BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
7-8 Essex Street, London WC2R 3LD
DX 302 London Chancery Lane

Stephen Midwinter KC

YEAR OF CALL: 2002 **YEAR OF SILK**: 2017

"He's excellent: responsive, down-to-earth and makes himself available." "Stephen...is one of the most impressive advocates at the bar, and my top choice of King's Counsel for major complex matters."

Chambers & Partners 2018 and 2026

Clerk's Email: **TonysClerkingTeam@brickcourt.co.uk**



Practice Overview

Stephen Midwinter KC advises on and appears in a broad range of commercial disputes, in litigation and arbitration. He has appeared in commercial cases in the Supreme Court, the House of Lords, the Privy Council, the Court of Appeal, the Commercial Court, the Chancery Division and the European Court of Human Rights. He has been recommended as a leading silk by the directories in eight fields: commercial dispute resolution, insurance and reinsurance, banking, international arbitration, energy and natural resources, civil fraud, offshore and professional negligence.

A significant proportion of Stephen's work takes place in arbitration and he has appeared in and advised on arbitrations under the ICC, LCIA, ARIAS, UNCITRAL, ICSID and Stockholm Chamber of Commerce rules, as well as ad hoc arbitrations pursuant to the Arbitration Act 1996 and under the Bermuda Form. Recent instructions include a $150million dispute in the oil sector and a US$25 million LCIA arbitration concerning offshore drilling rigs. Stephen is also experienced in proceedings dealing with the enforcement of arbitral awards in the domestic courts.

Stephen regularly sits as a Deputy High Court Judge (having previously sat as a Recorder) and also sits as an arbitrator in arbitrations for the LCIA and ICC.

Stephen is a member of the bar of the British Virgin Islands where he regularly appears in the Commercial Court. He has also appeared in cases in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Nevis and Anguilla. Recent instructions include jurisdiction disputes, freezing order applications, international fraud claims and insolvency disputes.

Stephen has written several articles on commercial law subjects, and writes and lectures on banking, insurance, equity and the conflict of laws.

Recent significant cases in which Stephen has appeared include *AerCap Ireland Ltd v AIG Europe SA (Russian Aircraft Litigation)* [2025] EWHC (Comm); *Castleton v Post Office Limited* [2026] EWCA Civ 1373; *Fourworld Global Opportunities Fund v Golden Ocean Group Ltd* [2026] SC (Bda) 54 Civ; *Jardine Strategic Ltd v Oasis Investments II Master Fund Ltd* [2025] UKPC 33; *Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse International* [2024] EWHC 1957 (Comm) and *Wong v Grand View PTC Ltd* [2022] SC (Bda) 63 Com.

Commercial

Stephen advises on and appears in commercial disputes covering the full range of Commercial Court work and beyond. He has a particular expertise in international disputes involving jurisdiction and choice of law issues, and regularly acts in cases involving obtaining or resisting freezing orders and antisuit relief. Recent instructions include a number of shareholder appraisal actions in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, a US$500 million civil fraud claim, a US$1bn dispute concerning Ukrainian industrial assets, and a €50m oil and gas partners' dispute.

Insurance and reinsurance

Stephen's practice covers the full range of insurance and reinsurance disputes. He has appeared in the Commercial Court and advised on disputes ranging from a US$1.2 billion claim in respect of damage to a North Sea oil rig to a £1m claim under a professional indemnity insurance in respect of alleged faulty design of a turbine blade, with claims under policies covering everything from hurricane damage in the Caribbean, business interruption following flood in South America, malicious hacking and patent infringement, property damage to a blast furnace, breach of directors' duties in an alleged fraud and fire at a fuel hay storage facility in between. Stephen also regularly advises on claims against insurance brokers.

Stephen also regularly appears in insurance and reinsurance arbitrations under LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL, ARIAS and Bermuda rules. Recent arbitrations include a $70m war risks claim, a $50m construction DSU dispute, a $50m Cat XL dispute in Bermuda, a $1m aviation coverage dispute, a number of COVID-related business interruption disputes and a £10m PA reinsurance coverage dispute.

Stephen is currently instructed on behalf of AerCap Ireland Ltd in its US$3 billion Commercial Court actions concerning insurance and reinsurance claims for aircraft lost in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine. A first 12 – week trial took place in 2024 – 2025 (see *AerCap Ireland Ltd v AIG Europe SA* [2024] EWHC 144 (Comm) and [2023] *1 WLR 2448*) with a second trial taking place in October – December 2026 (see the jurisdiction phase at *Zephyrus Capital Aviation v Fidelis Underwriting Ltd* [2024] EWHC 734 (Comm)).

Arbitration

As well as appearing in commercial and insurance and reinsurance disputes that happen to be taking place in arbitration, Stephen regularly advises on technical and procedural aspects of arbitration law. Recent cases include a $150million dispute in the oil sector, an LCIA arbitration concerning damage to offshore drilling rigs, a dispute as to the applicability of an arbitration clause to a reinsurance dispute, and a claim to set aside a €70m arbitration award on the grounds of fraud. Stephen is also experienced in proceedings dealing with the enforcement of arbitral awards in the domestic courts, and sits as an LCIA and ICC arbitrator.

