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Niranjan Venkatesan KC

Barrister
Call 2015 Silk 2025

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Commercial Litigation • Company and Insolvency • Energy and Natural Resources • Injunctions (including freezing order and search orders) • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Professional Liability • Restitution

Overview

Niranjan is a leading silk specialising in commercial litigation and civil fraud. He was rapidly elevated to silk (at only 10 years' call) and is described in the latest legal directories as *"an exceptional advocate"* and a "*highly sought-after commercial silk*". He acts as the lead advocate in high-value disputes in the English courts and is known for his ability to find creative solutions in difficult cases. He is often brought into appeals, not having appeared below and has extensive appellate experience, having appeared eight times in the Supreme Court and on many occasions in the Court of Appeal. His recent advocacy in the Court of Appeal can be viewed and .

Niranjan has a particular interest in civil fraud and related areas (including claims under section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, in which he has particular expertise). Before coming to the Bar, he read and taught law at Oxford, where he was a Vinerian, Eldon and Rhodes Scholar. He is also called to the Indian Bar and able to advise on matters of Indian (commercial) law.

Recent work includes:

Salinas Pliego v Astor Asset Management 3 Ltd , : Acting for the defendants in this c.US$300m fraud claim that has already given rise to important judgments dealing with complex questions of law concerning abuse of process by 'privilege hunting'.

Invest Bank PSC v. El-Husseini: Acted for the successful defendants in a c. £20m claim in the Commercial Court under section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The claim was dismissed in its entirety by Calver J: [2024] EWHC 2976 (Comm) and gave rise to numerous substantive interlocutory skirmishes, including a trial of Preliminary Issues: ; Disclosure ; amendments and limitation ; and relief from sanctions

Gormsen v Meta , : Acting for the Class Representative in this landmark class action against Meta. Successful in the Court of Appeal in July 2026 in an appeal concerning whether "Wrotham Park" or "user" damages are available for an infringement of the Chapter II prohibition in the Competition Act 1998.

Soprim v DP World: Acting for DP World in defending a claim by Soprim for a charging order over a sum of c.US$40m. The case raises important questions of law concerning (among other things) the recognition of foreign

judgments and the service of arbitration claim forms. See , (application for permission to appeal pending).

AAA v BBB: Acted for the successful non-cause of action defendants in a complex case with international elements. The freezing order was discharged with indemnity costs; and the case raised important points of law concerning the service of arbitration claim forms and the duty of full and frank disclosure.

TAQA Bratani Ltd v. Fujairah Oil and Gas UK LLC: Acting for the Claimants in the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal in a claim under sections 238 and 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986 arising out of an oil and gas joint venture. The Court of Appeal allowed the Claimants' appeal in December 2025: see

R (oao ClientEarth) v. FCA and Ithaca Energy: (Admin) Acted for Ithaca, the interested party, in a judicial review claim commenced by ClientEarth challenging the FCA's decision to approve Ithaca's prospectus. Judgment of Lang J dismissing the claim

- Supreme Court and Privy Council Appellate work includes:

Hopcraft v Close Brothers Ltd: Acted in this high-profile appeal for Close Brothers, one of the successful appellants. The appeal raised important issues of law concerning the payment of commission in the context of motor finance.

R (on the application of) Cobalt Data Centre 2 LLP v. HMRC: Acted in a landmark case which is now the leading authority on contractual variations at common law.

BTI 2014 LLC v Sequana SA: Acted for Sequana and the former directors of its subsidiary company in this landmark case in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. The judgment is one of the leading company law authorities of this generation and considers a number of important questions of company law concerning the duties of directors.

Enka Insaat ve Sanayi AS v. OOO Insurance Company Chubb: Acted for Enka in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in what is now the leading case on the principles for ascertaining the proper law of arbitration agreements and the role of the court of the seat of arbitration in granting anti-suit injunctions.

- Other notable Appellate work includes:

159-167 Prince of Wales Road RTM Company Ltd v. Assethold Ltd: Acted for the successful appellant in an appeal concerning the right to manage (RTM) scheme in the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (the CLRA). Niranjan's advocacy can be viewed .

Mints v. PJSC National Bank Trust: Acted for the Second and Third Defendants in this complex litigation, which gave rise to important judgments concerning issue estoppel and abuse of process and the impact of the UK sanctions regime on civil litigation.

