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Micha Lazarus

Barrister
Call 2022

Scope of Practice

• Group Litigation • Competition and EU Law • Commercial Litigation • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Banking and Financial Services • Arbitration • Shipping and Commodities • Sanctions • Technology

Overview

Micha's practice spans the full spectrum of commercial work, with a current focus on civil fraud, sanctions, technology, and international trade. He has developed particular experience in international arbitration disputes (LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL and FOSFA), acting at every stage from emergency relief to challenges under the Arbitration Act. He regularly acts as sole counsel, and leads masterclasses in commercial advocacy for the Inns of Court College of Advocacy.

Before coming to the Bar Micha was an historian at Trinity College, Cambridge, the Warburg Institute, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (where he remains an Associate Fellow), and has been elected to the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries.

Notable current and recent instructions include:

LCIA Arbitration (2026): International arbitration worth c. $250 million arising from a failure to make payment under commodities contracts following the imposition of sanctions on Russian entities in the UK, EU, and Switzerland in February 2022. The claim engages complex issues of contractual construction and sanctions law across four jurisdictions, against factual allegations of fraud, sham, and forgery, and 8 distinct areas of expert evidence. Instructed (with Michelle Menashy KC) on behalf of the claimant by King & Spalding and DAC Beachcroft, alongside Richard Blakeley KC and Emilie Gonin (Brick Court).

San Francisco Compute Company v Ori Industries: Contractual dispute before the TCC concerning the delivery and performance of GPU clusters for training AI models, engaging issues of contractual construction and misrepresentation against complex technical factual background. Instructed (with Alexander Brown KC) on behalf of the defendant by Eversheds Sutherland.

LCIA Arbitration (2026): Dispute between a UK car manufacturer and a dealership in the UAE arising from breach of contract, breach of trust, bailment, procuring breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duties by the dealership and its directors, following a successful application for urgent injunctive relief through an Emergency Arbitration. Instructed (with Alexander Brown KC) on behalf of the claimant by Eversheds Sutherland.

FOSFA Arbitration Appeal (2025) and s69 Challenge (2026): dispute arising from alleged breaches of obligations under a letter of credit in an international commodities transaction. Instructed (with Niranjan Venkatesan KC) on behalf of the appellant/claimant in FOSFA arbitration appeal by Rajah & Tann, and in a s69 challenge to the High Court by Enyo Law.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration

Micha has acted at every stage of the arbitration process (LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL and FOSFA), from injunctive emergency relief and request for arbitration to final hearing, as well as appeal to the arbitral body and challenges to the High Court under the Arbitration Act.

LCIA Arbitration (2026): $250 million dispute arising from a failure to make payment under commodities contracts following the imposition of sanctions on Russian entities in the UK, EU, and Switzerland in February 2022. The claim engages complex issues of contractual construction and sanctions law across four jurisdictions, against factual allegations of fraud, sham, and forgery, and 8 distinct areas of expert evidence. Instructed (with Michelle Menashy KC) on behalf of the claimant by King & Spalding and DAC Beachcroft, alongside Richard Blakeley KC and Emilie Gonin (Brick Court).

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ICC and UNCITRAL Arbitration (2025): assisted Alexander Brown KC and Jarrett Huang (during pupillage) in a US$100 million dispute between the two largest telecommunications companies in a major African jurisdiction.

LCIA Arbitration (2024): assisted Henry Hoskins and Joshua Crow (during pupillage) in a claim for c.£1 billion relating to a hotel group, which raised issues of hindsight and private information in expert market valuation.

Banking & Finance

VTB Capital PLC (in administration) v Citigroup Global Markets Limited: International dispute arising from the close-out of equity derivatives following Russia-related sanctions in the financial markets, raising issues of duties of rationality in market valuation. Instructed (with Sandy Phipps and Ruihan Liu) on behalf of the defendant by Eversheds Sutherland.