Stephen also acts and advises on international treaty arbitrations. Recent instructions include ICSID arbitrations against Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the UK involving alleged confiscation of investments.

Offshore

Stephen was called to the BVI bar in 2005 and has regularly appeared in and advised on litigation in the BVI since then. Significant cases include *Transworld v Bluzwed* (2005) BVI HCV 2003/179; *Sibir Energy v Sibneft* (2006) BVI HCV 2005/174; *Yukos CIS Investments v Yukos Hydrocarbons* (2010) BVI HC (Comm) 85; *Fairfield Sentry v Migani* [2014] UKPC 9; *Anzen Ltd v Hermes One* [2016] UKPC 1 and *UBS AG v Fairfield Sentry* [2019] UKPC 20. Stephen has recently appeared in a number of cases involving disputes over the ownership and control of cryptoasset companies, including *Electric Solidus Inc v 2040 Energy Ltd* (2026) BVI HC (Comm) (20 July 2026).

Stephen also regularly advises on disputes in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, including appraisal claims under s.106 of the Bermuda Companies Act and s.238 of the Cayman Islands Companies Act, as well as commercial shareholder disputes and insolvency claims. Recent cases include *Fourworld Global Opportunities Fund v Golden Ocean Group Ltd* [2026] SC (Bda) 54 Civ; *Jardine Strategic Ltd v Oasis Investments II Master Fund Ltd* [2025] UKPC 33 and *Wong v Grand View PTC Ltd* [2026] SC (Bda) 69.

Stephen has also appeared in the courts of Nevis and Anguilla, and regularly advises on disputes taking place in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Banking and finance

Stephen is regularly instructed in disputes both for and against banks and financial institutions. He appeared for the Banco Comercial Portugues and the United Bank for Africa in the long-running and high-profile *Tuna Bond*s litigation ([2024] EWHC 1957 (Comm)) and for Novo Banco in *Goldman Sachs v Novo Banco SA* [2016] EWCA Civ 1092. More recent instructions include a

disputed claim under a $120 million performance bond, an alleged fraud involving trade financing and a number of disputes concerning investments in cryptoassets.

Energy and natural resources

In addition to general commercial work, Stephen has been instructed throughout his career in disputes concerning oil and gas projects, including: numerous disputes as to ownership of oil and gas fields in Russia with values up to $70 billion; a $100 million dispute as to profit sharing arrangements in relation to a joint venture oil field development in Kazakhstan; a $20 million arbitration claim in respect of faulty drilling equipment supplied to an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico; a $1.2 billion insurance claim in respect of damage to a North Sea oil platform and myriad other claims. Instructions have also included disputes concerning alternative fuel sources, including a dispute concerning the operation of a hay-powered power station and an ownership dispute relating to a wind farm in Germany. Stephen has been recognised in Chambers & Partners Global as a leading practitioner in energy and natural resources.

Professional negligence

Stephen has appeared and advised in numerous professional negligence claims in the Chancery Division and Commercial Court involving allegations of negligence by insurance brokers, solicitors, accountants, auditors and bankers, including *Keymed Ltd v Hillman* [2019] EWHC 485 (Ch)

Qualifications & Further Information

Qualifications

BA (Hons) Law (2000) (First Class), LLM Law (Commercial) (2001) (First Class), Bar Vocational Course (2002) (Outstanding)

Career

Deputy High Court Judge, 2025 – present

Recorder (South Eastern Circuit) 2021 – 2025

Deputy District Judge (Midland Circuit) 2019 – 2022

King's Counsel, 2017 – present

Called to the Bar of Nevis, 2025 – present

Called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands, 2005 – present

Barrister (Middle Temple), 2002 – present

Lecturer and examiner in contract and restitution, University of Cambridge, 2001 – 2002

Supervisor in European law and equity, Fitzwilliam and King's Colleges

Publications

- Competition Litigation (2010) (contributor)
- Butterworths' Banking Law Guide (2006) (contributor),
- The Aggregation of Claims Arising out of One Event (2007) Insurance Law Monthly Bulletin (July),
- After Etridge: The Endgame for Banks and Non-Commercial Sureties? (2002) Cambridge Restitution Online Resource
- Subrogation Finds some Well-Settled Principles [2003] L.M.C.L.Q.
- Causation, Loss and Double Recovery [2003] C.L.J. 23
- The Great Peace and Precedent (2003} 119 L.Q.R. 180,
- Non-disclosure and Material Rumours [2003] L.M.C.L.Q.
- Review of Anson's Law of Contract, 28th Edition [2003], L.M.C.L.Q.
- Cross Border Share Voting Practices ICGN Review (2002)

Directory Quotes

Chambers & Partners

Insurance

- "Stephen is without a doubt one of the best advocates at the Bar. His advice is thoughtful and considered, and he teams that with commerciality and an understanding of the client's needs." (2027)