Watford Control Instruments Ltd v. Brown: Acted (as sole counsel) for the successful defendant in the Chancery Division in a case about the sanction for abuse of process by "warehousing". Strike Out ; Amendment ; Chancery Appeal (Richards J)

Crypton Digital Assets Limited v. Blockchain Luxembourg SA: Acted (as sole counsel on appeal) for the defendant in Chancery Division (IP List) proceedings involving claims for inducing breach of contract, dishonest assistance and conspiracy. Strike Out ; and Chancery appeal (Mr Justice Edwin Johnson)

- CJEU work includes:

Bosworth v. Arcadia Petroleum Limited: Acted on a reference to the CJEU concerning jurisdiction and recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. Judgment of the Chamber (Case C-603/17)

Examples of Recent Cases

Commercial Litigation

- *Salinas Pliego v Astor Asset Management 3 Ltd* [2025] EWHC 2968 (Comm), [2026] EWCA Civ 940
  Acting for the defendants in this c.US$300m fraud claim that has already given rise to a judgment dealing with complex and important questions of law concerning abuse of process by 'privilege hunting'. Freezing orders discharged by the Court of Appeal in July 2026.
- *Invest Bank v El-Husseini*
  Acted for the successful defendants in a c. £20m claim in the Commercial Court under section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The claim was dismissed in its entirety: ; and the litigation also gave rise to a number of important judgments on freezing injunctions, the recognition of foreign judgments, disclosure under PD57AD, amendment applications and limitation: see , [2023] EWHC 3350 (Comm), ,
- *Hopcraft v Close Brothers Ltd*
  Acted in this high-profile Supreme Court appeal for Close Brothers, the successful appellant. The appeal raises important issues of law concerning the payment of commission in the context of motor finance.
- *Gormsen v Meta*
  Acting for the Class Representative in this landmark class action against Meta. Successful in the Court of Appeal in July 2026 in an appeal concerning whether "Wrotham Park" or "user" damages are available for an infringement of the Chapter II prohibition in the Competition Act 1998.
- *Soprim v DP World*
  Acting for DP World in defending a claim by Soprim for a charging order over a sum of c.US$40m. The case raises important questions of law. See , (application for permission to appeal pending).
- *AAA v BBB* [2025] EWHC 1647 (Comm)
  Acted for the successful non-cause of action defendants in a complex case with international elements. The freezing order was discharged with indemnity costs; and the case raised important points of law concerning the service of arbitration claim forms and the duty of full and frank disclosure.
- *Enka Insaat ve Sanayi AS v OOO "Insurance Company Chubb* [2020] UKSC 38; [2020] EWCA Civ 574
  Acted (with Robin Dicker QC) in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in what is now the leading case on the principles for ascertaining the proper law of arbitration agreements and the role of the court of the seat in granting anti-suit injunctions.
- 159-167 Prince of Wales Road RTM Company Ltd v Assethold Ltd [2024] EWCA Civ 1544
  Acted for the successful appellant in an appeal concerning the right to manage scheme in the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002. The appeal raised complex issues of law concerning estoppel by representation and estoppel by convention. Niranjan's advocacy can be viewed here
- *Lunak Heavy Industries v Tyburn Film Production*
  Acted for Tyburn in an application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court raising important questions of law relating to the "at the expense of" requirement for unjust enrichment claims.
- *Grand View PTC v Wong*
  Acted (with Mark Howard KC) for Grand View in the Privy Council in a case that raises important questions of law concerning powers of amendment under trust deeds and the rule against perpetuities
- *BTI 2014 LLC v Sequana SA*
  Acted (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal for Sequana and the former directors of its subsidiary. The Supreme Court's judgment is likely to become one of the leading company law authorities of this generation and considers a number of important questions of company law concerning the duties of directors.
- *WCI v Brown*
  Acted (as sole counsel) for the successful defendant in the Chancery Division defending a claim for breach of fiduciary duty. The case was struck out in its entirety on the ground of abuse of process.
- *PJSC NBT v Mints*
  Acted (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) for the Second and Third Defendants in this complex litigation, which has given rise to an important judgment concerning issue estoppel and abuse of process and about the impact of the UK sanctions regime on civil litigation.
- *TAQA Bratani v FOGUK*
  Acting for the Claimants in these high-profile Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the forfeiture of

interests previously held by the Defendant in three oil and gas fields in the Brae complex.

