

Charlotte Tan

CALL: 2008

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Overview

Charlotte has a broad commercial practice, with a particular focus on civil fraud, international arbitration, insurance, international trade and finance, and private international law.

She is regularly instructed in matters in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. Charlotte also acts in international arbitrations under different rules (London Court of International Arbitration, International Chamber of Commerce and London Maritime Arbitrators Association). She has substantial experience of applications for interim relief, in particular freezing orders and anti-suit injunctions.

Charlotte regularly accepts instructions from overseas clients, in particular from Singapore and Hong Kong. She provides advices and pleadings as well as assisting with all aspects of case preparation for final hearings.

In 2014, she was selected in Legal Week's "Stars at the Bar" as one of ten "up-and-coming commercial and Chancery barristers recognised for their exceptional abilities". Charlotte was described as a junior who is "unflappable and always manages to maintain a calm, clear head and a sense of perspective", "highly sought after" and a "real star".

In 2009 Charlotte spent time at a large London LLP working within the international trade department. In 2010 she was seconded to Rajah & Tann in Singapore.

[Privacy notice](#)

Professional memberships

- COMBAR Executive Committee (2018 to date)
- Commercial Fraud Lawyers' Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers' Association

Lectures / talks

- Commercial Arbitration against State Entities: COMBAR lecture (with Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, Alex Gunning QC and Christopher Harris QC)
- Fraud overseas: committal and receivership orders out of the jurisdiction
- Section 68 challenges: risks and returns (with Thomas Raphael QC)
- Opportunities and limitations in obtaining interim relief against third parties in commercial fraud litigation (with Charles Kimmins QC)
- Current thinking on piercing the corporate veil and obtaining relief against non-parties (with Duncan Matthews QC)

Major awards / prizes / scholarships

- Queen Mother Scholarship from Middle Temple
- Munsteven Scholarship (2006 and 2007) St John's College, Cambridge
- The Abdullah Yusuf Ali Prize (2006) St John's College, Cambridge
- The A.J. Iacovides Prize for International Law (2006) St John's College, Cambridge
- The Phineas Quass Prize (2006), St John's College, Cambridge
- The Hughes Prize (2007) St John's College, Cambridge
- The Winfield Prize (2007) St John's College, Cambridge

Education

- University of Cambridge, St John's College, MA in Law (Double First)

Example cases

- *SKAT (the Danish Customs and Tax Administration) v Solo Capital Partners LLP and ors*, acting for six defendants in a £1.5bn fraud action arising out of an alleged fraud involving Danish withholding taxes.
- *Deutsche Bank AG v Sebastian Holdings Inc and Alexander Vik*, acting across the litigation for Mr Vik, including in relation to committal proceedings against Mr Vik (raising questions as to the jurisdiction of the English courts to commit overseas former officers: [2017] 1 W.L.R. 1842 and [2017] 1 W.L.R. 3056 (Teare J)); [2018] EWCA Civ 2011 (CA)), non-party costs proceedings arising out of the largest non-party costs order made by the English courts ([2017] 6 Costs L.R. 1003 (HHJ Waksman)) and an application to the European Court of Human Rights (claiming a violation of Article 6 rights) (with Duncan Matthews QC).
- *Halliburton v Chubb*: acting for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in an application to intervene in a Supreme Court appeal relating to the removal of an arbitrator for absence of impartiality.
- Acting (led by Michael Ashcroft QC) for a bank in an ICC dispute with beneficiaries under USD55m demand bonds issued in relation to a construction project in the Middle East.
- *Vincent Tchenguiz v Grant Thornton and ors*: a conspiracy/malicious prosecution claim seeking in excess of US\$2 billion against Grant Thornton and others for allegedly instigating and manipulating an unjustified major Serious Fraud Office investigation (with, amongst others, Christopher Hancock QC). Charlotte acted for Mr Tchenguiz across the litigation, in particular, in relation to strike out proceedings ([2016] EWHC 3727 (Comm)) and appeal proceedings concerning the application of the EU insolvency regulation ([2018] Q.B. 695 (CA)).
- *Asia Islamic Trade Finance Fund Ltd v Drum Risk Management Ltd & Ors*, a substantial action in the High Court, concerning claims arising out of the misappropriation of significant quantities of coal from storage facilities in Turkey, held as a finance fund's collateral for sums advanced under a Sharia compliant Murabaha Financing Agreement (led by Lawrence Akka QC). The case raises issues regarding pledge interests, claims under collateral management agreements, bailment, conspiracy and other torts and has involved applications for committal for contempt of court by reason of the Defendants' failure to provide disclosure of assets pursuant to a freezing order (reported in part at [2015] EWHC 3748 (Comm)).
- The *BTA Bank v Ablyazov* litigation, a multi-billion dollar set of claims brought by a Kazakh bank against its former owner and chairman. Charlotte was instructed by Mr Ablyazov and she assisted across the litigation including on issues of contempt that were heard in the CA. In particular, Charlotte appeared with Duncan Matthews QC in the High Court and the Court of Appeal on the aspect of the case regarding whether and in what circumstances a freezing injunction respondent is entitled to borrow money within the regime of the freezing order ([2014] 1 W.L.R. 1414).
- Acted (led by Laurence Rabinowitz QC, Charles Kimmins QC) for the defendant in Commercial Court proceedings resisting the enforcement of a US\$1.2 billion LCIA
- *The London Steam Ship Owners Mutual Insurance Association Ltd v The Kingdom of Spain ("the M/T PRESTIGE")* [2014] 1 All E.R. (Comm) 300; [2014] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 137 and *The London Steam Ship Owners Mutual Insurance Association Ltd v The Kingdom of Spain and the French State* [2013] 2 C.L.C. 562 (High Court) and [2015] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 33 (Court of Appeal): acting (led by Christopher Hancock QC) against the Kingdom of Spain and the French State in relation to oil pollution claims arising from one of the worst spills in recent years (total quantum claimed up to €4.5 billion).
- Acted for a major trading house in relation to a c.US\$110 million dispute with its joint venture partner (involving serious allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation/material non-disclosure prior to the formation of the JV and selling goods to related companies at an undervalue (in breach of tax legislation and international standards governing transfer pricing)).

