

BRICK COURT CHAMBERS

BARRISTERS

The Legal 500

THE LEGAL 500 2014

Set overviews

Brick Court Chambers is *'the premier set for commercial disputes'*, with particular strength in EU and competition, civil fraud, insurance and energy litigation. Housing *'a large number of very intelligent and versatile barristers'*, the set is also recognised for its highly regarded public law practice and arbitration experience. In 2013, Helen Davies QC became the set's first female joint head of chambers, replacing Nicholas Green QC (now a High Court judge) and joining Jonathan Hirst QC. *'Clients can be assured of a very high minimum standard of service'*, and the clerks' room reaps praise as *'outstanding and completely trustworthy'*. For some, *'they are skilled business developers, with a very professional and helpful approach'*; *'the best around, by a long way'*. Senior clerks Julian Hawes and Ian Moyler *'set the tone for likeability and user friendliness'*. Former clerk Deborah Anderson left chambers in 2014.

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: SET OVERVIEWS

Administrative and public law

Brick Court Chambers is regarded for its expertise across public, EU and competition law, and for its *'clear investment into the depth of its offering'*. Significant cases include *R (Bancoult) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs* and *Bank Mellat v HM Treasury*.

- David Anderson QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Widely admired.'*
- Richard Gordon QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Meticulous in his preparation and authoritative in his advice.'*
- Martin Chamberlain QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Impresses with the clarity of his advice.'*
- Aidan Robertson QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Experienced in competition law challenges.'*
- Jemima Stratford QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Impressive, thorough and down to earth.'*
- Kelyn Bacon QC - Brick Court Chambers *'Impressive.'*
- Maya Lester - Brick Court Chambers *'Combines first-class intellect with a unique ability to translate difficult legal concepts into understandable prose.'*
- Victoria Wakefield - Brick Court Chambers *'Takes complex facts and concepts and shapes them into effective strategy with remarkable speed and skill.'*
- Margaret Gray - Brick Court Chambers *'Very user friendly and collaborative.'*

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW (INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Aviation

Brick Court Chambers is experienced in EU and Competition law, and has advised on cases concerning slots at airports and various carrier difficulties with providers. It also handles commercial aviation matters and leasing cases.

- Andrew Lydiard QC - Brick Court Chambers *'An incredibly bright and engaging advocate.'*
- Mark Brealey QC - Brick Court Chambers *'He has a formidable intellect.'*
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers *'An extremely good advocate, who prepares very thoroughly indeed for trial.'*

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: AVIATION

Banking & Finance

Brick Court Chambers is 'a highly successful set in which very bright counsel operate'. It is also rated as a 'strong' choice for financial products litigation. Key banking disputes included *Barclays Bank v Graiseley* and *JP Morgan v BVG v Clifford Chance*.

- Mark Hapgood QC - Brick Court Chambers 'The doyen of banking litigation, with incisive judgement in the most complex cases.'
- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A brilliant advocate, who sees the key issues immediately.'
- Tim Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'The number-one choice for any party involved in a significant dispute with an investment bank.'
- Simon Salzedo QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A very bright lawyer with a wide caseload; excellent with clients.'
- Tom Adam QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A compelling advocate, who is persuasive and agile in oral argument.'
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A real all-rounder who can turn his hand to any dispute in any sector.'
- Richard Slade QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A charming silk, who gets to the point quickly.'
- Michael Swainston QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Exceptionally bright and devastatingly effective in cross-examination.'
- Simon Birt - Brick Court Chambers 'Masses of stamina and unfailing good cheer in the midst of high drama and stress.'
- Jonathan Dawid - Brick Court Chambers 'He has excellent drafting and analytical skills, especially relating to complex financial transactions.'
- Stephen Midwinter - Brick Court Chambers 'A star of the future, who is thorough, persuasive, confident and reliable.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'Very able, responsive, hardworking and a good team player.'
- Andrew Thomas - Brick Court Chambers 'Extremely bright, and good at spotting the merits of a case.'
- Sarah Abram - Brick Court Chambers 'Highly intelligent, extremely hardworking and also great fun to work with.'
- Fred Hobson - Brick Court Chambers 'He is very pragmatic and proactive, and responds very quickly with sound advice.'
- Craig Morrison - Brick Court Chambers 'An intellectual heavyweight with exceptional clarity of thought.'
- Thomas Plewman - Brick Court Chambers 'A pugnacious yet charming man, with very persuasive qualities and a very client-friendly approach.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: BANKING AND FINANCE (INCLUDING CONSUMER CREDIT AND FINANCIAL REGULATION)

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Brick Court Chambers 'has a solid reputation', with counsel acting in leading cases of national and international significance. The recently elevated Martin Chamberlain QC is widely recognised as a standout barrister.

