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Nathaniel Bird

Barrister
Call 2012

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Commercial Litigation • Insurance and Reinsurance • Professional Liability • Sports, Gaming and Licensing

Overview

Nathaniel specialises in complex and high-value litigation and arbitration, with particular expertise in commercial dispute resolution, banking & finance and civil fraud. He is recognised in the directories as a leading junior for commercial litigation (C&P Band 2, Legal 500 Band 5), banking & finance disputes (C&P Band 3, Legal 500 Band 3) and civil fraud (C&P Band 3, Legal 500 Band 3). He has previously been named by *The Lawyer* magazine as a member of its '*Hot 100*'.

Notable matters in which Nathaniel has been instructed include:

- *Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Limited & Ors* (ongoing) – acting (led by Adrian Beltrami KC and instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills) for the purchasers of a sports media rights agency in a USD 600+ million claim against the sellers for fraudulent misrepresentation being tried over 11 weeks in the Commercial Court.
- *JSC Commercial Bank PrivatBank v Kolomoisky & Ors* (ongoing) – acted for Ukrainian businessman Gennadiy Bogolyubov in defence of a USD 1.9bn civil fraud claim brought by Ukraine's largest bank which was tried over 13 weeks in the Chancery Division. Led by Clare Montgomery KC and instructed by Enyo Law.
- ***PJSC Tatneft v Bogolyubov & Ors*** (2020) – successfully defended Mr Bogolyubov against a USD 300m civil fraud claim tried over 12 weeks in the Commercial Court. Led by Ewan McQuater KC and Matthew Parker KC, instructed by Enyo Law.
- ***1Malaysia Development Berhad v International Petroleum Investment Company*** (2018–2023) – represented Abu Dhabi state owned investment funds IPIC and Aabar in defence of multi-billion-dollar claims arising from the Malaysian 1MDB scandal. Led at various stages by Laurence Rabinowitz KC, Mark Howard KC and Ewan McQuater KC and instructed by Clifford Chance.
- ***Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale & Ors*** (2017) – acted for Société Générale defending claims brought by Libya's sovereign wealth fund alleging that high-value investments in structured products were procured by bribery and undue influence. Led by Adrian Beltrami KC and Anthony de Garr Robinson KC, instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills.
- ***Terra Firma v Citibank*** (2016) – successfully defended Citibank against a £2.3bn claim for fraudulent misrepresentation brought by private equity fund Terra Firma in relation to its acquisition of EMI in 2007. The claim was discontinued, and all allegations were withdrawn, after the first two days of cross-examination in what was due to be a seven-week Commercial Court trial. Led by Mark Howard KC and instructed by

Clifford Chance.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration

Nathaniel has experience of a wide variety of arbitral proceedings and arbitration related claims including:

- ***HKIAC Arbitration (ongoing)*** – acting in a high-value arbitration relating to mining investments.
- ***Enforcement proceedings*** – Acted for investors seeking to enforce substantial ICSID awards in England & Wales under the Arbitration (International Investment Disputes) Act 1966.
- ***USD 6bn LCIA Arbitrations*** (2018–2023) – represented sovereign investment funds in a number of related arbitrations.
- ***LCIA Arbitration*** *(2019)* – acted, led by Rajesh Pillai KC, in a claim arising under a Share Purchase Agreement.
- ***USD 150m LCIA Arbitration*** (2016–2017) – acted, led by Christopher Harris KC, in the defence of claims brought by the liquidator of a Cayman Islands hedge fund against its former technical services provider alleging fraudulent misrepresentation and accounting irregularities.

Banking and Financial Services

Nathaniel has experience of a wide range of banking and financial services matters, including derivatives, leveraged finance, M&A, securitisation, payment services, commercial and consumer lending, guarantees, mortgages and investment advice claims. Earlier in his practice, Nathaniel was seconded to the banking and financial markets litigation team at Dentons, where he gained experience of handling numerous banking-related disputes.

