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Saul Lemer

Barrister
Call 2007

Scope of Practice

• Agency • Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Company • Economic Torts • Energy and Natural Resources • Equity • Guarantees • Injunctions • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Restitution • Sale of Goods and Supply of Goods and Services

Overview

Saul Lemer undertakes a broad range of commercial disputes including both litigation and arbitration. Saul's practice includes both un-led work, often against silks, as well as work as a senior junior in larger teams.

Saul's notable cases include:

- **Municipio de Mariana v BHP Group (UK) Ltd (2026)** – Saul acts for the defendants in a multi-billion $ claim arising out of the collapse of the Fundão dam in Brazil.
- **Transworld Payment Solution UK Ltd (In Liquidation) v First Curacao International Bank NV [2025] EWHC 2480 (Ch)** – Saul acted for a Defendant accused of assisting in a c £250m VAT fraud.
- **Standard Chartered plc v Guaranty Nominees Ltd [2025] 2 All ER (Comm) 46** – Saul acted for the Defendants who opposed Standard Chartered seeking to substitute a new benchmark into the formula for calculating dividends for a US$750m preference share issuance following the end of LIBOR.
- **Shovlin v Careless [2024] EWHC 324 (KB)** – Saul acted for the Defendants opposing the enforcement of a US$10m Californian judgment.
- **SEFE Marketing and Trading Ltd v Vitol SA [2022] EWHC 2800 (Comm)** – Saul acted for a German state-owned energy provider seeking an injunction to prevent the suspension of the performance of a gas supply contract.
- **European Real Estate Debt Fund (Cayman) Ltd v Treon [2021] EWHC 2866 (Ch)** - Saul acted (un-led) for two of the Defendants in a multimillion pound, three-week, fraud trial in the Chancery Division.
- **Surkis v Poroshenko [2021] EWHC 2512 (Comm)** – Saul acted for Igor Surkis and six English LLPs in a c.US$250 million claim against the former President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, and the former Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, Valeria Gontareva.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration

- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (with Charles Graham KC) for the claimant in LCIA proceedings for breach of an investment agreement in relation to an investment in a CIS state.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (as sole counsel) for the claimant in a claim for damages for the non-delivery of medical products in Asia.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (with Daniel Toledano KC) for the claimant in a US$100 million claim for breach of warranty in connection with the purchase of a Turkish television business.
- ICC Proceedings
  Acted (with Ben Strong KC) for the respondents in a claim relating to the construction of a pricing clause in a share purchase agreement and a consequential price adjustment of over €300 million.
- ICC Proceedings
  Acted (with Ben Strong KC) for the claimant in a claim for breach of an accounting warranty. The claim was for c €35 million.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (with Alain Choo Choy KC) for the respondent in a claim for c US$170 million relating to the financing of a metal recycling business.
- UNCITRAL Proceedings
  Acted (with Stephen Auld KC) for the claimants in a Hong Kong arbitration relating to a HK$195,000,000 investment in a Chinese mining company. The claim involved issues of mutual mistake, the implication of terms and the interpretation of a number of related contracts.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (with Stephen Auld KC) for the respondents in relation to a dispute concerning the purchase of an East Asian mining business from the claimant. Following the purchase, claims were brought against the respondent by a third party. The claimant sought declarations to the effect that it was not liable in respect of the claims brought by the third party.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (as sole counsel) for the respondent against whom a demand was made to invest around US$20 million in a Dutch company with mining interests in West Africa. The claimant alleged that the respondent was required to invest the sum of US$20 million pursuant to a shareholders' agreement. The respondent alleged that the requirements necessary to trigger the obligation to invest had not been met.
- ICC Proceedings
  Acted (as sole counsel) in relation to a Singapore arbitration, for a BVI company that was seeking to recover around US$2.5 million that it invested in a hydroelectric project in India. The claim involved issues relating to breaches of contract and resulting trusts.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Acted (with Robert Miles KC and Edmund King) for a Guernsey incorporated investment company that was sued by its investors for breaches of contract and negligence in relation to its dealings with Lehman Bros.

Banking and Financial Services

- Standard Chartered plc v Guaranty Nominees [2025] 2 All ER (Comm) 46
  Saul acted for the Defendants who opposed Standard Chartered seeking to substitute a new benchmark into the formula for calculating dividends for a US$750m preference share issuance following the end of LIBOR.
- Associated Biscuits International Limited v BNP Paribas SA
  Saul acted for the Claimant seeking to recover from the Defendant bank the sum of US$2 million paid out of the Claimant's bank account as a result of a fraud carried out by a third party.
- Romanello Financial Corp v Lars Windhorst
  Saul acted in a claim to recover c. €60 million invested in shares and bonds on terms that the shares and bonds would be repurchased on a specific date.