- Richard Gordon QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Imaginative and very bright, with a string of important cases at the highest level.'
- David Anderson QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has an extremely strong reputation.'
- Martin Chamberlain QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He is quietly intelligent, with a soft but devastatingly effective advocacy style.'
- Maya Lester - Brick Court Chambers 'A real star.'
- Victoria Wakefield - Brick Court Chambers 'Excellent.'

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS (INCLUDING PUBLIC INQUIRY LAW AND ACTIONS AGAINST THE POLICE)

Commercial Litigation

Brick Court is often a *'first port of call for high-value, complex commercial disputes'*, which is reflected in the set's recent workload. *Excalibur Ventures v Texas Keystone, Constantin Medien AG v Bernard Ecclestone and others*, and the *Alexandros T* dispute, which went to the Supreme Court are all cases of note. Some say *'there is scarcely a weak link'* among the barristers, with *'strength in depth from top to bottom'*. Many also consider it *'the strongest set for disputes where there are Russian and fraud aspects involved'*.

- Mark Hapgood QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An exceptional practitioner, who is extremely bright.'
- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has formidable analytical, strategic and cross-examination skills.'
- Helen Davies QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A massively impressive barrister.'
- Jonathan Hirst QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Rolls his sleeves up and turns around clear and commercial advice in short order.'
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An excellent advocate, who quickly spots the key points in a case.'
- Charles Hollander QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An excellent advocate and the acknowledged expert on documentary evidence.'
- Tim Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Exceptionally bright, proactive and a strong team player.'
- Simon Salzedo QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He performs very strongly in court, reading the judges particularly well.'
- Michael Swainston QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A very bright practitioner, who is excellent for Russia and CIS work.'
- Tom Adam QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very bright, robust, hardworking and interested.'
- Daniel Jowell QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He had a major presence in the recent spate of blockbuster oligarch disputes.'
- Harry Matovu QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A consummate team player, who is astute at exploiting weaknesses in the opposition.'
- Michael Bools QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He is never afraid to make a difficult call, and gets stuck into the detail.'
- Richard Slade QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He is extremely capable, pragmatic and a pleasure to work with.'
- Simon Birt - Brick Court Chambers 'A hugely impressive barrister, who produces work of exceptional quality.'
- Alec Haydon - Brick Court Chambers 'Careful to find a proportionate strategy.'
- Stephen Midwinter - Brick Court Chambers 'Exceptionally bright, efficient and also a very good advocate.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'Very user friendly, enthusiastic and responsive, also excellent at drafting.'
- Andrew Thomas - Brick Court Chambers 'A very good junior, who is superb with difficult clients and challenging cases.'
- Colin West - Brick Court Chambers 'An excellent barrister, who is very, very clever.'
- Gerard Rothschild - Brick Court Chambers 'A very bright young barrister who is destined to be a top performer.'
- Alan Roxburgh - Brick Court Chambers 'A true rising star; he has gravitas beyond his years.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Commodities

- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'An outstanding junior with a delightful court manner and incisive analysis of legal and strategic problems.'

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: COMMODITIES

Energy

Brick Court Chambers has '*strength in depth from top to bottom*'. Its reputation rests partly on its role in disputes such as *Berezovsky v Abramovich*, though its broad energy expertise is demonstrated by recent matters involving issues such as fracking and the acquisition of seismic data in North Africa. Harry Matovu QC recently acted in *Excalibur Ventures LLC v Texas Keystone Inc & Ors*.

- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A great cross-examiner.'
- Helen Davies QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An outstanding legal brain; she articulates her analysis in a crystal-clear fashion.'
- Charles Hollander QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Recommended for big-ticket commercial and competition-related energy matters.'
- Daniel Jowell QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very user friendly; he handles clients well in challenging circumstances.'
- Tim Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'His involvement always positively affects the outcome of a case.'
- Harry Matovu QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Adept at handling complicated technical issues and cross-border jurisdictional issues.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'He has a sharp legal mind, and thinks outside the box.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: ENERGY

Environment

- Richard Gordon QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Advises on the public law aspects of environmental law and is very knowledgeable in this area.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: ENVIRONMENT

EU and Competition

Brick Court Chambers reaps praise as a '*top-rate*', '*simply outstanding*' and '*very dynamic*' set. Members have experience at a domestic level and also before the Luxembourg courts and the European Commission in Brussels, and appeared in most of the follow-on actions before the Competition Appeal Tribunal and High Court in 2013. A noteworthy case highlight was David Anderson QC and David Scannell's involvement in *AbbVie v EMA* before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