- "Stephen is a supremely quick, outstanding insurance lawyer. He is one of my go-to silks for heavyweight insurance coverage actions." (2027)

- "Stephen is incredibly responsive, clear with his advice and very precise. He is a methodical advocate." (2027)

- "Stephen is possibly the brightest commercial KC at the Bar. He has the rare quality in advocacy that makes a room go quiet and the tribunal stop, listen and write down all he says." (2027)

- "Stephen has a no-nonsense approach. He gives clear, direct advice and is really good to work with." (2027)

- "Stephen Midwinter is an exceptional cross-examiner, exceptional barrister and very bright." (2026)
- "Stephen Midwinter KC is a well-regarded barrister whose practice has a strong international element, with many of his cases originating abroad. He is particularly strong in the energy and banking spheres and is experienced in matters involving allegations of fraud. He regularly acts in D&O cases and personal injury claims. He handles litigation as well as arbitrations." (2026)
- "Stephen's incredible speed of analysis is accompanied by great judgement on the big calls. And when on his feet, the advocacy is so crisp and effective that other senior counsel in court are visibly impressed." (2026)
- "Stephen Midwinter is one of the most impressive advocates at the bar, and my top choice of King's Counsel for major complex matters." (2026)
- "Stephen Midwinter is a great insurance silk." (2026)
- "He has a cooperative approach." (2026)
- "He is a fantastic barrister who is good on his feet." (2026)
- "Stephen is an unflappable barrister with a very clear vision of a case." (2026)
- "Stephen is a real rising star in insurance." (2025)
- "We call Stephen 'The Professor' because he never has an issue getting to the heart of the problem and advising with great clarity." (2025)
- "Stephen is an excellent advocate. He comes across as confident and has real authority before a tribunal." (2024)
- "Stephen is excellent and always responsive when needed. He is equally strong on the technical aspects of a case and resolution strategy, Stephen is masterful at distilling complex facts into clear, straightforward advice." (2024)
- "Stephen cuts though the detail to get to the heart of the matter." "He is accessible and down

to earth with very good judgement." (2023)

- "He is excellent, clever and strategic." "He is always on top of the detail." (2022)
- "A very good and very calm counsel who's very knowledgeable on the subject." "He's a good insurance practitioner. He's a relatively junior silk but his practice is above his typical level." "He's a solid performer in court." (2021)
- "Absolutely brilliant at insurance. He seems to be able to take on and argue the impossible." "His attention to detail is excellent and he has a very nice manner when putting across difficult technical points." (2020)
- "Assiduous, bright and motivated. He has a very commercial eye for how to win difficult cases." (2019)
- Well-regarded barrister who has recently taken silk and is known for being "extraordinarily quick and decisive." His practice has a strong international element to it, and many of his cases originate abroad. He is particularly strong in the energy and banking spheres, and is experienced in matters involving allegations of fraud. "A class act, who is hard-working, modest, measured and very, very bright." "He is very user-friendly and has an incredible capacity to distil very complex points into very simple language." (2018)
- "A go-to junior with brilliant analytical capacity." "Hugely intelligent and able to cut straight to the key aspects of a matter. He has excellent turnaround times and is able to provide advice which hits the perfect level of detail and formality every time." (2017)
- "He has an extraordinarily rapid mind, and is a very good advocate with remarkable speed and grasp of the issues." (2016)
- "Extremely good and very bright. He is efficient, gets to the point and takes a balanced view of how to apply the law in a commercial setting." (2015)
- “Engages in a vast range of insurance matters, including Bermuda Form arbitrations and major reinsurance cases. He is highly respected by peers for his capabilities.” (2014)
- “One of the best. He's headed for great things.” “A go-to junior, with brilliant analytical capabilities.” (2014)
- "Stephen Midwinter is a "go-to junior with a brilliant analytical capacity." He recently acted in the case of Syndicate 990 v Reliance." (2013)
- "Stephen Midwinter was described as "one of the best juniors ever discovered" by one solicitor. Widely admired for his "spot-on insights, exemplary written work and excellent oral advocacy," he is seen as being "highly responsive and particularly effective in the way he deals with clients." Of late, he has been involved in a range of highly confidential, high-value arbitrations." (2012)
- "Stephen Midwinter is regarded as a "rising star" with "a brain the size of a planet." Commentators appreciate "the energy with which he attacks cases," as well as his analytical skills. His major work highlights include WASA and AGF v Lexington and Cavell v Seaton

Insurance" (2011)

- "He takes most of the laurels here along with Stephen Midwinter, "one of the brightest prospects at the Commercial Bar," who has a dazzling future ahead of him. He has been particularly active in reinsurance matters, having played a key role in the Wasa v Lexington case." (2010)