- *Crypton Digital Assets Ltd v Blockchain*
  Acted for the defendant in these Chancery Division (IP List) proceedings involving claims for inducing breach of contract, dishonest assistance and conspiracy. See [2021] EWHC 1172 (Ch) where Niranjan appeared as sole advocate in an application concerning the principles governing pleading and particularising allegations of fraud.
- *Goldman Sachs International v Novo Banco [2018] 1 WLR 3683*
  Acted for the claimants in the Supreme Court in a claim worth in excess of $600 million. The issues before the Supreme Court concern the interpretation of the EU Directive on Bank Recovery and Resolution and article 25 of the Brussels Regulation (Recast).
- *Tiuta International Ltd v De Villiers [2017] 1 WLR 4627*
  Acted for Tiuta in the Supreme Court in a case concerning the correct approach to the assessment of damages in claims against valuers where the loan that the lender is induced to make by the negligent valuation is used to refinance a pre-existing loan.
- *Société Générale v Goldas [2019] 1 WLR 346*
  Acted for Société Générale in the Court of Appeal in a claim worth around $480 million. The issues before the Court of Appeal include the interpretation of CPR rule 6.15 and the law governing the enforcement of a cross-undertaking in damages.
- *Stanford International Bank v Proskauer Rose LLP*
  Acted for Proskauer Rose LLP in the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and the High Court of Antigua in Proskauer's successful challenge to jurisdiction. The appeal arose out of a c. $1 billion claim brought by the liquidators of Stanford International Bank for alleged breach of duty in failing to detect and report a Ponzi scheme.
- *Arempa International v Barclays Bank (UK) plc*
  Acted (as sole counsel) in a Commercial Court claim arising out of an authorised push payment or 'APP' fraud. The claim raised issues concerning the availability of a claim against the recipient bank in negligence or unjust enrichment. Settled in January 2020. Niranjan has subsequently advised on a number of claims arising out of APP fraud.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

- *Salinas Pliego v Astor Asset Management 3 Ltd* [2025] EWHC 2968 (Comm), [2026] EWCA Civ 940
  Acting for the defendants in this c.US$300m fraud claim that has already given rise to a judgment dealing with complex and important questions of law concerning abuse of process by 'privilege hunting'. Freezing orders discharged by the Court of Appeal in July 2026.
- *Invest Bank v El-Husseini*
  Acted for the successful defendants in a c. £20m claim in the Commercial Court under section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The claim was dismissed in its entirety: ; and the litigation also gave rise to a number of important judgments on freezing injunctions, the recognition of foreign judgments, disclosure under PD57AD, amendment applications and limitation: see , [2023] EWHC 3350 (Comm), , .
- *WCI v Brown*
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- *Arempa International v Barclays Bank (UK) plc*
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- *PJSC NBT v Mints*
  Acted for the Second and Third Defendants in this complex litigation, which has given rise to an important judgment concerning issue estoppel and abuse of process and about the impact of the UK sanctions regime on civil litigation.

Arbitration

- *LCIA Arbitration*
  Acted in a high-profile dispute in 2025 arising out of a shareholders' agreement.
- *LCIA Arbitration*

Acted (with Mark Howard QC) in successfully defending a c.$2 billion claim in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a Shareholders' Agreement

- *UNCITRAL Arbitration.*
  Acted (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) in a c.$300 million ICC arbitration concerning the oil and gas industry
- *ICC Arbitration*
  Acted (as sole counsel) for the successful claimant in an ICC arbitration arising out of a distribution agreement in the pharmaceutical industry
- *Enka Insaat ve Sanayi AS v OOO "Insurance Company Chubb*[2020] UKSC 38; [2020] EWCA Civ 574
  Acted (with Robin Dicker QC) in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in what is now the leading case on the principles for ascertaining the proper law of arbitration agreements and the role of the court of the seat in granting anti-suit injunctions.
- *ICC Arbitration*
  Acted in a 10-day ICC arbitration in June 2021 concerning the pharmaceutical industry.
- Acted for the defendant in Commercial Court proceedings resisting the enforcement of a $1.2 billion LCIA arbitral award. The case, which settled shortly before the hearing, involved questions relating to the English choice of law rule for arbitration agreements in the light of Sulamerica v Enesa and the scope of section 66 of the Arbitration Act.
- Acted (as sole counsel) in a RICS arbitration in a claim for damages for the negligent management of a property.

