



HERBERT
SMITH
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TOM LEECH QC

PARTNER, HEAD OF THE ADVOCACY GROUP

[London](#)

Tom is a QC and head of Herbert Smith Freehills' advocacy group. He is a leading advocate in courts and tribunals at interim, trial and all appellate levels both in England and Wales and a number of offshore jurisdictions. He is also a Deputy High Court Judge and acts as arbitrator.

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BACKGROUND

Tom joined Herbert Smith Freehills' Global Advocacy Group after more than 20 years as a barrister at Maitland Chambers, a leading set of Commercial Chancery Chambers.

BLOG

[View our Private Wealth and Trust Dispute blog >](#)

KEY SERVICES

Commercial Litigation
Professional Negligence

KEY SECTORS

Asset and Wealth Management
Professional Support and Business Services

EXPERIENCE

Tom is a QC and leading advocate in courts and tribunals at interim, trial and at all appellate levels both in England and Wales and a number of offshore jurisdictions. In 2019 Tom was appointed to be a Deputy High Court Judge sitting in the Chancery Division and is also an FCI Arb.

Tom advises and appears for clients with commercial disputes, professional negligence, trusts, company and real estate disputes. Clients seek him out for his experience in multi-jurisdictional disputes and offshore jurisdictions, including Bermuda, Gibraltar, Singapore, Hong Kong, DIFC and the Isle of Man.

Tom has appeared in a number of leading cases including *Target v Redferns* and *Mannai v Eagle Star* in the House of Lords, *AIG Europe Ltd v OC320301 LLP* in the Supreme Court and the long-running *Thyssen* litigation in Bermuda. He is also one of the authors of the leading textbook *Flenley & Leech on Solicitors' Negligence* (fourth edition, 2020) and a co-editor of *Spencer Bower: Reliance-based estoppel* (fifth edition, 2018).

He is described by clients as "brilliant" and a "forceful and robust advocate," who is a "pleasure to do business with".

Tom's experience includes appearing for:

- in a US \$5.5 billion oil and gas arbitration in Singapore and London on behalf of a major oil company leading a large team from London, Hong Kong and Beijing: *A v T* (2018-9)
- the US Department of Justice at first instance and in CA on the jurisdiction to grant a freezing injunction in support of US forfeiture proceedings under section 25 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982: *Blue Holdings v USA* (2015)
- the Midas Claims Group in the Commercial Court, CA and the Supreme Court in the first decision on the application of the Solicitors Minimum Terms and Conditions to multiple claims against a firm of solicitors and in the underlying actions against the firm for breach of trust in the Chancery Division: *AIG v The International Law Partnership* (2017)
- beneficiaries of a Bermuda trust on an application to bless the acquisition of the minority shareholding in a billion dollar oil and logistics company: *Re A Trusts* (2018)
- Tony Jimenez, the well-known football entrepreneur, at trial in a fraud claim arising out of the redevelopment of Charlton Football Club: *Khakshouri v Jimenez* (2017)
- Jyske Bank in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar at the trial of claims for dishonest

assistance and knowing receipt brought by the liquidators of Marrache & Co: *Lavarello & Hyde v Jyske Bank (Gibraltar) Ltd* (2017)

- Geraud, the international markets company, in the High Court at the trial of claims against its former managing director for fraud and breach of fiduciary duty: *Geraud (UK) Ltd v Bonnet* (2016)
- the successful beneficiary, a high profile Israeli art collector, in LCIA arbitration proceedings in Israel and on appeal before the Commercial Court in London in relation to claims for breach of trusts holding Israeli and worldwide assets but governed by English law: *F v F* (2016):
- Deyaar in the DIFC Court and CA in relation to a claim for the assignment or novation of DIFC contracts and trusts and a jurisdiction dispute relating to associated proceedings for breach of directors' duties in the UAE Courts: *NBC v Taaleem PJSC* (2015)