Recent instructions and experience in relation to Banking and Finance disputes include:

- ***RS Luxembourg II S.à.r.l. v Solidare Real Estate Holding GmbH*** [2024] EWHC 1515 (Comm) (2024) – obtained judgment following a two-day Commercial Court trial (as sole counsel, instructed by Baker McKenzie) for a lender on a €14 million claim under a parent company guarantee.
- ***NMC Healthcare Ltd v Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC*** (2021–2023) – acted (led by Ewan McQuater KC and David Quest KC, instructed by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP) for two Islamic banks in high-value proceedings in the Abu Dhabi Global Market court and an LCIA arbitration concerning their lending to the NMC Healthcare Group, the largest private medical provider in the Middle East and formerly a FTSE 100 company until its collapse into administration.
- ***Capital Investment LLC v Goldilocks Investment Company Limited*** (2021–2022) – acted (led by Ewan McQuater KC, instructed by Simmons & Simmons) for a Middle Eastern investment fund in relation to a dispute concerning the validity of redemption restrictions put in place by the fund following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ***Awbury Technical Solutions LLC v Karson Management (Bermuda) Ltd*** (2020) – acted, led by David Head KC and instructed by Hogan Lovells, for an investment structuring boutique in a claim for misuse of its confidential information relating to complex alternative investment structures.
- ***Confidential*** (2019) – advised the government of a nation state as to the validity of sovereign bonds with a face value of almost USD 1bn in the light of fraud allegations.
- ***Citigroup Global Markets Ltd v Amatra Leveraged Feeder Holdings*** (2017) – acted for Citigroup, led by Adrian Beltrami KC and David Allison KC and instructed by Allen & Overy, in the defence of a USD 200m+ claim alleging that two high-value structured derivatives on synthetic leveraged portfolios of hedge funds investments were mis-sold and closed out in a commercially unreasonable manner. The case settled shortly before what was due to be a five-week trial in the Commercial Court.
- ***Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale & Ors*** (2017) – acted for Société Générale in one of The Lawyer's '*Top Cases of 2017*' defending claims by Libya's sovereign wealth fund that investments in structured products totalling circa USD 2.1bn were procured by bribery and the exertion of undue influence on its

executives in Gaddafi-era Libya. The claim was settled in the first week of an eleven-week trial in the Commercial Court.

- ***Terra Firma v Citibank*** (2016) – acted for Citibank, led by Mark Howard KC, Peter Ratcliffe and Fred Hobson, in the successful defence of a £2.3bn claim for fraudulent misrepresentation brought by private equity fund Terra Firma relating to its acquisition of EMI in 2007. The dispute was named as one of The Lawyer's 'Top Cases of 2016'. Terra Firma discontinued the claim, and withdrew all allegations, after the first two days of cross-examination in what was due to be a seven-week Commercial Court trial.
- ***Grangebrook Ltd & ors v Barclays Bank plc*** (2015) – led by Ali Malek KC and Peter de Verneuil Smith, instructed by Enyo Law, in a Commercial Court claim against Barclays Bank for the misselling of complex interest rate hedging products and LIBOR/Euribor manipulation. The claim was settled prior to the first CMC.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

Nathaniel has experience of heavyweight civil fraud litigation, particularly with international elements, and associated applications, including:

- ***JSC Commercial Bank PrivatBank v Kolomoisky & Ors*** (ongoing) – acted for Ukrainian businessman Gennadiy Bogolyubov in defence of a USD 1.9bn civil fraud claim brought by Ukraine's largest bank which was tried over 13 weeks in the Chancery Division. Led by Clare Montgomery KC and instructed by Enyo Law.
- ***Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Limited & Ors*** (ongoing) – acting (led by Adrian Beltrami KC and instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills) for the purchasers of a sports media rights agency in a USD 600+ million claim against the sellers for fraudulent misrepresentation being tried over 11 weeks in the Commercial Court.
- ***PJSC Tatneft v Bogolyubov & Ors*** (2020) – successfully defended Mr Bogolyubov against a USD 300m civil fraud claim tried over 12 weeks in the Commercial Court. Led by Ewan McQuater KC and Matthew Parker KC, instructed by Enyo Law.
- ***1Malaysia Development Berhad v International Petroleum Investment Company*** (2018–2023) – represented Abu Dhabi state owned investment funds IPIC and Aabar in defence of multi-billion dollar claims arising from the Malaysian 1MDB scandal. Led at various stages by Laurence Rabinowitz KC, Mark Howard KC and Ewan McQuater KC and instructed by Clifford Chance.
- ***Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale & Ors*** (2017) – acted for Société Générale in one of The Lawyer's 'Top Cases of 2017' defending claims by Libya's sovereign wealth fund that investments in structured products totalling circa USD 2.1bn were procured by bribery and the exertion of undue influence on its executives in Gaddafi-era Libya. The claim was settled in the first week of an eleven-week trial in the Commercial Court.
- ***Newmafruit Farms Ltd & ors v Pither & Ors*** (2016–19) – successfully obtained worldwide freezing injunctions and asset tracing orders in support of claims against a company finance director and others accused of conspiring to defraud a wealthy businessman. Led by David Head KC and instructed by Peter & Peters.
- ***Terra Firma v Citibank*** (2016) – successfully defended Citibank against a £2.3bn claim for fraudulent misrepresentation brought by private equity fund Terra Firma in relation to its acquisition of EMI in 2007. The claim was discontinued, and all allegations were withdrawn, after the first two days of cross-examination in what was due to be a seven-week Commercial Court trial. Led by Mark Howard KC and instructed by Clifford Chance.