Commercial Dispute Resolution

- "Stephen is super clever. Everything for him is just simple - he presents in a straightforward way and just gets to the heart of the case. Everyone else overcomplicates things compared to him." (2027)
- "Stephen is without doubt one of the best advocates at the Bar. He is thoughtful and considered in his advice, and he teams that with commerciality and understanding of the client's needs." (2027)
- "Stephen Midwinter is widely regarded one of the most intelligent people at the Bar. He sits as a judge as well, which speaks to his qualities." (2027)
- "Stephen is very modest and his cross-examinations are absolutely brilliant. In our case, never once did he a mistake. He knew everything inside and out." (2027)
- "Stephen is convincing on his feet and has a lovely style. He totally charms judges and all the other barristers in the case. He is also incredibly witty; even when the joke is against you, you have to laugh." (2027)
- "He really has a lovely way about him in oral submissions. What he says is deliberate, to the point and expressed in a nice tone." (2026)
- "He gives very punchy advice; he doesn't waste words, and he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of law." (2026)
- "Stephen has got the biggest brain ever. He processes information at an astonishing rate and is able to come up with precise solutions to complex issues." (2026)
- "His submissions in court are outstanding." (2025)
- "Stephen gets to grips with the details of matters, while retaining a strong commercial and strategic overview. He is a powerful advocate, who also has a very clear and persuasive written style." (2025)
- "A very impressive advocate." (2025)
- "Stephen Midwinter is very bright and explains complicated things in a straightforward way." (2024)
- "Stephen is down-to-earth, accessible and someone with very good judgement." "He

processes information at the speed of light, and always delivers advice which is clear, carefully thought through, commercially minded and user-friendly." (2023)

- "A brilliant lawyer and a leader in the insurance and reinsurance field. He is responsive, clear and great to work with." (2022)
- "A barrister who can say a lot in a very few words: he provides clear written advocacy and pleadings that are short and to the point. He is charming, easy to get on with and someone who can filter through a mass of details." (2021)
- "Stephen is extremely efficient and decisive." "He's terrifyingly clever and very client-friendly." (2020)
- "Calm and unflappable, he's softly spoken but has great gravitas." "Stephen Midwinter is extremely efficient and decisive." (2019)
- "He's excellent: responsive, down-to-earth and makes himself available." "He is very precise when drafting and articulating points for us, and is a real pleasure to work with." (2018)
- "He's very cerebral and very commercial. You just know that he's going to turn over every stone." "Extremely impressive and extremely bright." (2017)
- "He is very bright. His drafting and skeleton pleadings are excellent, and he's one of my favourite senior juniors." "A fantastically good technical barrister who is a very good advocate." (2016)
- "Exceptionally bright, efficient and also a very good advocate. He is a first-choice junior counsel, particularly on complex civil fraud matters." "A very, very able advocate, he really did wipe the floor with the opposition." (2015)
- “A first-class junior, who is calm and clear thinking in his advice. Extremely impressive.” “A supremely confident and effective advocate, punching well above his call.” (2014)
- "Stephen Midwinter also wins praise, with sources identifying him as a "highly intelligent, unflappable" junior who thrives on high-pressure legal conflicts. He is "able to explain complex legal points in a readily understandable way and knows how to persuade the court that he's on the right side of the argument."" (2013)
- "The career of Stephen Midwinter continues in the ascendant. Solicitors favour him as an "efficient and proactive" lawyer who is "a pleasure to work with." (2012)
- "Stephen Midwinter is another up-and-coming member of the set. He has been involved in cases such as Moore Stephens v Stone & Rolls and Perpetual v Bank of New York" (2011)

Offshore

- "Stephen is the most underrated KC in London. He never once made a mistake, knows everything inside and out and is very modest, and his cross-examination is absolutely brilliant." (2027)

- "I have worked with Stephen on offshore matters. He is excellent." (2027)
- "Stephen is a great practitioner; easy to deal with and highly intelligent." (2027)
- "Stephen is one of our go-to KCs for complex commercial offshore disputes. He combines exceptional analytical skills, legal knowledge and commercial awareness, and is a pleasure to work with. He is extremely efficient and always represents excellent value for money." (2027)

Energy & Natural Resources

- "Stephen has an outstanding brain, is succinct, concise and very unflappable." (2027)

- "Stephen Midwinter is a superb silk. He is lightning fast, with fantastic economy of drafting and oral submissions." (2027)

- "Stephen Midwinter KC is particularly adept at handling cases related to the oil and gas industries. He regularly appears in arbitrations and has experience in the Commercial Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court." (2026)
- "Stephen is a real superstar. He can say in three paragraphs what others take 20 pages to." (2026)
- "Stephen has encyclopaedic knowledge, fabulous drafting and quick turnaround." (2026)
- "Stephen Midwinter cuts straight to the chase and his cross-examination skills are great." (2025)
- "Stephen Midwinter is outstanding and a very good advocate. He is very knowledgeable and composed, and his advocacy style is good for arbitration." (2024)
- "He is fantastically intelligent and a razor-sharp advocate." "He is hugely experienced and consistently superb." (2023)
- "He is extremely quick, clever and decisive and knows just what is required to win a difficult case. He is also a superb advocate, equally at home arguing technical points of law or cross-examining witnesses." "He is able to explain the most complex arguments in a straightforward, structured way." "He has a huge brain and is very good on complex legal issues." (2022)
- "His advocacy is fantastic, his written work is a thing of beauty and he is chilled out and does not flap around." (2021)
- "He is very down to earth and pragmatic. His written advocacy skills are very impressive in that he is able to distil complicated fact patterns and legal concepts. He has a brilliant way of reducing them to digestible information." "He is fantastic - a brain on a stick!" (2020)
- "He's very thorough and focuses on the good points while dropping the rubbish points."