Banking and Financial Services

- *Hopcraft v Close Brothers Ltd*
  Acted in this high-profile Supreme Court appeal for Close Brothers. The appeal raises important issues of law concerning the payment of commission in the context of motor finance.
- *Goldman Sachs International v Novo Banco [2018] 1 WLR 3683*
  Acting for the claimants in the Supreme Court in a claim worth in excess of $600 million. The issues before the Supreme Court concern the interpretation of the EU Directive on Bank Recovery and Resolution and article 25 of the Brussels Regulation (Recast).
- *Arempa International v Barclays Bank (UK) plc*
  Acted in a Commercial Court claim arising out of an authorised push payment or 'APP' fraud. The claim raised issues concerning the availability of a claim against the recipient bank in negligence or unjust enrichment. Settled in January 2020. Acting (as sole counsel) in the Commercial Court in an application for pre-action disclosure and a potential claim arising out of an 'authorised push payment fraud'

Energy and Natural Resources

- *UNCITRAL Arbitration*
  Acted in a c.$300 million ICC arbitration concerning the oil and gas industry.

Trusts and Equity

- *Hopcraft v Close Brothers Ltd*
  Acted in this high-profile Supreme Court appeal for Close Brothers, one of the successful appellants. The appeal raises important issues of law concerning the payment of commission in the context of motor finance.
- *Grand View PTC v Wong*
  Acting for Grand View in the Privy Council in a case that raises fundamental questions of law concerning (inter alia) powers of amendment under trust deeds, the nature of discretionary trusts, the correct analysis of the beneficiary principle and the rule against perpetuities
- *WCI v Brown*
  Acted (as sole counsel) for the successful director defendant in the Chancery Division defending a claim for breach of fiduciary duty.

What the Directories Say

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Energy & Natural Resources) "*Niranjan has great attention to detail and encyclopaedic knowledge; the team really like working with him.*" "*Niranjan has an incredible legal mind like no one I have come across. His legal knowledge is vast and quality of drafting is second to none.*" "*Niranjan's instant recall of anything is staggering and he is really interested in the subject matter.*"

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Fraud: Civil) "*He is amazing on his feet, has a brilliant legal mind and is super user-friendly as well.*" "*He has a superb command of all aspects of commercial law and litigation, and a completely comprehensive knowledge of the rules of procedure, which he uses to great advantage for his clients.*"

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"I don't know anyone who knows so much law or who better understands the process of advocacy than him. He writes beautifully and is a fantastic advocate. There's no one I would rather work with." "An exceptional talent, Niranjan Venkatesan has a brain the size of a planet and can see arguments no one else can. He is very creative, easy to work with and client-friendly." "Niranjan Venkatesan KC is an absolute superstar. He is amazing on his feet, has a brilliant legal mind and is super user-friendly as well."*

Legal 500 2026 (Insolvency) *"Niranjan is outstanding. An exceptional advocate, a trial-genius and very client-friendly."*

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Energy & Natural Resources) *"Niranjan's work is truly excellent and his drafting is particularly impressive." "Niranjan Venkatesan has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law." "Niranjan has a brain the size of a planet and he has an appetite for crunching through documents."*

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Responsive, all over the detail, and someone who's around when you need him. He grasps all of the issues in a case and is utterly brilliant" "Niranjan is everyone's go-to junior barrister. A man with a brilliant mind, he's a certain future leader of the Commercial Bar." "Incredibly clever, diligent and a clear thinker, he gets in all of the big cases and is often in the Supreme Court." "Niranjan is absolutely brilliant. He is very calm under pressure and he has an incredibly sharp and insightful mind." "Niranjan has such a beautiful mind. He is very clever and has that ability to distil extremely complex matters into simple concepts."*

Legal 500 2025 (Banking & Finance Including Consumer Credit) *"Niranjan is as tenacious as he is astute with an unwavering commitment to getting the best outcome for his client. He is strategic and goes above and beyond consistently. He is consistently technically excellent.."*

Legal 500 2025 (Commercial Litigation) *"Niranjan is truly one of the most remarkable advocates. His eloquence and profound grasp of both common law and statute down to the granule detail make him a formidable presence as an opponent."*

Legal 500 2025 (Energy) *"Niranjan is truly one of the most remarkable advocates. His eloquence and profound grasp of both common law and statute down to the granule detail make him a formidable presence as an opponent." "Niranjan's advocacy is absolutely superb, and he instils trust and confidence in clients."*

Legal 500 2025 (Insolvency) *"Niranjan is one of the most impressive advocates, without doubt. He is exceptionally astute and technically excellent, as well as meticulously detailed-orientated."*

