

Alexander Thompson

CALL: 2014

✉ enquiries@twentyessex.com

☎ +44 (0)20 7842 1200

Languages: French (proficient); Italian (proficient); Spanish (proficient)



Overview

Alexander is a commercial litigator. He has a broad practice in all areas of commercial law, and represents clients in matters involving general commercial disputes, civil fraud and asset tracing, finance, insurance, international trade, shipping, and offshore construction.

He appears as a junior or as sole counsel in the High Court (Commercial Court and Chancery Division) and in international arbitrations worldwide under a variety of rules, typically ICC, LCIA, LMAA, GAFTA and FOSFA rules.

Alexander is a keen linguist and has acted in a number of international disputes with French, Spanish and Italian documents.

He has particular expertise in the conflict of laws (especially jurisdiction and the enforcement of foreign judgments, and the Brussels and Lugano regimes), including ancillary relief (especially anti-suit and freezing injunctions).

Alexander also practises in related areas of public international law, especially the law of state immunity.

In addition to his full-time practice at the Bar, Alexander is Teaching Fellow in International Commercial Litigation at University College London.

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Professional memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

Education

- BPP Law School: Bar Professional Training Course, Very Competent (2014)
- University of Oxford, Lincoln College: Bachelor of Civil Laws, Distinction (2013)
- University of Cambridge, Trinity College: BA (Hons) in Law, Double First Class (2012)

Major awards/prizes/scholarships

Scholarships

- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2013)
- Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2013)
- Crewe Scholarship, Lincoln College, University of Oxford (2012)
- Travelling Studentship, Trinity College,

University of Cambridge (2012)

- Whittaker Scholarship, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2012)

Prizes

- Norton Rose Prize for Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge (2012)
- Lizette Bentwich Prizes for outstanding performance in Tripos, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2010, 2011, 2012)
- College Council Awards for outstanding performance in Tripos, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2010, 2011, 2012)
- FW Maitland Prize for outstanding performance in the Constitutional Law Tripos, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2010)

Example cases

- *The Prestige*: Alexander is junior counsel (with Christopher Hancock QC and Charlotte Tan) for the P&I insurer in this long-running dispute against the Kingdom of Spain and the French State in relation to claims for c.€4.5 billion arising out of one of the largest oil spills in recent times. The case raises a large number of issues in private international law and arbitration.
- *Ablynx NV et anor v Unilever* [2019] EWHC 792 (Pat); [2019] EWCA Civ 2191 – Junior Counsel (with Lindsay Lane QC of 8 New Square Chambers) for the Unilever defendants in a substantial jurisdiction challenge in respect of patent litigation in the Netherlands, the UK, and Belgium. The case raises a number of novel issues on the proper construction and inter-relationship between articles 24(4), 25 and 31(2) of the Brussels Recast Regulation in patent infringement cases under patent licences with exclusive jurisdiction clauses. Alexander acted at first instance, before the Court of Appeal, and an application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court is pending.
- *A v B* (2019-2020) – Alexander was junior counsel (with Julian Kenny QC) in four concurrent arbitrations worth c US\$40 million in a dispute concerning the termination of lease finance arrangements over four very large crude oil carriers (VLCCs). The dispute centred around the restructuring of a substantial shipping business and its flotation on a public exchange.
- *M/T Sam Purpose* (2019) – Alexander acted (with Julian Kenny QC) on an application for an urgent freezing injunction and disclosure order to secure payment of a substantial arbitration award, including orders restricting the sale of certain vessels.
- *A v B* (2019) – acted (with Thomas Raphael QC) on section 68 and section 69 challenges to a commodities arbitration award.
- *Jakob v Mazur*: acted for two Russian defendants in a substantial action in the Chancery Division, including trust claims over property situate in England, claims for freezing injunctions and relief under s 423 Insolvency Act 1986 (with Blair Leahy).
- *Re a Debtor* (2018) – Acting for a Danish individual resident in England in relation to a statutory demand based on a Danish judgment debt. The case raises questions regarding recognition in English bankruptcy proceedings of foreign judgments under the Recast Regulation.
- *Funding Circle Ltd v Sporting Apex Ltd* (2018) – Counsel for one of the leading business loan market place companies in London on an application for default judgment under CPR 12.10 and the CJA 1982 against defendants served without leave outside the jurisdiction.
- *LMM v Universal*: acting for a London recording studio in a claim in the Chancery Division against a global music

distributor.

- *A Company v B Company* (2017) - Advised a Nigerian supplier on questions of applicable law and jurisdiction under a letter of credit issued by a German bank.
- *Glencore Energy UK Ltd v Topoil AB* (2017) - Advised on issues relating to service of High Court proceedings under the EU Service Regulation.
- *Company X v Y*: acted for and advised a large company in enforcing a substantial multi-million euro judgment against assets in the UK.
- *Company X v Company Y*: acted in an arbitration for sellers arising out of the late nomination of a vessel under a sale contract (with Timothy Hill QC).
- *Company X v Company Y*: acted for owners in a multi-million euro arbitration in respect of various claims under a newbuilding construction contract (with Timothy Hill QC).
- *Asefa Yesuf Import and Export v AP Moller-Maersk* [2016] EWHC 1437: represented the defendants in a successful Part 11 application to challenge the jurisdiction of the English court.