"Impresses with his knowledge, responsiveness and guidance." (2019)

- "He's got a really unusual ability to make complicated things really straightforward." "A man with a formidable mind." (2018)
- "He's one of the quickest juniors around. He has tremendous insurance knowledge and understands the energy business as well. He's an absolute pleasure to work with and his sheer speed of delivery is unsurpassed." (2017)
- "He carries a level of authority and performance that you would be happy with from a junior silk." (2016)
- "He is extremely impressive, and a bit like a thinking machine or a computer. He is an extremely logical and intellectually rigorous character who is destined to fo far." (2015)
- "I'm very impressed with his thoroughness and his lateral thinking." "He is a very smart guy who expresses himself very persuasively on a page, and proves realistic about the strengths and weaknesses of a case." (2014)
- "Stablemate Stephen Midwinter is highly regarded for his practice in commercial disputes. Sources say he is "very bright and extremely hard-working." (2013)
- "Stephen Midwinter is "frighteningly bright, confident in his advice and a man of very good judgement." He was recently involved in Sierra Rutile v Reliance Insurance, a case concerning a USD40 million sunken dredger insurance claim." (2012)

International Arbitration: General Commercial and Insurance

- "Stephen is top of the market. There's so much energy and action from him, and he doesn't use more words than he needs to. He is really punchy and really effective." (2027)
- "Stephen is the most underrated KC in London. He knows everything inside and out. His cross-examination is absolutely brilliant." (2027)
- "Stephen is outstanding really. He is a brilliant analyser of legal points and is succinct, concise, very unflappable and always someone we look for. He is outstanding." (2027)
- "Stephen Midwinter KC acts as an adviser and advocate in international arbitrations, with substantial experience handling disputes under LCIA rules. He handles a wide array of disputes and has a strong emphasis on insurance and reinsurance claims and extensive knowledge of the energy and banking sectors. The disputes he is involved in are often worth tens of millions of pounds. He has developed especial expertise in CIS-related cases." (2026)
- "Stephen is outstanding in sheer speed and inventiveness. His turnaround time is extremely

quick." (2025)

- "Stephen Midwinter has a nice and direct style of advocacy that is compelling. He gets to the point, while being very forceful and concise." (2025)
- "Stephen is ridiculously clever and very well organised. He meets deadlines, produces an excellent product, and is also a rather pleasing and measured advocate." (2025)
- "Stephen is friendly and down to earth. He's really easy to talk to and he can fire off an email immediately." (2025)
- "He's a first-rate legal mind, decisive and unbelievably efficient." (2024)
- "He is really good - very able and just obviously a leading commercial silk." (2024)
- "He processes information at the speed of light, and always delivers advice which is clear, carefully thought through, commercially minded and user-friendly." "He's very concise and effective." (2023)
- "He has a really relaxed manner and a very sharp intellect." "He is immensely clever and a very meticulous cross-examiner." "He is incredibly quick - he just processes information like nothing you have seen before and he is all over the detail." (2022)
- "His advocacy is fantastic, his written work is a thing of beauty and the quality of drafting is brilliant." (2021)
- "A very tough advocate and intellectually rigorous." "A gentle assassin." (2020)
- "Impressive knowledge, responsiveness and guidance." (2019)
- "Very precise in his drafting and at articulating points for us. A real pleasure to work with." (2018)
- "Exceptionally strong in both litigation and arbitration." (2017)
- "He was fantastic. He was very, very mature and is clearly used to taking decisions by himself. He is able to identify the real points in an issue and he can draft documents in a convincing way." "He can take on a huge volume of material in a short amount of time and comes back with clear and concise arguments." (2016)
- "He's very flexible, very willing and takes an enourmous amount of time and trouble in his preparation. One of the stars of the future." (2015)
- “Impressively experienced junior whose handling of a wide range of commercial arbitrations and enforcement matters sees him singled out as a future star silk.” (2014)
- “His advice and pleadings are clear, commercial and thorough.” “He certainly has the experience needed for complex cases.” (2014)
- "Stephen Midwinter is a "go-to junior" who is considered to be "one of the brightest stars at the Commercial Bar at the moment." He offers particular expertise in insurance arbitration, and is also called to the British Virgin Islands Bar." (2013)

Fraud: Civil

- "Stephen provides incisive and commercially pragmatic advice, with an exceptional command of technical detail. He is someone you want in your corner on complex matters." (2027)