Chambers & Partners 2024 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"A genius." "Niranjan is probably one of the most intelligent barristers. He has the ability to get to the heart of a case." "Niranjan has an exceptional mind. His analysis of a case is first class."*

Legal 500 2024 (Banking & Finance) *'Niranjan is an intellectual powerhouse and an extremely user-friendly barrister. His written advocacy is particularly persuasive and noteworthy.'*

Legal 500 2024 (Commercial Litigation) *'Niranjan is an exceptional lawyer. He is phenomenally bright and despite his tremendous ability, he is always humble and ready to help any member of the team.'*

Legal 500 2024 (Insolvency; and Energy & Natural Resources) *'Niranjan is an extremely bright barrister. He comes up with innovative solutions to legal problems, and is very hard working and responsive to requests.'*

Chambers & Partners 2023 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) "*His ability to get on top of the issues and complicated matters in a case at speed is astonishing.*" "*Niranjan is brilliant, user-friendly and responsive.*" "*Very clever and highly collaborative.*"

Legal 500 2022 (Banking & Finance) "*His advocacy was very powerful, underpinned by brilliant preparation and delivered with a style that was tailored to his judge. He is a future superstar*";

Legal 500 2022 (Commercial Litigation) "*Niranjan is in a class of his own. He is exceedingly bright, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law, is passionate about what he does, charming to work with and a positive and supportive team member.'*

Chambers & Partners 2022 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"He is one of the most in-demand juniors at the moment. He has encyclopaedic knowledge and always listens to and incorporates the solicitor's views."*

Education

- University of Oxford
  DPhil for the thesis 'Damages for Misrepresentation in English Law'
- BCL (top in year, Vinerian Scholarship, three subject prizes)
- National Law School of India University
  BA LLB (Hons) (top in year, twelve University Prizes, Chief Editor of the Law Review)

Academic Achievements

- Eldon Scholarship (awarded each year to the most promising graduate of the University of Oxford intending to practise at the Bar)
- Vinerian Scholarship for best performance in the BCL (Restitution of Unjust Enrichment, Conflict of Laws, Personal Taxation, Evidence)
- John Morris Prize for best performance in the Conflict of Laws
- Rupert Cross Prize for best performance in Evidence
- Gray's Inn Tax Chambers Prize for best performance in Personal Taxation
- Rhodes Scholarship, University of Oxford
- Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford
- Twelve University Prizes as an undergraduate at the National Law School of India University including the Indira Khaitan Prize for University First Rank, the Justice Menon Prize for Best Graduating Student and the Subba Rao Prize for best performance in contract law.
- Indian National Champion and Quarter-finalist in the International Rounds, Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Richard Baxter Award for Second Best Respondent Memorial in the World and Fourth Best applicant Memorial in the World, Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Eighth Best Advocate in the World, Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Honourable Mention for Advocacy at the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition, Vienna

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Previous Experience

- Called to the Indian Bar

- Lecturer, University of Oxford
  Lecturer in Law at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Selected Publications

- 'Causation in misrepresentation: historical or counterfactual? And "but for" what?' (2021) 137 *Law Quarterly Review* 503
- (co-authored with Ian Glick KC) '**Choosing the Law Governing the Arbitration Agreement**' in N Kaplan and M Moser (eds), Jurisdiction, Admissibility and Choice of Law in International Arbitration (Wolters Kluwer 2018)
- (co-authored with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) 'Restitution and Unjust Enrichment: 2017-18' in D Clarry (ed), The UK Supreme Court Yearbook vol 9 (2018)
- '**The Contract Remoteness Rule: Exclusion, not Assumption of Responsibility**' in A Dyson, J Goudkamp and F Wilmot-Smith (eds), Defences in Contract (2017) (paper presented at All Souls College, Oxford in January 2016)
- 'Specific and Agreed Remedies for Breach of Contract in Indian Law: A Code of English Law?' in M Chen-Wishart, A Loke and B Ong (eds), Performance Interest in the Contract Laws of Asia (OUP 2016) (paper presented at the National University of Singapore)
- 'Legislative Competence: The Union and the States' in the Oxford Handbook to the Indian Constitution (OUP 2016)

Awards

Chambers RANKED IN UK Bar 2026
Niranjan Venkatesan KC

INCLUDED NEW SILK
Legal500
UNITED KINGDOM
2026

ONE ESSEX COURT

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