- David Anderson QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Vast experience in the Court of Justice of the European Union.'
- Mark Brealey QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very strong on competition law, and cases involving aspects of public procurement and state aid.'
- Helen Davies QC - Brick Court Chambers 'She has experience in a range of different courts.'
- James Flynn QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An iron fist in a velvet glove.'
- Mark Hoskins QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He knows the law back to front, and isn't afraid to deliver bad news or defend unwelcome positions.'
- David Vaughan QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has a wealth of experience in the European courts.'
- Marie Demetriou QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Fiercely bright and strategic.'

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- Richard Gordon QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very strong on the judicial review aspects of competition cases.'
- Charles Hollander QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has particular expertise in competition and freedom of establishment cases.'
- Daniel Jowell QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A well-established silk.'
- Fergus Randolph QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A strong performer, who is also good on paper and very thorough.'
- Aidan Robertson QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Extremely knowledgeable.'
- Jemima Stratford QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very down to earth and commercially sensible.'
- Derrick Wyatt QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has vast experience before the European courts in Luxembourg.'
- Kelyn Bacon QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Incredibly bright and hardworking.'
- Maya Lester - Brick Court Chambers 'A measured and persuasive advocate.'
- Sarah Abram - Brick Court Chambers 'Brings a quality to her cases which well beyond her year of call.'
- Sarah Ford - Brick Court Chambers 'Tenacious and clear in her advocacy.'
- Margaret Gray - Brick Court Chambers 'Very user friendly and collaborative.'
- Sarah Lee - Brick Court Chambers 'Provides high-quality, tactical and strategic input.'
- Robert O'Donoghue - Brick Court Chambers 'He has an incredibly sharp intellect and a strong knowledge of the sector.'
- Daniel Piccinin - Brick Court Chambers 'His practice benefits from past experience working in an international law firm.'
- David Scannell - Brick Court Chambers 'Intelligent, incisive and easy to get on with.'
- Tony Singla - Brick Court Chambers 'He combines his expertise in EU and competition law with a broad commercial litigation practice.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: EU AND COMPETITION

Fraud: Civil

Brick Court Chambers has '*incredible strength in depth*', and both the clerks and barristers win plaudits for their responsiveness. Among recent work highlights, members represented both sides in the expedited appeal of *VTB Bank v Nutritek* in the Supreme Court.

- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A brilliant tactician and cross-examiner.'
- Mark Hapgood QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Rated very highly by solicitors.'
- Tim Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'His commercial acumen is second to none at the Bar.'
- Michael Swainston QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He quickly gets to the heart of the matter.'
- Stephen Midwinter - Brick Court Chambers 'Exceptionally clever.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'A pleasure to work with.'
- Fred Hobson - Brick Court Chambers 'A very smooth and persuasive advocate.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: FRAUD: CIVIL

Insurance & Reinsurance

Brick Court Chambers is '*a premier set for commercial litigation and arbitration*', and handles matters in a wide range of areas, including

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marine and aviation. Members have been involved in multimillion-dollar reinsurance claims arising from the 2010-11 New Zealand earthquakes, and the successful Supreme Court appeal relating to a maritime insurance claim brought by the owners of the *Alexandros T* vessel. Tom Adam QC is acting for the RSM Tenon Group's professional indemnity insurers in several coverage matters. Sir Sydney Kentridge QC retired.

- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A brilliant cross-examiner.'
- Jonathan Hirst QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Commercial and user friendly.'
- Tom Adam QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Enthuses clients with his committed approach.'
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Intelligent, charming and ruthless when necessary.'
- Andrew Lydiard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very user friendly.'
- Michael Swainston QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Recommended for insurance cases.'
- Harry Matovu QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Extremely bright.'
- Stephen Midwinter - Brick Court Chambers 'Excellent.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'A strong, analytical mind.'
- Alan Roxburgh - Brick Court Chambers 'Experienced in professional negligence, banking and shipping disputes.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE

Intellectual Property

- Nicholas Saunders - Brick Court Chambers 'Recommended for cases involving the intersection between competition and IP law.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

International Arbitration: Counsel

Brick Court Chambers is '*an exceptionally strong set for international arbitrations, particularly those with Russian/CIS elements*'. As well as general commercial arbitrations, chambers is increasingly involved in major Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) disputes. Tenants often act in the same cases, with one energy-related London Court of International Arbitration case involving nine members.