International banking dispute: assisted Sandy Phipps (during pupillage) in a jurisdiction challenge and strike-out application in the Circuit Commercial Court arising from a dispute over interests in notes traded in the international financial markets.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

LCIA Arbitration (2026): $250 million dispute arising from a failure to make payment under commodities contracts following the imposition of sanctions on Russian entities in the UK, EU, and Switzerland in February 2022. The claim engages complex issues of contractual construction and sanctions law across four jurisdictions, against factual allegations of fraud, sham, and forgery, and 8 distinct areas of expert evidence. Instructed (with Michelle Menashy KC) on behalf of the claimant by King & Spalding and DAC Beachcroft, alongside Richard Blakeley KC and Emilie Gonin (Brick Court).

San Francisco Compute Company v Ori Industries: Contractual dispute before the TCC concerning the delivery and performance of GPU clusters for training AI models, engaging issues of contractual construction and misrepresentation against complex technical factual background. Instructed (with Alexander Brown KC) on behalf of the defendant by Eversheds Sutherland.

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Breach of director's duties in insolvency: Claim by a company (in liquidation) against a director who caused payments to be made out of company funds to himself and his family members in the period leading up to insolvency, giving rise to issues of reviewable transactions, breach of directors' duties, and receipt of trust property. Instructed on behalf of the claimant by Henderson & Jones.

Advice on liability under a WFO: advised third-party corporate service providers outside the jurisdiction of the English courts as to their potential liability under a worldwide freezing order and enforcement of judgment in a civil fraud trial. Instructed with Neil Kitchener KC.

ECHR Article 6 rights of imprisoned defendants: assisted Richard Gillis KC (during pupillage) in an international civil fraud claim in which a defendant was unable to participate in defending the action due to foreign imprisonment.

Various Claimants v Glencore Plc & Ors: assisted Richard Mott (during pupillage) in a major shareholder class action against Glencore worth several billion pounds, alleging unlawful conduct, false statements, and dishonest non-disclosures to the market under ss.90 and 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Various Claimants v Boohoo Plc: assisted Richard Mott (during pupillage) in a shareholder class action worth over £100 million against Boohoo Plc, alleging false statements and dishonest non-disclosures to the market under s.90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Commercial Litigation

San Francisco Compute Company v Ori Industries: Contractual dispute before the TCC concerning the delivery and performance of GPU clusters for training AI models, engaging issues of contractual construction and misrepresentation against complex technical factual background. Instructed (with Alexander Brown KC) on behalf of the defendant by Eversheds Sutherland.

Xtellus Capital Partners Inc v DL Invest Group PM S.A. [2025] EWHC 1989 (Comm): International contractual dispute between a New York-based specialist investment bank and dealer broker and a leading Polish real estate developer, arising from a €123.4 million financing deal with Macquarie. Micha assisted Alexander Brown KC (during pupillage) in a two-week trial in the Circuit Commercial Court, and acted (with Alexander Brown KC and Eleanor Campbell) for the successful claimant in consequential and appeal proceedings, securing indemnity costs. Instructed by Howard Kennedy.

Hales v Air Race CC Ltd: Contractual claim in the County Court by an aircraft engineer under an oral agreement to prepare a light racing aircraft for sale, giving rise to issues of contractual construction, officious intervention, artificer's liens, restitution, and contempt of court. Acted as sole counsel for the defendant, instructed by Gunnercooke.

Hayes v Pack & Ors [2025] EWHC 402 (KB): assisted Richard Mott (during pupillage) on behalf of the successful defendants in a claim alleging breaches of natural justice and **Braganza** duties in a decision by the Liberal Democrats party (an unincorporated association) to expel a senior member. Read more .

Director's guarantee dispute: Contractual claim in the County Court by a builders' merchants for unpaid invoices under a director's guarantee. Acted as sole counsel for the successful claimant, instructed by Freeths.

Insolvency dispute: Claim by a company (in liquidation) against a director who caused payments to be made out of company funds to himself and his family members in the period leading up to insolvency, giving rise to issues of reviewable transactions, breach of directors' duties, and receipt of trust property. Instructed on behalf of the claimant by Henderson & Jones.

Late payments dispute: Contractual claim by a baked goods company (in liquidation) against a food wholesaler for historic late payment fees allegedly due under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. Instructed on behalf of the defendant by Gunnercooke.