Commercial Litigation

Nathaniel has experience of a diverse range of commercial and company law disputes, including contractual and tortious claims, warranty claims, claims against directors and professionals, shareholder disputes (including unfair prejudice proceedings) and injunctive relief.

Examples of recent instructions and earlier experience include:

- ***Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Limited & Ors*** (ongoing) – acting (led by Adrian Beltrami KC and instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills) for the purchasers of a sports media rights agency in a USD 600+ million claim against the sellers for fraudulent misrepresentation being tried over 11 weeks in the Commercial Court.
- ***PT Services Malta Limited v Tecnologia en Entretenimiento Caliplay*** (2024) – acted (led by Orlando Gledhill KC and instructed by BCLP) for a leading online gambling software and services provider in a dispute with a gambling operator concerning fees worth over £150m.

- ***Various Claimants v Associated Newspapers Ltd****(2022–2025)* – acted (led variously by Andrew Caldecott KC, Antony White KC, Adrian Beltrami KC and Catrin Evans KC) for the publisher of the *Mail* newspapers defending claims by several well-known personalities for phone hacking and other alleged misuse of private information.
- ***Vannin Capital PCC v RBOS Shareholders Action Group Ltd*** (2017–2020) – acted (led by Christopher Harris KC and instructed by RPC) for a leading litigation funder in a claim arising out of the settlement of the RBS Rights Issue Litigation. The case was named as one The Lawyer's '*Top 20 Cases of 2020*' and settled shortly before trial.
- ***Total Soft SA v Ferabosco Investment Limited & Ors*** (2020) – acted (led by Rajesh Pillai KC and instructed by Holman Fenwick Willan) for the sellers of a leading Romanian software company in defence of claims for breach of warranty.
- ***Triumph Controls UK Ltd & Ors v Primus International Holding Company & Ors*** (2016–2020) – acted (led by Rajesh Pillai KC and instructed by RPC) for the purchaser in a successful breach of warranty claim, heard over five weeks in the TCC, relating to the acquisition of aerospace engineering companies ([2019] EWHC 565 (TCC)). Successfully defeated an appeal against the Judgment ([2020] EWCA Civ 1228).

Insurance and Reinsurance

Nathaniel has an interest in insurance law as a result of his time at the Law Commission prior to coming to the Bar, where he worked on the reform of commercial insurance law leading to the Insurance Act 2015. He was involved in formulating the Commission's policy on the pre-contractual duties of insureds and brokers, insurers' remedies for non-disclosure and misrepresentation and in relation to liability and compulsory third-party insurance policies and was responsible for instructing Parliamentary Counsel on the drafting of the 2014 Bill.

Nathaniel's Insurance and Reinsurance experience includes:

- Acting (led by Tom Weitzman KC) for a listed mining company in a claim arising from flood damage sustained during the construction of a hydroelectric power plant.
- Acting (led by Tom Weitzman KC) for Guernsey closed-end investment schemes in a claim against D&O insurers relating to the conduct of their former directors.
- Acting (led by Catherine Gibaud KC) for the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India in defence of claims by Equitas under excess of loss contracts of reinsurance.

Professional Liability

Nathaniel's experience includes:

- ***Richard Lisman v Bonhams 1793 Ltd*** (2021–2022) – acted (as sole counsel, instructed by RPC) for auction house Bonhams in defence of a claim that it negligently misdescribed a classic racing car at auction.
- ***Hargreaves v PwC*** (2020) – acted (led by Adrian Beltrami KC and Conrad McDonnell instructed by Travers Smith) for Matalan-founder John Hargreaves in a substantial claim against PwC for negligent tax advice.
- ***Newmafruit Farms Ltd v Green & Peter Ltd*** (2018–19) – acted (led by David Head KC and instructed by Peter & Peters) for the claimant in proceedings against its former auditors for failure to spot a long-running fraud.
- ***APG Cash Drawer Ltd v Hobday & Ors*** (2017–18) – acted (led by Christopher Harris KC and instructed by DLA Piper) for the directors of a manufacturing company in defence of claims of professional negligence and breach of duty relating to foreign exchange hedging transactions adversely affected by the Brexit referendum.

