ONE ESSEX COURT

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Simon Colton KC

Barrister
Call 1999 Silk 2017

Scope of Practice

• Commercial Litigation • Banking and Financial Services • Professional Negligence and Liability • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Civil Fraud and Economic Torts • Arbitration • Water, Energy and Natural Resources • Pharmaceutical Industry • Pharmaceutical Industry and Life Sciences

Overview

Simon Colton KC undertakes a broad range of commercial litigation and arbitration, specialising in the largest and most complex cases. He has substantial experience in very large-scale and multi-jurisdictional litigation, often involving multiple causes of action and complex questions of jurisdiction together with conflicts of laws and foreign law issues. Simon has particular expertise in civil fraud (including deceit and conspiracy), in section 90A FSMA claims, and in contracts in the life sciences field.

Simon's recent instructions include leading teams of Counsel for the successful defendants in *Jinxin Inc v Aser Media Pte Ltd*, a claim in which in excess of $660 million in damages were sought for deceit and unlawful act conspiracy; and for three of the successful defendants in *Magomedov v TPG and others*, a claim in which in the region of $8.8 billion was sought for alleged unlawful conspiracies. Simon previously acted for the SFO in *ENRC v The Director of the Serious Fraud Office*, defending a claim for in excess of $250 million (from 2019 to 2025); for the defendant in the £100 million shareholder claim *Various Claimants v G4S Ltd (formerly G4S plc)* (from 2019, until it settled in 2023); for the claimant in *Sabbagh v Khoury* (from 2013 until it settled in 2020); and for Boris Berezovsky in *Berezovsky v Abramovich* (2009-2012).

Simon appears regularly before a range of tribunals, most frequently the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal, either alone or as part of a team. He has been licensed to appear as Counsel in proceedings in the Isle of Man, and has assisted in litigation in Jersey. He is comfortable working in Italian and in French, and accepts work involving instructions and documents in those languages.

Simon has given expert evidence on English law for the purpose of foreign proceedings conducted in the United States, Israel and Thailand. In addition to written reports, he has been cross-examined in Israel, and deposed in US proceedings.

Simon was formerly a member of the Attorney-General's 'A' Panel of Junior Counsel, and has continued to appear as Leading Counsel for a range of Government departments in a number of commercial matters.

Simon has been a Deputy High Court Judge since 2021, sitting in the Family Division and in the Commercial Court. He was previously a Recorder (2018-2021) and Vice-Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Standards Board (2016-2019).

Simon was the specialist editor of the three chapters on procedure in the 20th and 21st editions of McGregor on Damages, the leading practitioner text.