Bardsley v BH Hotels Limited: assisted Alexander Brown KC (during pupillage) in a dispute over the terms of a share purchase agreement.

Holdcroft v Goodwin Steel: assisted Richard Mott (during pupillage) in a dispute between an iron foundry and a car dealership involving allegations of industrial nuisance.

Music industry contract dispute: assisted Joshua Crow (during pupillage) in a contractual dispute concerning wrongful termination of a consultancy agreement.

Advice on contractual duties of good faith: assisted Alexander Brown KC (during pupillage) in advising a property development company on issues including the scope of good faith clauses in a development agreement with a major motoring company.

Advice on payments of commission in motor finance: assisted Sonia Tolaney KC and Richard Mott (during pupillage) in advising on the law governing payment of commissions in the context of motor finance following the decision in *Hopcraft v Close Brothers Ltd* [2024] EWCA Civ 1282.

Competition and EU Law

Bulk Mail Claim Limited v International Distributions Services Plc and Royal Mail Group Limited: Follow-on claim for damages before the Competition Appeal Tribunal alleged to be worth over £1bn, following an Ofcom decision that Royal Mail abused its dominant position in the market for bulk mail delivery services. Instructed (with Edmund Nourse KC and Andrew McIntyre) on behalf of the defendant by Hogan Lovells.

Group Litigation

Various Claimants v Glencore Plc & Ors: assisted Richard Mott (during pupillage) in a major shareholder class action against Glencore worth several billion pounds, alleging unlawful conduct, false statements, and dishonest non-disclosures to the market under ss.90 and 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

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Injunctions

LCIA Arbitration (2026): Dispute between a UK car manufacturer and a dealership in the UAE arising from breach of contract, breach of trust, bailment, procuring breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duties by the dealership and its directors, following a successful application for urgent injunctive relief through an Emergency Arbitration. Instructed (with Alexander Brown KC) on behalf of the claimant by Eversheds Sutherland.

Shipping and Commodities

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Sanctions

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Technology

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Previous Employment

Senior Lecturer, English Faculty, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2022-2026)

Research Fellow, Warburg Institute, London (2020-2021)

Research Fellow, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2015-2019)

College Lecturer, Christ Church, University of Oxford (2014)

Private Finance Initiative Team, HM Treasury (2005-2006)

Education

Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Vocational Studies (Distinction), City Law School (2022)

Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), BPP (2020)

D.Phil., University of Oxford (2014)

M.A. in English (Distinction), University of California, Berkeley (2009)

B.A. Hons. in English Language & Literature (Double First Class), University of Oxford (2005)

Scholarships and Awards

Legal

- Winner, Quadrant Chambers Virtual Speed Moot (2022)
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2021)
- City Scholarship for Academic Excellence (2021)
- Lord Bowen Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2019)
- BPP Career Commitment Scholarship (2019)

Selected Academic Awards

- Associate Fellow of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2026)
- Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (2024)
- Israel Science Foundation research grant (2024)
- Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (2020)
- Gordon Duff Prize in book history (Oxford, 2012; Cambridge, 2020)
- Research fellowships at the Warburg Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, Renaissance Society of America, Dumbarton Oaks, Harry Ransom Center, and Herzog August Bibliothek (2015-2020)

Lectures and Publications

Micha has published two monographs, three edited collections, and more than 30 scholarly articles on the intellectual and cultural history of Renaissance Europe, and is General Editor of the *Sources in Early Poetics* book series (Brill). He has given over 60 international lectures and conference papers, including invited addresses at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Princeton, Penn, Chicago, Berkeley, New York, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Verona, and Munich. He is a regular peer reviewer for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, The British Academy, The Israel Science Foundation, The Warburg Institute, Bloomsbury, Routledge, Springer, and numerous journals.

Memberships and Fellowships

- COMBAR
- Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
- Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries
- Associate Fellow of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2026)

Awards

Chambers TOP RANKED UK Bar 2026 One Essex Court

TOP TIER SET Legal500 UNITED KINGDOM 2026

Contact Clerks



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