Chris Webber

Partner

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About Chris

Chris Webber specialises in resolving complex business and financial disputes and regulatory investigations. He is a trusted adviser to clients including financial services firms, corporates, entrepreneurs and investors.

Chris is recommended in *Legal 500 UK* for commercial litigation, banking litigation, contentious financial services and civil fraud matters. Clients have described Chris as "very smart, strategic and not intimidated by opponents"; "calm, collected and on top of the detail", with "a deep and sophisticated understanding of his clients' businesses and needs"; he is a "stand-out partner, who has the rare ability to know the details, but also see the big picture … gets the best out of his team because he genuinely leads from the front."; "a masterful technical lawyer who delivers consistently exceptional service"; and he "fights hard for his clients".

Experience

Commercial Disputes

- Acting for a multinational US food products manufacturer in the defence before the High Court and Court of Appeal of a €40 million claim by a Netherlands-based competitor. Our team was shortlisted for Commercial/Corporate Litigation Team of the Year at the Legal Week Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Awards for this case.
- Acting for a Middle Eastern public body in the successful defence of a US$48 million claim involving parallel proceedings in the UK and New York concerning a consulting agreement with a US-based consulting firm and an appeal to the Court of Appeal.
- Acting for the founders of a claims management company in a professional negligence claim against former advisers in relation to a £30 million sale of the business to a UK private equity fund.
- Advising an Eastern European conglomerate in relation to complex multijurisdictional claims against its founder, auditors and various other parties arising from the discovery of €2 billion misstatements of the group's accounts.

- Acting for an international renewable energy developer in defence of a €5 million claim by an advisory firm under a memorandum of understanding for the development of energy projects in Europe.
- Acting for an international sports advertising company based in the UK in multiple multimillion-pound High Court disputes arising from disruption in sports advertising following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Acting for a European art collector in defence of a claim for a multimillion-pound commission in relation to the US$250 million sale of a famous work of art.

Corporate and Shareholder Disputes

- Acting for a co-founder and substantial minority shareholder in a software company in a circa £25 million complex cross-border derivative claim against the directors following a sale transaction to a related party at an undervalue.
- Acting for a FTSE 250 manufacturing business in pursuit of multiple related breach of warranty claims in the High Court arising from the £13 million acquisition of a niche competitor.
- Acting for an innovative, high-growth financial advisory firm in relation to multiple related M&A disputes arising from the acquisitions of a number of regulated financial services firms.
- Acting for a major property developer in defence of a £18 million dispute arising from the expulsion of a member of a limited liability partnership established to develop a £75 million gross development value UK residential development site.
- Acting for a party to a shareholder dispute in relation to the management of a UK-based hedge fund and related enforcement of a US$5 million judgment of the Seychelles courts.
- Acting for a high-growth UK adtech company in high-stakes LCIA arbitration proceedings against a venture capital investor arising from a fundraising round and related consultancy services agreement.
- Acting for an international flexible office space provider in defence of multiple investment mis-selling claims brought by shareholders in relation to investment activities totalling £15 million.

Financial Services Disputes

- Acting for a limited partner in a US$1.5 billion private equity fund in respect of US$200 million claims arising from the mismanagement of the fund.
- Acting for the founder of a care home group in defence of £30 million restitution claims brought by the FCA involving allegations of operating unauthorised collective investment schemes and breaches of sections 89 and 90 of the Financial Services Act 2012.
- Acting for a commercial property development company borrower in a multimillion-pound dispute with its mezzanine lender following the declaration of a "material adverse change" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Advising multiple creditors in relation to the collapse into special administration of FCA-regulated prime broker firm Sova Capital following the imposition of sanctions relating to the Russia/Ukraine conflict.
- Acting for a major international broker dealer firm in a €130 million claim against another financial institution arising from the negligent closeout of over €4 billion of derivative contracts.
- Acting for an FCA-regulated alternative investment fund management firm in defence of several hundred mis-selling claims totalling circa £10 million by investors in a collapsed retail investment bond issuer.
- Acting for counterparties to derivative contracts in claims for more than US$40 million due to early termination following insolvency.

- Acting for a pension fund in obtaining and executing multiple freezing, search and passport confiscation orders in support of US$40 million civil fraud proceedings in Florida.

Regulatory Investigations

- Advising a wealth management firm and two of its senior executives in FCA enforcement investigations relating to its self-invested personal pensions (SIPP) management business.
- Advising an FCA-regulated alternative investment fund management firm in relation to a substantial section 166 "skilled person" review and remediation project in relation to its systems and controls.
- Advising an international flexible office space provider in relation to an FCA investigation into its UK investment capital-raising activities.
- Acting for a debt advisory firm in relation to an Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) investigation into alleged frontrunning of an AU$10 billion swap transaction.
- Advising the UK branch of an EU-headquartered commercial bank on an internal investigation following FCA enquiries regarding potential anti-competitive conduct in the UK syndicated lending market.
- Acting for an AIM-listed renewable energy company in defence of an investigation into alleged breaches of AIM rules arising from multimillion-pound-related party lending transactions.
- Advising a US broker dealer firm in relation to an FCA investigation into substantial alleged breaches of CASS (client money) rules.
- Acting as an FCA-approved "skilled person" on two major past business review and redress programmes in respect of sales by a commercial bank of interest rate hedging products.
- Acting for a statutory body in a judicial review brought by more than 200 financial services firms challenging an exercise of its powers.

Credentials

Education

- University of Oxford, Lincoln CollegeMA, Jurisprudence, 2001

Admissions

- England and Wales (Higher Rights of Audience), 2007
- England and Wales, 2004

Recognitions

- Shortlisted as a Rising Star at the Legal Week Commercial Litigation & Arbitration Awards 2019
- Recommended in *Legal 500 UK* for banking litigation – investment and retail; commercial litigation; contentious financial services; and civil fraud

Expertise

Services

- Litigation

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.