- "He is an exceptional advocate; quite a fighter but very effective." (2027)

- "He knows everything inside and out and is absolutely brilliant." (2027)

- "He's incredibly succinct; there is never a wasted word, and he cuts to the heart of the matter." (2027)

- "Stephen Midwinter KC is a well-regarded silk who enjoys a busy fraud practice. He is regularly instructed in cases both in England and in the BVI, and acts for claimants as well as interested third parties." (2026)
- "He can capture the essence of the point really succinctly." (2026)
- "As an advocate, he is quite special." (2026)
- "He is very pleasant and very personable but also extremely smart. His submissions are very elegant and he builds an excellent rapport with judges." (2025)
- "Stephen has good judgement and gets to the important points quickly." (2025)
- "Stephen is absolutely brilliant. He is incredible with fraud cases and cross-examination." (2024)
- "Stephen has impressive judgement and a calm presence." (2024)
- "Stephen is extremely cerebral." (2023)
- "He is a brain on a stick and extraordinarily bright." "He is extremely smart and very fast at finding the key points." (2022)
- "He has an incredibly sharp mind." "He is terribly bright and is able to draft long, complex documents at the speed of light." (2021)
- "Technically excellent, strategically savvy and very good to work with." "Excellent on paper and works fantastically fast." (2020)
- "His written arguments are a joy to read and his advocacy is fluent, patient and probing." "A real intellect." (2019)
- "Extremely efficient and decisive." "Very hard-working and very proactive." (2018)

- "He's excellent and has a very good manner about him. He picks really good points and really hammers home on them." (2017)
- "No-nonsense and unflappable. He deals with difficult points with confidence." (2016)
- "He's top-drawer, no doubt. He gives silk-quality advice even though he's a junior." "He has great turnaround times and is user-friendly." (2015)
- “Praised for his incisive advocacy. He is well placed to advise on civil fraud issues in the financial sector.” (2014)
- “Quick, incisive and efficient.” “He has excellent judgement and a beautiful writing style.” (2014)
- "Stephen Midwinter is a lawyer with an international practice who is much in demand. He has been handling work both on the Madoff-related cases and for high net worth individuals in the ex-Soviet bloc. He was described by interviewees as "a genuinely brilliant barrister who is loved by solicitors." " (2013)

Banking & Finance

- "Stephen is a go-to silk for complex commercial offshore disputes. He combines exceptional analytical skills, great legal knowledge and commercial awareness. A pleasure to work with, he offers a simply excellent service." (2027)

- "Stephen is intimidatingly smart and yet incredibly responsive and approachable. His written and oral advocacy are precise and impressive." (2027)

- "Stephen is exceptional at what he does. He’s very modest, highly collaborative and a great team player. Always open to suggestions and good at predicting outcomes, he gives sound advice." (2027)

- "I think he is brilliant. He has a very quick legal mind, and his advocacy is direct and persuasive. He is one of those people that you can rely upon to give you a straight forward and robust views on things, and he's not going to flip-flop." (2027)

- "He gets to the heart of the problem faster than anyone and uses fewer words that anyone. He is razor-sharp and incisive." (2027)

- "Stephen is very understated and cuts through to the key points." (2026)

- "He is fabulous, a genius." (2025)
- "Stephen is very clever and direct, sees the big picture and is able to cut through a lot of the noise to focus on what is really important." (2024)
- "He's very bright and explains complicated things in a straightforward way." (2024)
- "His qualities include super efficiency and really good written advocacy that is clear and concise. He is very good on his feet." "His advocacy was very measured and authoritative." (2023)
- "He is excellent - a very polished and solid performer." (2022)
- "He is a very clever, excellent advocate." "Stephen has a very good sense for commercial litigation and an understanding for financial law." (2021)
- "Terrifyingly clever but very client-friendly, he's a very commercially minded barrister." (2020)
- "Incredibly bright and able to turn his mind to virtually any area of law. He displays excellent judgement, he absorbs new matters at great speed and he's unflappable. He is great value for money." (2019)
- "He is exceptionally bright, efficient and a very good advocate." (2018)
- "He has a high speed of delivery without compromising on quality. He just produces excellent pieces of work in a very short space of time. He's incredibly good value to use as a result." "Midwinter is absolute class as a senior junior. You do not want him on the other side. He is very lean, very strong and very direct, very effective." (2017)
- "Extremely efficient and robust." " He's super-clver and very quick, which you need to handle the volume of paperwork in fast-moving litigation." (2016)
- "He's exceptionally bright, efficient and a very good advocate. A first-class junior counsel, particularly for complex, civil fraud matters." "He is clever, incisive and gets to the point in a very concise way." (2015)
- “He works across a range of practice areas and impresses peers with his practical approach and excellent written work. He has notable experience in insurance and professional negligence claims.” (2014)
- “A really good junior. He's very swift, deals with clients well, sees the points and sets them out succinctly and practically.” “He produces very lean, focused and strategically astute pleadings, quickly boils down complex issues, and is clear and compelling on his feet.” (2014)

Legal 500

Commercial Litigation

- "Stephen is an outstanding silk and provides excellent, focused, and practical advice.