Examples of Recent Cases

Commercial Litigation

- **Nebahat Evyap İşbilen v Turk, Hanson Asset Management [2026] EWHC 2635 (BP), [2026] EWHC 2704 (BP), [2026] EWHC 2718 (BP) and [2026] EWHC 2722 (BP)**
  Leading Counsel for the Claimant in two claims arising out of the alleged misappropriation of c. £40 million. The trial is listed for 13 weeks in the Business and Property Division (Business List), from November 2026.
- **Jinxin, Inc v Aser Media Pte Ltd and others [2022] EWHC 2431 (Comm), [2022] EWHC 2856 (Comm), [2026] EWHC 765 (Comm).**
  Leading a team of three counsel acting for the defendants in claims alleging deceit and unlawful act conspiracy. This was one of The Lawyer's 'Top 20 cases of 2025'. The claimant purchaser of a sports rights agency sought rescission of the sale and purchase agreement, alternatively damages in excess of US$ 660 million. Trial took place in the Commercial Court between June and October 2025. Claim dismissed.
- **Magomedov and ors v TPG Group Holdings and ors [2023] EWHC 2655 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 59 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 59 (Comm), [2026] EWCA Civ 516**
  Leading a team of four counsel representing three defendants in a claim for $8.8 billion. Successfully resisted an on notice application for a freezing order, and successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the court, following a 9 day expedited hearing. Further successfully resisted attempt to re-open refusal of permission to appeal under CPR 52.30.
- **Various Claimants v. G4S Ltd (formerly G4S plc) [2021] EWHC 524 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1081 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1742 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1719 (Ch); [2023] EWHC 2863 (Ch)**
  Acting (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC, Emma Jones and Harry Stratton) for G4S, the multinational security services company, defending shareholder claims arising out of alleged fraudulent misstatements in G4S's annual reports. The claim raised issues concerning liability under section 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. This was the first English case to challenge the practice of adding claimants to a claim form between the time of issue and service, the first to consider the meaning of 'Person Discharging Managerial Responsibility' under s.90A, and the first to call into question the 'Shareholder Rule' which was ultimately abolished by the Privy Council in June 2025.
- **ENRC v. Serious Fraud Office [2020] EWHC 522 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 2197 (Comm); [2022] EWHC 1138 (Comm); [2023] EWHC 3280 (Comm)**
  Leading a team of seven counsel acting for the SFO, defending a Commercial Court claim for in excess of $250 million, involving allegations of inducing breach of a solicitor's retainer and misfeasance in public office. This was one of The Lawyer's 'Top 20 cases of 2021'. Following a 47 day trial, Waksman J cleared the SFO of most of the allegations of wrongdoing levelled against it.
- **Maranello Rosso Ltd v Lohomiij BV and ors [2022] EWCA Civ 1667**
  Appearing for the First and Fourth Respondents successfully resisting an appeal against summary judgment. In the context of allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, dishonest assistance and wrongful interference with the sales of classic cars, Simon persuaded the Court of Appeal that the first instance judge had not impermissibly conducted a mini-trial, and to reject an implied term for which the appellants contended.
- **Castle Water Limited v. Thames Water Utilities Limited [2020] EWHC 1374 (TCC)**
  Leading a team of three counsel acting for the defendant in Technology and Construction Court proceedings resisting a claim for in excess of £40 million, and pursuing a counterclaim of a similar value, arising out of the sale to the claimant of its non-household retail business. This was one of *The Lawyer's* 'Top 20 cases of 2021'. The matter settled in mid-2021.
- **Benkel (as trustee in bankruptcy of Eliezer Fishman) v East-West German Real Estate Holding [2019] EWHC 117 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 199 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 188 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 777 (Ch)**
  Acted for the successful claimant trustee in an 8-day trial heard before Morgan J in the Chancery Division in

February 2021. The claimant proved that the defendants created a corporate structure as a vehicle to hold assets belonging to the bankrupt in an attempt to put assets beyond the reach of his creditors. In pursuing the claimant's claims, the claimant obtained orders recognising the foreign trustee under the cross-border insolvency regulation, a proprietary injunction, the appointment of receivers, an order under the Taking of Evidence Regulation, and an order to join an additional defendant in the course of the trial. Following 3 days of cross-examination by Simon, the Judge held that all of the defendants' witnesses were unreliable, and granted the order the claimant sought.