Sports, Gaming and Licensing

Nathaniel's experience includes:

- Premier League Disciplinary Proceedings – Acting for a Premier League Club in defence of disciplinary charges.
- ***PT Services Malta Limited v Tecnología en Entretenimiento Caliplay*** (2024) – acted (led by Orlando Gledhill KC and instructed by BCLP) for a leading online gambling software and services provider in a dispute with a gambling operator concerning fees worth over £150m.

What The Directories Say

Chambers and Partners 2026 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *“Nathaniel has a very bright future and is justifiably in high demand. A terrific team player, he is diligent to a fault and has exceptional attention to detail and masterful cross-examination skills.” “Nathaniel Bird’s drafting and technical proficiency are really excellent; he cuts through the detail and provides high-quality advice. I have been very impressed by the quality of his work.”*

Chambers and Partners 2026 (Banking & Finance) *“He is a pleasure to work with and can grapple with the most complex of issues readily and quickly.” “Nathaniel is brilliant and extremely intelligent.”*

Chambers and Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil) *“Nathaniel is incredibly smart and on top of every detail.”*

Legal 500 2026 (Commercial Litigation) *“An incredibly talented and in-demand senior junior. A go-to.”*

Legal 500 2026 (Fraud: Civil) *“His knowledge and breadth of experience really shine through in big ticket cases.”*

Legal 500 2026 (Banking and Finance) *“He is razor sharp in his analysis.”*

Chambers and Partners 2025 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *“Nathaniel is an excellent senior junior, fast developing a reputation as a go-to barrister in his own right.” "He's phenomenally bright and writes beautifully."*

Chambers and Partners 2025 (Civil Fraud) *“Nathaniel is hard-working, patient and unflappable.” "He is very good in the detail and is particularly good with experts. He knows his stuff when it gets down to the nitty-gritty and is all across the details."*

Chambers and Partners 2025 (Banking & Finance) *“Nathaniel digests complex questions of law with ease and provides straightforward and effective advice on those questions.” "Nathaniel is so bright and focused on the detail. He is an extremely safe pair of hands and goes above and beyond."*

Legal 500 2025 (Banking & Finance)

Legal 500 2025 (Commercial Litigation)

Legal 500 2025 (Fraud: Civil) *“A very dependable junior.”*

Chambers and Partners 2024 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Nathaniel Bird is very reliable and hard working. He knows the case inside and out." "A tremendously bright senior junior, who is great on his feet." "Nathaniel Bird has a very good cross-examination style."*

Chambers and Partners 2024 (Banking & Finance) *"His work product is flawless and he is very responsive." "Extremely sharp and all over detailed issues."*

Chambers and Partners 2024 (Fraud: Civil) *"He is very diligent, very hard-working and has valuable contributions." "Nathaniel provides thoughtful and considered advice, and his judgement is excellent." "Nathaniel is super smart, very good on his feet and very good on paper." "He has great forensic and technical expertise - a junior to watch."*

Legal 500 2024 (Banking & Finance) *‘Excellent and solid commercial advice.’*

Legal 500 2024 (Fraud: Civil) *‘Incredibly smart, responsive and excellent drafting. A real star in the making.‘*

Chambers and Partners 2023 (Banking & Finance) *“an increasingly prominent junior who garners praise for his expertise in commercial banking disputes. He frequently acts in high-profile matters dealing with civil fraud, as well as being skilled in international arbitration.” “Extremely intelligent, quick to grasp complex issues and very responsive to client needs.” “Nathaniel is very hard-working, approachable, and has good drafting skills, which is exactly what you want with a junior.”*

Chambers and Partners 2023 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) "*A terrific team player, who is diligent to a fault and shows exceptional attention to detail. He is also a master at cross-examination*." "*Nathaniel is thoroughly able both in his research and analysis."*

Education

- Walter Wigglesworth Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2013)
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2012)
- BCL, Mansfield College, Oxford (2011)
- LL.M. (Commercial Law), Hughes Hall, Cambridge (2010)
- LL.B., London School of Economics (2009) – First Class Honours

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Publications

- Contributor to Paget's Law of Banking (16th ed) – chapters on performance bonds and letters of credit.

Awards

Chambers RANKED IN UK Bar 2026 Nathaniel Bird

LEADING JUNIOR Legal500 UNITED KINGDOM 2026

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