- Jonathan Hirst QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Excellent in every regard.'
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Superb; a real brain, an astute advocate, very responsive and user friendly.'
- Michael Swainston QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Not only the best barrister on Earth, but also on Mars.'
- Hilary Heilbron QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A great advocate with good business judgement.'
- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'An exceptionally strong advocate and cross-examiner.'
- Klaus Reichert SC - Brick Court Chambers 'Knowledgeable and charming.'
- Helen Davies QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Recently very active in energy and shipbuilding arbitrations.'
- Simon Salzedo QC - Brick Court Chambers 'His greatest strength is his ability to engage in a constructive and dynamic manner.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'Fun to work with and increasingly a go-to junior.'

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: COUNSEL

International Arbitration: Arbitrators

Brick Court Chambers is commended for its '*all-round strength in arbitration*', and its arbitrators are '*a cut above the rest*'. The set has seven retired judges among its members, as well as 13 QCs with a strong track record in arbitration.

- Lord Hoffmann - Brick Court Chambers 'Intimidatingly good; a counsel's dream and nightmare rolled into one.'
- Hilary Heilbron QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A very active arbitrator who is a class act.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: ARBITRATORS

IT and Telecoms

- Nicholas Saunders - Brick Court Chambers 'Particularly strong on IT disputes with an IP or EU dimension.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: IT AND TELECOMS

Media and Entertainment

Brick Court Chambers is known as '*a go-to media and entertainment set*'. Chambers' recent work includes continued involvement in the Pay TV Competition Appeal Tribunal case that went to the Court of Appeal, and acting for pub landlords in a case relating to Premiership football matches televised via satellite decoder cards obtained from outside the UK.

- Marie Demetriou QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Fiercely bright and strategic.'
- Jonathan Hirst QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very good with detail.'
- Daniel Jowell QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A first class intellect, who is good with clients and very smooth.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Mediators

- Stephen Ruttles QC at Brick Court Chambers is 'superb at focusing minds away from emotions to practicalities, and stays the course with all parties, but doesn't get tired or frustrated'. About a third of his workload covers shipping-related mediations, and he is considered to be 'an incredibly astute mediator who cuts to the chase', 'one of a select few who can be effective on complex international disputes'.
- The 'absolutely superb' Tony Willis at Brick Court Chambers is 'quite justifiably regarded as a leading commercial mediator'. He is particularly favoured for multijurisdictional disputes, and his background as a litigator and former managing partner at Clifford Chance certainly carries weight when dealing with major institutional clients.
- William Wood QC at Brick Court Chambers 'ranks among the first tier of mediators for significant commercial disputes'. He is particularly focused on major insurance and financial services disputes, typically working on around 80 mediations a year. Clients like the fact that he 'always quickly identifies the big points and doesn't get caught up in the minutiae'.

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: MEDIATORS

Professional Negligence

Brick Court Chambers houses 'an array of top-notch individuals for professional negligence matters' and provides 'first-rate service'. It is active in finance, accountancy, tax, law and property-related disputes. Recent high-profile cases include *Cattles Group Limited v PwC* and *Stichting Beheer Beroepsvervoer v Goldman Sachs Management International*.

- Mark Hapgood QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Very persuasive advocate.'
- Mark Howard QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Sees the key issues immediately.'
- Tom Adam QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has a phenomenal intellect and a very robust style.'
- Charles Hollander QC - Brick Court Chambers 'A wealth of expertise and excellent judgement.'
- Neil Calver QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Always thoroughly prepared and gets results.'
- Tim Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'He has a considered and thorough approach.'
- Peter Irvin - Brick Court Chambers 'Very commercial and reacts quickly.'
- Jonathan Dawid - Brick Court Chambers 'Intellectually brilliant, wonderful written work and a tremendous team player.'
- Fionn Pilbrow - Brick Court Chambers 'Very user friendly, enthusiastic and responsive.'
- Stephen Midwinter - Brick Court Chambers 'Highly intelligent and knowledgeable.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Public International Law

- Maya Lester - Brick Court Chambers 'Quite brilliant, with a profound understanding of the law.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

Public Procurement

- Margaret Gray - Brick Court Chambers 'Really gets to grip with the details of complex cases.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Shipping

- Richard Lord QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Has experience of all areas of shipping from bill of lading disputes to piracy related insurance issues.'

- THE LEGAL 500 2014: SHIPPING

Sport

- Charles Hollander QC - Brick Court Chambers 'Extensive expertise in sports law.'

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- THE LEGAL 500 2014: SPORT

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