- Sabbagh v. Khoury [2014] EWHC 3233 (Comm); [2017] EWCA Civ 1120; [2017] EWHC 3137 (Comm); [2018] EWHC 1330 (Comm); [2019] EWCA Civ 1219; [2019] EWHC 3004 (Comm)
  Appearing (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC and others) in a Commercial Court action for conspiracy under Lebanese law in which damages in excess of US$600 million were claimed. At a 5 day jurisdiction hearing in July 2014, Simon dealt with all Brussels Regulation issues on behalf of the Claimant. Simon also acted to secure an anti-arbitration injunction, preventing the continuation of an arbitration seated in Lebanon. The claim settled in May 2020.
- AssetCo plc v. Grant Thornton LLP UK LLP [2019] EWHC 150 (Comm); [2019] EWHC 191 (Comm), [2019] EWHC 592 (Comm)
  Appearing (with David Wolfson KC) for the defendant in an audit negligence claim. Following a 12 day trial, the Commercial Court handed down a 1274 paragraph judgment considering numerous areas in the law of audit negligence and damages, including the duties owed by auditors; the 'loss of a chance' doctrine; intervening acts and the 'very thing' principle; and issues of contributory fault. Simon also appeared in the successful Court of Appeal hearing, in which damages were substantially reduced.
- Damoco (Bermuda) Ltd and ors v. Atlanta Bidco Ltd [2020] EWHC 501 (Comm)
  Acting for vendors in a Commercial Court claim for unpaid deferred consideration, in excess of €19 million, under a sale and purchase agreement.
- Nagel v. Pluczenik Diamond Company NV [2019] EWHC 3126 (QB)
  Acting for a judgment debtor resisting an order for cross-examination of its officers. The proceedings involve a novel use of CPR 71 to cross-examine officers on the basis of an order for costs to be assessed, without any debt yet being due.
- Tchenguiz v. Grant Thornton [2017] EWHC 1284 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 2644 (Comm)
  Appearing as Leading Counsel for the Serious Fraud Office, in the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal, in long-running applications under which permission was sought by the parties to use disclosure given, and witness statements served, by the SFO in earlier litigation.
- Winkler v. Shamoon [2016] EWHC 217 (Ch)
  Appearing for the claimant in a 4 day jurisdiction hearing on a very substantial Chancery Division dispute as to the ownership of shares. Issues of jurisdiction and governing law, as well as questions of proprietary estoppel, constructive trusts, Israeli law and BVI law arose.
- Tchenguiz v. Director of the Serious Fraud Office; Rawlinson and Hunter Trustees v. same [2013] EWHC 1578 (QB); [2013] EWHC 2128 (QB); [2014] EWHC 1102 (Comm)
  Appearing (led by James Eadie KC, Dominic Dowley KC and Charles Graham KC) on behalf of the SFO, defending claims for sums in excess of £200 million. Allegations included misfeasance in public office, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment and trespass.
- Starbev GP Ltd v. Interbrew Central European Holding BV [2013] EWHC 4038 (Comm); [2014] EWHC 1311 (Comm); [2014] EWHC 2863 (Comm); [2016] EWCA Civ 449
  Appearing at first instance and on appeal (with Lord Grabiner KC) for a private equity-sponsored Limited Partnership in its Commercial Court dispute with the world's largest brewer, arising out of the US$3.5 billion sale of a Central and Eastern European brewing business. Issues of contractual construction and estoppel by convention arise, with in excess of 100 million euros at stake.
- Boris Berezovsky v. Roman Abramovich [2010] EWHC 647 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 1511 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 2044 (Ch); [2010] EWHC 2010 (Comm); [2011] EWCA Civ 153; [2011] EWCACiv 484; [2012] EWHC 2463 (Comm)
  Appearing for Boris Barezonsky (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC and Richard Gillis KC and others) in a 43 day trial, following numerous and substantial interim applications and appeals, resulting from proceedings claiming damages in excess of $4 billion. The trial involved complex issues of fact and foreign (Russian) law, in addition to legal issues including the tort of intimidation and choice of law for torts, contracts and trusts. Also appearing in related litigation.
- BTA v. Ablyazov, Granton Trade Ltd & Ors [2010] EWHC 2219 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 2577 (Comm); [2011] EWHC 470 (Comm)

Appearing for a number of foreign defendants in proceedings resisting a Kazakh law claim against them seeking damages in excess of $1 billion. Interim applications related to jurisdiction and to the construction and effect of freezing orders.

Banking and Financial Services

- **Various Claimants v. G4S Ltd (formerly G4S plc) [2021] EWHC 524 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1081 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1742 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1719 (Ch); [2023] EWHC 2863 (Ch)**
  Acting (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC, Emma Jones and Harry Stratton) for G4S, the multinational security services company, defending shareholder claims arising out of alleged fraudulent misstatements in G4S's annual reports. The claim raises issues concerning liability under section 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. This was the first English case to challenge the practice of adding claimants to a claim form between the time of issue and service, the first to consider the meaning of 'Person Discharging Managerial Responsibility' under s.90A, and the first to call into question the 'Shareholder Rule' which was ultimately abolished by the Privy Council in June 2025.
- **Banco Santander Totta v. Carris and others [2016] EWHC 465 (Comm); [2016] EWCA Civ 1267**
  Appearing (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC and John Odgers KC) for the claimant in five related Commercial Court actions against Portuguese transport companies, arising out of swaps concluded between 2005 and 2007, with mark-to-market values at trial of approximately €1.3 billion. Following the first Financial List trial, lasting six weeks, judgment was entered for the claimant, confirming the validity and enforceability of all swaps. The judgment was upheld by the Court of Appeal in December 2016.
- **Assorted swaps claims**
  Acting for a major bank in a number of claims seeking enforcement of swaps contracts against foreign public bodies.
- **Deutsche Alternative Asset Management (UK) Ltd**
  Appearing (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) for the defendant to a claim for in excess of €158 million arising out of the management of an investment fund. The proceedings settled in early 2017.
- **Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In Administration) v JP Morgan Chase Bank NA**
  Acting (with Daniel Toledano KC) for first defendant in claim arising out of a suite of contractual arrangements.
- Advising a major financial institution in connection with an ongoing regulatory investigation.
- **ING Bank v. Ros Roca SA [2010] EWHC 50 (Comm); [2011] EWCA Civ 353**
  Appearing (in a 4 day trial in the Commercial Court and with Charles Graham KC in the Court of Appeal) for a Spanish company successfully resisting a claim for €7 million in professional fees brought by an investment bank. Legal issues relating to contractual construction and estoppel (on which it is now a leading authority).
- Advising an Italian public body in a €45 million claim for unjust enrichment against an investment bank in respect of a range of financial transactions (Commercial Court).