- Applications under ss. 66, 67 and 69 Arbitration Act 1996, including *The Yangtze Xing Hua* [2017] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 212 (Teare J); [2017] EWCA Civ 2107 (CA); *Griffon Shipping LLC v Firodi Limited* [2013] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 246 (Teare J; instructed as sole counsel); [2014] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 471 (CA; led by Michael Coburn QC); *PEC Limited v Asia Golden Rice Co Ltd* [2013] 1 Lloyds Rep. 82; [2014] EWHC 1583 (Comm) (led by Michael Collett QC); *Taokas Navigation SA v Komrowski Bulk Shipping KG (GmbH & Co) & Ors (The Paiwan Wisdom)* [2012] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 416 (instructed as sole counsel); *Soufflet Negoce v Bunge SA* [2011] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 531 (CA; led by David Owen QC).

Recommendations

She has an encyclopaedic knowledge of contempt of court issues, and is charming to work with. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

Very bright with great attention-to-detail. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2020](#)

She is very nice to deal with – good and thorough. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

Incredibly hardworking and she is clearly exceptionally clever. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2020](#)

Very client-friendly, hard-working and intelligent, as well as someone who is not afraid to question a leader. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

A hard-working commercial junior who produces very good documents. [Chambers UK Bar 2019](#)

She is very thorough. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2018](#)

Popular, clever and personable. [Chambers UK Bar 2019](#)

She is outstanding. She's user-friendly and she works as part of a team. [Chambers UK 2018](#)

She's very thorough and hard-working, and she understands the business issues, not just the legal aspects of the case. [Chambers UK 2018](#)

A highly regarded junior who is trusted by top silks to handle big-ticket matters. She has experience of acting in huge fraud, insurance and shipping cases, and is viewed as someone who punches well above her level of call. [Chambers UK 2017](#)

She produces high-quality paperwork that is seriously well reasoned and beautifully put together... She is the best junior that I have worked with due to the quality of her advice, her commercial approach and her responsiveness. [Chambers UK 2017](#)

An 'extremely bright and charming' junior... She is a really effective and hard-working junior. 'Getting involved' is an understatement, I felt she had become part of our team. [Chambers UK 2017](#)

I have seen her at a hearing outmatch an opposing QC with ease and elegance. She is proactive and often comes up with smart ideas for arguing a case which are not immediately obvious but which stand up on analysis. [Chambers UK 2017](#)