- Mayuli Caboose Establishment v RP&C International Ltd & Anr
  Saul acted for the First Defendant in a claim for c US$11 million brought in relation to the placement of loan notes issued by a UK care home provider.
- Chesterfield United Inc. & Anr v Deutsche Bank AG & Ors
  Saul acted for Deutsche Bank in c. €500 million litigation arising out of the sale of credit linked notes.
- Fidelity Bank PLC v. Constant Capital Markets & Securities Ltd
  Saul acted for the defendant, a Nigerian financial services company, in respect of a claim by a Nigerian bank to rectify and imply terms into two repo agreements under which sums in excess of US$80 million were lent.
- Greenclose Ltd v National Westminster Bank Plc [2014] EWHC 1156 (Ch)
  Saul acted for the claimant. Following a trial in the Chancery Division, it was held that a notice to extend an interest rate collar was invalid. The interest rate collar was governed by the terms of the 1992 ISDA Master Agreement, section 12 of which deals with notices. The court held that section 12 established mandatory requirements for the effective service of a notice and that the Defendant bank had failed to comply with the mandatory requirements. The Defendant was ordered to return all of the sums paid to the Defendant during the extension period, plus interest.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

- Transworld Payment Solution UK Ltd (In Liquidation) v First Curacao International Bank NV [2025] EWHC 2480 (Ch)
- Saul acts for a Defendant accused of assisting in a c £250m VAT fraud.
- European Real Estate Debt Fund (Cayman) Ltd v Treon [2021] EWHC 2866 (Ch)
  Saul acted for the Second and Third Defendant against whom the Claimant sought c. £15 million for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations in connection with the sale of certain Loan Notes. A three-week Chancery Trial was held in June/July 2021.
- Targus Europe Ltd v Henry Acheampong
  Saul acted for the claimant seeking to recover c £900,000 from an employee who took the money without consent.
- CMC v Tyson & Ors
  Saul acted for CMC Spreadbet plc in a claim to recover over £3 million paid to customers of CMC Spreadbet in circumstances which CMC Spreadbet alleged amounted to conspiracy and breach of contract.
- Avrahami & Ors v. Biran & Ors [2013] EWHC 1776 (Ch)
  Saul acted for the defendant in a three-week Chancery Division trial in which the Defendant was accused of fraudulent misrepresentation and breaches of fiduciary duty, and against whom damages in excess of £1.5m were claimed.
- JSC BTA Bank v Mukhtar Ablyazov and 11 Ors [2011] EWHC 2506 (Comm)
  Saul acted for a number of Defendants against whom the claimant, Kazakhstan's largest bank, was seeking damages of over US$ 1 billion on the basis of the defendants' purported involvement in a fraud carried out by the Claimant's former managing director and majority shareholder.

Commercial Litigation

- Municipio de Mariana v BHP Group (UK) Ltd (2026)
  Saul acts for the defendants in a multi-billion $ claim arising out of the collapse of the Fundão dam in Brazil.
- Perelman v Kerr [2025] EWHC 2331 (Comm)
  Saul acted for the Claimant seeking specific performance of a share purchase agreement and a related right of first refusal agreement, together worth c£1m.
- Shovlin v Careless [2024] EWHC 324 (KB)
  Saul acted for Defendants opposing the enforcement of a US$10m Californian judgment.
- Novitas Loans Limited v AmTrust Europe Limited
  Saul acted for a bank that provided litigation funding which was seeking c. £130m from an ATE insurer who agreed to provide cover if the funded claims were unsuccessful but who refused to pay.
- Diageo v Mallya [2019] EWHC 2067 (Comm)
  Saul acts for Diageo in a c. US$150 million claim against Vijay Mallya and connected parties.
- Surkis and Ors v Poroshenko and Gontareva [2021] EWHC 2512 (Comm)
  Saul acted for Igor Surkis and six English LLPs in a c.US$250 million claim against the former President of

Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, and the former Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, Valeria Gontareva.

- LICT v VTBC [2016] EWHC 1891 (Comm); [2018] EWHC 169 (Comm); [2019] EWHC 1747 (Comm)
  Saul acted in Commercial Court proceedings for the former finance minister of Bulgaria and a company he owns defending a claim for over €100 million in relation to the purchase of a Bulgarian telecommunications business.
- CMC v Khan
  Saul acted for CMC Spreadbet plc in a claim to recover c. £300,000 which a customer refused to pay. The claim raises issues relating to the formation of online contracts, the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations 1999, COBS and misrepresentation.
- Ardila Investment NV v ENRC NV
  Saul acted for a claimant seeking the payment of US$220,000,000 owed under an agreement for the sale of a Brazilian mining business.
- William Hill Organisation Limited v Playtech [2011] EWHC 836 (Comm)
  Saul acted on behalf of William Hill in a dispute arising out of its online gambling joint venture with Playtech, raising issues of construction and implication of terms into the joint venture agreement.
- R H Ashcroft & sons ltd v Robert Daniel Macer Ashcroft & James Angus Ashcroft [2011] EWHC 1997 (Ch)
  Saul acted for the Defendant in respect of a dispute about the basis on which the Defendant was entitled to farm land owned by the Claimant. The Claimant alleged that it was able to remove the Defendant from the land at will. The Defendant successfully established that he had a contractual right to farm the land until the contract was properly terminated.