Professional Negligence and Liability

- **Castle Water Limited v. Thames Water Utilities Limited [2020] EWHC 1374 (TCC)**
  Leading a team of three counsel acting for the defendant in Technology and Construction Court proceedings resisting a claim for in excess of £40 million, and pursuing a counterclaim of a similar value, arising out of the sale to the claimant of its non-household retail business. This was one of *The Lawyer's* 'Top 20 cases of 2021'. The matter settled in mid-2021.
- **AssetCo plc v. Grant Thornton LLP [2019] EWHC 191 (Comm); [2019] EWHC 592 (Comm)**
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- **Heather Capital Ltd v. KPMG Audit LLC**
  Acted (with Rhodri Davies KC), for the defendant accountants in £90 million audit negligence claim.
- **Riyad Bank v. Ahli United Bank (UK) Plc [2005] EWHC 279 (Comm); [2005] 2 Lloyd's Rep 409; Court of**

Appeal [2005] EWCA Civ 1419
Appearing (with Michael Brindle KC) in a 20 day Commercial Court trial, and in the Court of Appeal, in a successful professional negligence claim. A leading authority on duties of care owed in three-party contractual relationships.

Civil Fraud and Economic Torts

- Nebahat Evyap İşbilen v Turk, Hanson Asset Management [2026] EWHC 2635 (BP), [2026] EWHC 2704 (BP), [2026] EWHC 2718 (BP) and [2026] EWHC 2722 (BP)
  Leading Counsel for the Claimant in two claims arising out of the alleged misappropriation of c. £40 million. The trial is listed for 13 weeks in the Business and Property Division (Business List), from November 2026.
- Magomedov and ors v TPG Group Holdings and ors [2023] EWHC 2655 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 59 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 59 (Comm), [2026] EWCA Civ 516
  Leading a team of four counsel representing three defendants in a claim for $8.8 billion. Successfully resisted an on notice application for a freezing order, and successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the court, following a 9 day expedited hearing. Further successfully resisted attempt to re-open refusal of permission to appeal under CPR 52.30.
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- UK Insurance Ltd v Hassankhail [2026] EWHC 714 (KB), [2026] EWHC 1020 (KB)
  Acting for the claimant seeking to set aside a settlement agreement with a personal injury claimant on the grounds that the settlement and order were procured by fraud. Successfully resisted an attempt to set aside a freezing order on the alleged grounds that the court had been misled.
- ENRC v. Serious Fraud Office [2020] EWHC 522 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 2197 (Comm); [2022] EWHC 1138 (Comm); [2023] EWHC 3280 (Comm)
  Leading a team of seven counsel acting for the SFO, defending a Commercial Court claim for in excess of $250 million, involving allegations of inducing breach of a solicitor's retainer and misfeasance in public office. This was one of The Lawyer's 'Top 20 cases of 2021'. Following a 47 day trial, Waksman J cleared the SFO of most of the allegations of wrongdoing levelled against it. Simon continues to lead for the SFO in the further stages of the proceedings.
- Various Claimants v. G4S Ltd (formerly G4S plc) [2021] EWHC 524 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1081 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1742 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 1719 (Ch); [2023] EWHC 2863 (Ch)
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- Benkel (as trustee in bankruptcy of Eliezer Fishman) v East-West German Real Estate Holding [2019] EWHC 117 (Ch); [2019] EWHC 199 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 188 (Ch); [2021] EWHC 777 (Ch)
  Acted for the successful claimant trustee in an 8-day trial heard before Morgan J in the Chancery Division in February 2021. The claimant proved that the defendants created a corporate structure as a vehicle to hold assets belonging to the bankrupt in an attempt to put assets beyond the reach of his creditors. In pursuing the claimant's claims, the claimant obtained orders recognising the foreign trustee under the cross-border insolvency regulation, a proprietary injunction, the appointment of receivers, an order under the Taking of Evidence Regulation, and an order to join an additional defendant in the course of the trial. Following 3 days of cross-examination by Simon, the Judge held that all of the defendants' witnesses were unreliable, and granted the order the claimant sought.