Unflappable in court, his advocacy is incisive and highly effective. Responsiveness is a key strength – he is readily available and turns work round very swiftly." (2027)

- "Stephen is a real all-rounder, a formidable cross-examiner, and a powerful advocate. He is the leader I would always choose first to have on my side in any high-value, complex civil fraud or commercial litigation case." (2027)
- "Stephen is a superb commercial silk. He is an extremely able barrister, and while he can think laterally when appropriate, he is excellent and distilling and arguing his main points in an attractive, concise and persuasive style." (2026)
- "An exceptional intellect and an exceptional advocate." (2025)
- "A ferocious and tenacious cross-examiner, as well as a first-rate advocate, Stephen is the leading KC of his generation. He is excellent for any commercial or fraud dispute." (2025)
- "Excellent command of the facts, and unflappable, understated court manner that goes down well with the Commercial Court." (2024)
- "Stephen's cross-examination is devastating. He effortlessly extracts winning points from witnesses without leaving them anywhere to hide. His low key manner hides a ruthlessly efficient fraud silk who is an equal to many of the great names at the bar." (2023)
- "A very highly rated junior commercial silk who is clearly going places." (2018-19)
- "A very strong, up-and-coming silk." (2017)
- "One of the outstanding senior juniors at the commercial Bar." (2016)
- "He is decisive and concise, producing clear and commercially aware guidance." (2015)
- "Exceptionally bright, efficient and also a very good advocate." (2014)
- 'first rate' (2008)

Insurance/Reinsurance

- "He is a brilliant barrister. A staggering intellect. He works quickly and gets to the point, and he knows the answer. His advocacy is compact and direct, and his legal presentation is just brilliant. In a crowded arbitration room of barristerial brains, he is the person the Tribunal leans over to listen to, like a rare moment of apricity." (2027)
- "Stephen has always been excellent on his feet. All his written work is punchy. His greatest asset is a very quick brain. Plus, he is very down-to-earth and responsive." (2025)
- "A succinct and confident advocate." (2024)
- "Stephen is incredibly quick to assimilate material and form a clear view. He is pragmatic and gets to the heart of the issues. Tremendous insurance knowledge and the first barrister we seek out for difficult claims." (2023)
- "A go-to choice for anything big, technical or complicated. Stephen has an exceptional ability

to see the wood for the trees, and always delivers pithy, practical, usable advice in a straightforward way that clients can follow." (2022)

- "Impressive for financial institutions-related coverage disputes. (2021)
- "Should be designated an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Brains), which he combines with pithy, practical and commercial advice." (2018-19)
- "A forceful and indomitable advocate, whose star continues to rise." (2017)
- "A top-notch advocate." (2016)
- "A top-class insurance lawyer who is extremely approachable." (2015)
- “Excellent.” (2014)
- “the ‘very bright’ Stephen Midwinter” (2013)
- "'All-round top-notch junior' Stephen Midwinter's advice is ‘punchy and practical'" (2012)
- "Calver led Stephen Midwinter, praised for his drafting of pleadings." (2009)
- 'thorough' (2008)

Fraud: Civil

- "A ferocious cross-examiner and a go-to silk for complex civil fraud cases." (2025)
- "Stephen’s written advocacy is exceptional – he makes excellent use of parallels that convince people that he must, of course, be right." (2024)
- "Stephen’s cross-examination is devastating. He effortlessly extracts winning points from witnesses without leaving them anywhere to hide. His low key manner hides a ruthlessly efficient fraud silk who is an equal to many of the great names at the bar." (2023)
- "Stephen has an exceptionally forensic mind and cuts through cases to identify the real issues with frightening speed and efficiency. A very strong cross-examiner who extracts winning points from witnesses without them even realising it." (2022)
- "Supremely smart, erudite and clear in his views, he is also economical and insightful in his drafting." (2018-19)
- "Exceptionally bright, efficient and also a very good advocate." (2017)
- "He commands a high level of confidence and is a great addition to any team." (2016)
- "A top senior junior." (2015)
- “Exceptionally clever.” (2014)
- “The ‘commercially aware’ Stephen Midwinter” (2013)
- "'Powerful and persuasive advocate' Stephen Midwinter acted in the $80m Naftrans v Bonde Nielsen case" (2011)

Banking & Finance

- "Stephen's advocacy is superb: concise, direct and always focused laser-like on the issue that matters." (2025)
- "Stephen is excellent." (2024)
- "Unfailingly courteous and very helpful, a star in the making." (2018-19)
- "A first-choice new silk, particularly on complex banking matters." (2017)
- "He is extremely bright and able, and works at incredible speed." (2016)
- "He has a brilliant mind and is a great advocate destined for silk." (2015)
- “A star of the future, who is thorough, persuasive, confident and reliable.” (2014)
- “Stephen Midwinter is ‘a tremendous junior’, and is praised for his ‘very lean, focused, and strategically astute pleadings’.” (2013)

