's list.

- Student Editor, *Sydney Law Review*.

- **World Champion Mooter:** International winner of the Jessup International Law Moot (Washington DC), International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot (London), and Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot (Dubai).
- **National Champion Debater:** Winner of the National Schools Debating Championship, University of Western Sydney Open Debating Championship, Macquarie University Commonwealth Debating Championship, University of Technology Sydney Intervarsity Debating Championship, and Griffith University Intervarsity Debating Championship. Runner-up in the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championship.

Sydney Grammar School

- ATAR 99.95; 2400/2400 on SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests.
- Undergraduate offers from Harvard, Yale and Princeton Universities.

Admissions

- Solicitor (Australia, 2018)

Previous Employment

Office of General Counsel, Plan International *(seconded from Linklaters LLP)*

Assisting the General Counsel team of a US$1 billion international humanitarian and development organisation, impacting the lives of 40 million children in 77 countries each year.

Legal Adviser, Linklaters LLP

Examples of matters worked on include:

- **Visa Interchange Dispute:** Acting for Visa in a £2 billion competition claim.
- **Confidential Tax Dispute:** Concerning a £2 billion tax avoidance claim against a major UK bank.
- **Confidential HKIAC Arbitration:** Concerning a $300 million claim by a mining conglomerate against a state-owned enterprise in the PRC.

Publications

Books

- *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure* (Sweet & Maxwell, 4th ed, 2021 and 5th ed, forthcoming)

Journal Articles

- 'Perfectly Safe, Five Times out of Six: The Briginshaw Principle and Its Paradoxes' (2019) 42(2) *University of*

New South Wales Law Journal 376.

- 'Finality and Judgments Obtained by Fraud' (2019) 38(3) *Civil Justice Quarterly* 311.
- 'Judicial Intervention into Political Parties' (2020) 20(1) *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal* 225.
- 'Against Strike-Outs for Disproportionality' (2020) 12(1) *Journal of Media Law* 116.
- 'The Procedural Argument Against Recovery of Lost Chances in Medical Negligence' (2020) 49 *Australian Bar Review* 367.
- 'The Meaning of Probative Value' [2020] *Northern Territory Law Journal 1*.
- 'The Uncertain Boundary Between Contract and Tort' (2021) 137 *Law Quarterly Review* 222.
- 'Jersey Gets in on Bilateral Investment Treaty (23 February 2021) *Global Arbitration Review*.
- 'What Junior Solicitors Wish You Knew About Privilege Reviews' (1 September 2021) *Law Society Journal*.
- 'Against Renvoi in Commercial Law' (2021) 17(3) *Journal of Private International Law* 524.
- 'Guilt by Lottery' (2022) 86(1) *Criminal Law Journal* 29.
- 'Security for Costs and the False Distinction Between Claimants and Defendants' (2022) 38(7) *Construction Law Journal* 474.

Awards

Chambers RANKED IN UK Bar 2026 Harry Stratton

RISING STAR Legal500 UNITED KINGDOM 2026

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