- Sabbagh v. Khoury [2014] EWHC 3233 (Comm); [2017] EWCA Civ 1120; [2017] EWHC 3137 (Comm); [2018] EWHC 1330 (Comm); [2019] EWCA Civ 1219; [2019] EWHC 3004 (Comm)
  Appearing (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC and others) in a Commercial Court action for conspiracy under Lebanese law in which damages in excess of US$600 million were claimed. At a 5 day jurisdiction hearing in July 2014, Simon dealt with all Brussels Regulation issues on behalf of the Claimant. Simon also acted to secure an anti-arbitration injunction, preventing the continuation of an arbitration seated in Lebanon. The claim settled in May 2020.
- JD Wetherspoon v. Harris and ors [2013] EWHC 1088 (Ch)
  Appearing (with John Wardell KC) for a property developer resisting an ongoing multi-million pound claim for dishonest assistance and bribery.
- Boris Berezovsky v. Roman Abramovich [2010] EWHC 647 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 1511 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 2044 (Ch); [2010] EWHC 2010 (Comm); [2011] EWCA Civ 153; [2011] EWCACiv 484; [2012] EWHC 2463 (Comm)
  Appearing for Boris Berezovsky (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC and Richard Gillis KC and others) in a 43 day trial, following numerous and substantial interim applications and appeals, resulting from proceedings claiming damages in excess of $4 billion. The trial involved complex issues of fact and foreign (Russian) law, in addition to legal issues including the tort of intimidation and choice of law for torts, contracts and trusts. Also appearing in related litigation.
- BTA v. Ablyazov, Granton Trade Ltd & Ors [2010] EWHC 2219 (Comm); [2010] EWHC 2577 (Comm); [2011] EWHC 470 (Comm)
  Appearing for a number of foreign defendants in proceedings resisting a Kazakh law claim against them seeking damages in excess of $1 billion. Interim applications related to jurisdiction and to the construction and effect of freezing orders.

Water, Energy and Natural Resources

- Altera Voyageur Production Ltd v. Premier Oil E&P UK Ltd [2020] EWHC 1891 (Comm)
  Appearing for the defendant in Commercial Court proceedings concerning the interpretation of a suite of contracts relating to the charter of an FPSO
- Castle Water Limited v. Thames Water Utilities Limited [2020] EWHC 1374 (TCC)
  Leading a team of three counsel acting for the defendant in Technology and Construction Court proceedings resisting a claim for in excess of £40 million, and pursuing a counterclaim of a similar value, arising out of the sale to the claimant of its non-household retail business. This was one of *The Lawyer's* 'Top 20 cases of 2021'. The matter settled in mid-2021.
- ICC proceedings
  Acting for a tenderer against a public authority in respect of a fuel supply contract, bringing a claim in excess of US$ 800 million.
- Boots UK Ltd v. Severn Trent Water Ltd [2018] EWHC 53 (Comm); [2018] EWCA Civ 2795
  Appearing for the successful defendant utility company in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, Successfully resisting a £20 million action for restitution for unjust enrichment. Issues include the interpretation of a series of Water Acts and of the defendant's Charges Schemes, and applicable limitation periods.
- Crown Packaging UK plc v. Severn Trent Water Ltd
  Successfully defended a multi-million pound claim for overpaid surface water drainage charges. The claim raised issues of negligent mis-statement, restitution for unjust enrichment, and interpretation of the Water Industry Act 1991. Following exchange of skeletons, the claimant consented to dismissal of the claim and to pay the defendant's costs.
- Appearing in an UNCITRAL arbitration resisting a multi-million dollar claim under a suite of contracts relating to an oil pipeline.
- BHP Billiton Petroleum GB Ltd and ors v. E.ON UK PLC
  Appearing (with Charles Hollander KC) on behalf of the Buyer in a Commercial Court dispute relating to the interpretation and possible rectification of Gas Sales Agreements, with sums at stake in the hundreds of millions of pounds. After a 3 day hearing, the case settled before judgment.
- Conducting and advising on an investigation, reporting to an independent company Chairman concerning the dilution of that company's shareholding in a $2 billion Russian oilfield.