Company

- Chesterfield United Inc. v Deutsche Bank AG
  Saul acted for a Defendant against whom claims were made under s 213 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations 2006.
- Avrahami v Biran [2013] EWHC 1776 (Ch)
  Saul acted for a Defendant against whom claims were made under s 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986
- Jenmark v Healthcare Management Services
  Saul acted for the directors and shareholders of a group of companies that owned care homes across the UK and against whom derivative actions were brought for alleged breaches of fiduciary duties and against whom actions were brought for alleged breaches of various shareholder agreements.

Injunctions (including freezing orders and orders for disclosure of information)

- SEFE Marketing and Trading Ltd v Vitol SA [2022] EWHC 2800 (Comm)
  Saul acted for a German state-owned energy provider seeking an injunction to prevent the suspension of the performance of a gas supply contract.
- Romanello Financial Corp v Lars Windhorst
  Saul acted for a claimant who obtained a freezing injunction, asset disclosure orders and permission to enforce the freezing injunction in multiple foreign jurisdictions.
- Targus Europe Ltd v Henry Acheampong
  Saul acted for a Claimant who obtained a freezing injunction, proprietary injunction and an asset disclosure order.
- Imtech Process v O'Connor
  Saul acted in an application to obtain an injunction preventing an individual associated with the Claimant in arbitral proceedings from taking steps to intimidate the respondent's witnesses.
- Sinocare v Biran
  Saul acted for a defendant against whom a freezing order and a proprietary injunction were obtained in support of Hong Kong proceedings. The Defendant sought to vary the freezing order and the proprietary injunction to allow for payment of certain business debts.
- Mann v Piper
  Saul acted on behalf of a Defendant against whom a freezing order was obtained in the context of a US$10million claim made against the Defendant in New York.

Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws

- **[redacted]Tsareva v Ananyev; Galagaev v Ananyev [2019] EWHC 2114 (Comm)**
  Saul acted for the First Defendant in relation to a c US$100 million claim for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation in connection with the sale of Loan Notes in Russia in which the First Defendant challenged the jurisdiction of the English Court, in particular in relation to the Claimants' reliance on Art 8(1) of the Brussels Regulation (Recast).
- **Jong v HSBC**
  Saul acted for a claimant who sought permission to serve proceedings against a Monegasque bank in respect of claims for breach of contract and negligence.
- **Moneyexpert v Shovlin**
  Saul acted for parties seeking to prevent the enforceability, in England, of judgments obtained from the US Federal court and the Californian court in circumstances in which the defendant to the US proceedings contested the jurisdiction of the US federal and Californian courts.
- **Bird & Bird v Ministry of Mines, Republic of Guinea**
  Saul acted for a UK entity seeking permission to serve proceedings against the Government of the Republic of Guinea in respect of a debt claim.

What the Directories Say

"Saul is able to assimilate huge quantities of information at lightning speed and produce work that is crisply argued and compelling. He's a pleasure to work with." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2027)**

"Saul Lemer is a fantastic barrister who is extremely responsive and very commercially-minded." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2027)**

"Saul is very impressive and has an excellent ability to grasp technical issues quickly." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2027)**

"Saul gets stuck into the work and is across all the details in the case. He has a strong sense of legal requirements and builds a comprehensive strategy." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2027)**

"Strong academically and in getting to the heart of the detail." **(Legal 500, Commercial Litigation, 2027)**

"Saul Lemer has been brilliant. Absolutely all over the law, his skeleton arguments are always very thorough. You can see his strategic mind at work in his written submissions." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2026)**

"A pleasure to work with, he's able to get stuck into highly complex financial issues and understand them in remarkable detail. He also excels in expert cross-examination." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2026)**

"Saul Lemer is a strong and solid senior junior. He is hard-working, intelligent, commercial and someone who understands how best to defend his client's interest." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2026)**

"An excellent technical lawyer, who is very user-friendly and a great advocate." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2025)**

"Saul Lemer is very good on complex international disputes." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2024)**

"Very diligent and enthusiastic." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2024)**

"Saul is really down to earth, close to the detail and someone who takes a commercial view on matters." **(Chambers and Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2024)**

Education

[2001 - 2004] Trinity Hall, Cambridge BA (Hons), Law (Double First)

[2004 - 2005] University College, Oxford, BCL

[2005 - 2006] University of Pennsylvania, LLM

[2006 - 2007] Inns of Court School of Law, BVC

Other Academic Achievements

[2003] Elected as a Scholar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge

[2004] Trinity Hall Bateman Scholarship

[2005] Thouron Scholarship

[2006] Prince of Wales Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

[2006 - 2007] Tutored contract law at King's College London

Awards

2027 Chambers Top Ranked UK Bar

One Essex Court

Legal500 LEADING JUNIOR 2027

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