Energy

- "Stephen is a supremely brainy lead counsel who will devise a plan, adapt it, and develop it with the vibe of a chess grandmaster. He is simultaneously very laid back and not a KC to panic when shots are fired or things go awry. An understated but extremely clever advocate, his style works especially well in arbitration." (2027)
- "Stephen’s incredible speed of analysis is accompanied by great judgment on the big calls. When on his feet, the advocacy was crisp and effective." (2026)
- "An incredibly bright silk with an understated advocacy style." (2025)
- "Stephen is a phenomenally quick silk with a huge depth of knowledge." (2024)
- "He has great judgment and intellect, and he is a very strong writer and a savvy advocate." (2023)
- "Utterly unflappable, calm and capable of dealing with the slings and arrows of litigation and arbitration in a way that immediately instils confidence." (2022)
- "He provides excellent, swift, focused and practical advice, and he is unflappable in court and his advocacy is calm and incisive." (2021)
- "Level-headed, calm and incredibly bright, he has first-class drafting and analysis skills." (2020)
- "Fantastic; very user friendly and a strong up-and-comer." (2018-19)
- "A pleasure to work with." (2017)
- "He does not sit on the fence." (2016)
- "A decisive, commercially aware and refreshingly concise junior." (2015)

- “Measured in his delivery.” (2014)
- “Fellow junior Stephen Midwinter is also recommended” (2013)

International Arbitration: Counsel

- "A remarkably penetrating and agile mind and an exceptional advocate - concise and compelling." (2027)

- "Highly intelligent. Down-to earth. Succinct and punchy on paper and on his feet." (2026)

- "Stephen combines exceptionally forensic attention to detail with powerful advocacy." (2025)
- "He is unflustered and a problem solver, always on hand to give a clear and unflustered view. As an advocate he is measured, prepared and personable – he attacks by forensic analysis rather than forceful aggression and is all the more appealing to a tribunal as a result." (2023)
- "A fantastic young silk; very user friendly." (2018-19)
- "High-level intellect combined with pithy, practical and decisive advice." (2017)
- "A truly excellent junior – first-class legal knowledge and analysis, and good on his feet too." (2016)
- "A go-to junior who is straightforward and cerebral." (2015)

Professional Negligence

- "A strong advocate." (2018-19)
- "Thorough and able." (2017)
- "Exceptionally bright." (2016)
- "Highly skilled." (2015)

Aviation

- "Fantastic young silk; he has great intellect." (2018-19)

Offshore

- "Stephen is a superb commercial silk. He is an extremely able barrister, and while he can think laterally when appropriate, he is excellent and distilling and arguing his main points in an attractive, concise and persuasive style." (2025)

- "Incredibly bright and able to absorb new matters at great speed. Excellent judgment, unflappable, great value for money and a pleasure to work with." (2024)
- "Incredibly bright and able to turn his mind to virtually any area of law. Excellent strategic and tactical judgment, incisive analysis, unflappable, absorbs new matters at great speed and strong written and oral advocacy." (2023)
- "Stephen is outstanding and provides excellent, swift, focused and practical advice." (2022)
- "Unflappable in court, his advocacy is calm and incisive." (2021)
- "Incredibly bright and able to turn his mind to virtually any area of law." (2020)
- "A new London silk also called to the BVI Bar." (2018-19)

Who's Who Legal

Banking & Finance

- Stephen Midwinter is “excellent” having been involved in some of the leading cases arising out of the global financial crisis. He is known in the industry as someone who “works phenomenally hard”. (2017)

Energy & Natural Resources

- Stephen Midwinter KC is a “wonderful” advocate across an array of fields, with particular expertise in significant oil and gas disputes. (2020)
- Stephen Midwinter KC is a well-regarded figure among fellow advocates who commend his excellent work handling large energy disputes in the domestic courts. (2019)
- Stephen Midwinter KC is “highly rated” by peers, who commend his impressive advocacy in energy disputes. (2018)
- "Stephen Midwinter KC is frequently called on to handle high-value energy litigation. A source is particularly effusive: “Stephen is a fantastic senior junior who can churn out wonderful work at the drop of a hat”." (2017)

Insurance & Reinsurance

- Stephen Midwinter KC is a “remarkably efficient advocate”, well known for his impressive arbitration work under various rules including LCIA, ICC and UNCITRAL. (2020)
- Stephen Midwinter KC is “a very effective advocate” who is well versed in handling insurance-related disputes in both litigation and arbitration proceedings. (2019)
- Stephen Midwinter KC is an “authoritative” and “very impressive” trial lawyer, highly sought after by clients who commend his “cutting-edge advice”. (2018)

- "Before recently taking silk, Stephen Midwinter KC was considered “a sensible choice for the best insurance barrister at the junior Bar”. He has acted both led and unled in a wide range of big-ticket insurance and reinsurance disputes." (2017)

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clerks@brickcourt.co.uk