Arbitration

- FOSFA Appeal proceedings
  Appearing for Sellers pursuing an appeal in before a Board of Appeal in a claim for in excess of $20 million.
- LCIA proceedings
  Appearing in a claim for in excess of $500 million, before three former judges of the English Court of Appeal. Simon was instructed after the conclusion of the liability phase, to argue questions of quantum, by reference to expert accounting and factual evidence and points of law.
- LCIA proceedings
  Appearing in long-running arbitral proceedings under the LCIA Rules, concerning the entitlement of one party to purchase shares from the other under a 'right of first offer' provision. Simon also appeared in a related application, heard by Butcher J in the Commercial Court, seeking a declaration that a 'Partial Final Award' was only an order, not an award, with, in the alternative, a claim for remission of the Partial First Award for reconsideration under s.68 of the Arbitration Act 1996. This application was reported as *YDU v SAB, BYH* [2022] EWHC 3304 (Comm).
- ICC proceedings
  Acting for a tenderer against a public authority in respect of a fuel supply contract, bringing a claim in excess of US$ 800 million.
- Ad hoc arbitral proceedings
  Appearing as Leading Counsel for a Government department, in arbitration seeking range of relief including payment in excess of £50 million.
- Section 68 / 69 challenge to ad hoc arbitral award [2016] EWHC 1795 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 3580 (Comm)
  Appearing in successive Commercial Court challenges to arbitral awards made in a high value dispute between father and son. Also appearing on issues remitted to arbitrator.
- UNICITRAL Proceedings
  Appearing resisting a multi-million dollar claim under a suite of contracts relating to an oil pipeline.
- ICC and Swiss Rules Proceedings
  Appearing (with Adam Constable KC) in arbitrations resisting claims for in excess of $800 million in connection with a Russian construction project.
- UNICITRAL Proceedings
  Appearing resisting a claim for in excess of £12.6 million arising out of alleged breaches of contract in the waste management industry.
- ICC Proceedings
  Appearing for a Chinese supplier of silicon wafers in a $33 million dispute. Legal issues included contractual construction, penalty clauses and competition issues.
- SIAC Proceedings
  Appearing (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC) in an arbitration defending a claim for approximately $250 million arising out of commercial dealings in South-East Asia.
- UNICITRAL Proceedings
  Appearing seeking an indemnity under a financial services agreement.
- LCIA Proceedings
  Appearing in a lengthy arbitration in connection with an Iranian distribution agreement, in a claim for breach of contract giving rise to Wrotham Park 'reasonable fee' damages.

Pharmaceutical Industry and Life Sciences

- Acting for an Indian pharmaceutical manufacturer in an ongoing commercial dispute with a UK-based distributor (Commercial Court).
- Advising a listed UK-based pharmaceutical company in an ongoing dispute relating to royalties.
- Acting for a (publicly-listed) pharmaceutical company defending very high value ICC proceedings brought by another pharmaceutical company.
- Acting for global pharmaceutical company in ongoing Commercial Court proceedings arising out of a commercial contract
- Providing ongoing advice to a life sciences company on issues arising out of a collaboration with another company.

Other significant experience

- Advising on assorted matters in the context of financial remedies claims between ultra-high net worth individuals in the Family Division
- Providing ongoing advice to an expert accountant in the context of a multi-year Expert Determination process.
- **Cruz City 1 Mauritius Holdings v Unitech Ltd & ors**
  Appearing in the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man, under a Temporary Advocate's Licence, in a five day trial. Issues of facts arising alongside questions of trust and company law.
- **Ryanair Ltd v. Secretary of State for the Home Dept [2018] EWCA Civ 899**
  Appearing for the Home Secretary, on the first appeal and on a second appeal to the Court of Appeal, successfully resisting a challenge by Ryanair to the carrier charges scheme under section 40 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The challenge raised novel points concerning the interpretation of the Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC), and the conformity of section 40 with EU law.
- **R (Sustainable Development Capital LLP) v. Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy [2017] EWHC 771 (Admin)**
  Appearing (with Steven Kovats KC) for the successful defendants in a commercial judicial review, arising out of the sale of Green Investment Bank plc in a £2.3 billion deal. The claim raised issues of justiciability, delay, procedural fairness and rationality, and the appropriateness of proposed remedies.
- **Oyesanya v. Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals Trust [2015] EWCA Civ 1049**
  Appearing in successful appeal to Court of Appeal on issue of Limitation Act defence.

What the Directories Say

"He is peerless in terms of the law... a wonderful advocate... and is a pleasure to work with (for both instructing solicitors and lay clients)." (Legal 500 2027 – Commercial Litigation)

"He is effortlessly bright and a brilliant cross-examiner who is very on top of the detail." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is extremely intelligent whilst also being user-friendly and on top of the detail, more so than most KC's. He's punchy without being arrogant and is a genuine pleasure to work with." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon cuts through the most complex legal analysis. He is client-friendly, superb on strategy and incredibly responsive." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon Colton is a superb advocate. He has a phenomenal mind to digest lots of information and comes up with a clear strategy." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Fraud: Civil)

"His submissions are incredibly crisp and clear, and he is so calm and clear in his delivery that he is very persuasive to judges." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Fraud: Civil)

"His grasp of legal complex cases is outstanding, and his advocacy is really measured and clear." (Chambers and Partners 2026 - Fraud: Civil)

"Simon is absolutely superb. Extraordinarily bright; works at great speed; incredibly responsive; clear and crisp drafting." (Legal 500 2026 - Commercial Litigation)

"Simon is phenomenally bright, although he carries it lightly. He deals with very complicated issues and weaves in complex legal arguments, delivering them in a completely understandable way." (Chambers and Partners 2025 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is very smart, very quick to spot the issues, very into the details and also all over the strategy. He is good with complex

and novel law." (Chambers and Partners 2025 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is just excellent. Extremely user-friendly, responsive and commercial, very good on the black-letter law, has great instincts, and very good on his feet." (Legal 500 2025 - Commercial Litigation)

"He is incredible in technically complex cases" (Chambers and Partners 2025 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is a brilliant barrister and advocate. It is a real treat to watch him in the courtroom - he offers a masterclass in advocacy. (Chambers and Partners 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon brings extraordinary knowledge of the law to his cases and combines it with being very down to earth in his advocacy style." (Chambers and Partners 2024 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is a phenomenal KC and a wonderful person to work with on the toughest matters. He is a brilliant advocate, a master of law and court practice, and a supreme tactician." (Legal 500 2023 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Simon is a brilliant cross-examiner and leader. Clients just love him." "He is a completely safe pair of hands and great to deal with." (Chambers and Partners 2023 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Measured, calm and very impressive. He is very clever - a real intellectual, academic type." (Chambers and Partners 2022 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Separates the wheat from the chaff with ease, always makes himself available and great fun to work with. I cannot recommend him highly enough." (Legal 500 2022 - Commercial Litigation)

"An instructing solicitors' dream. He is highly responsive, a master of civil procedure and process, a great tactician and a simply brilliant advocate". (Legal 500 2021- Commercial Litigation)

"Has the ability to produce detailed and compelling drafts at great speed." "He is very bright, very responsive, and just a really good person to have on board." (Chambers and Partners 2020 - Commercial Dispute Resolution)

'An excellent junior silk who represents the next generation.' (Legal 500 2019- Commercial Litigation)

Education

Trinity Hall, Cambridge (1994-1998) M.A. (Hons)
Modern Language and Law with a European Option

Other Academic Achievements

Inner Temple Major Scholarship (1998)
Diplôme universitaire d'études juridiques françaises, Université de Poitiers (1996-1997)
Elected to Scholarship of Trinity Hall (1995)
Diploma from Università per stranieri di Perugia (1994)

Awards

Legal500 LEADING SILK 2023

2027 Chambers Top Ranked UK Bar

One Essex Court

ONE ESSEX COURT

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