

Charles Wall

YEAR OF CALL: 2022

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Practice Overview

Charles has a broad practice spanning all areas of commercial and competition law. He has significant trial experience in high-profile commercial disputes and in competition claims under the collective proceedings regime. His current and recent instructions include:

- *Municipio de Mariana v BHP Group*: acting for the Part 20 defendant in a group action arising from the collapse of a Brazilian dam, in which over 600,000 claimants are seeking damages of £36 billion (led by Simon Salzedo KC, Vernon Flynn KC and Richard Eschwege KC) (one of *The Lawyer's* "Top 20 cases" of 2024);
- *Alta Trading UK Ltd (formerly known as Arcadia Petroleum) v Bosworth & Ors* : Commercial Court proceedings concerning losses caused by a 10-year freezing injunction, following the dismissal of a US\$325m fraud claim (led by Richard Eschwege KC);
- *Illiquidx Limited v Altana Wealth Limited* : acting for the successful claimant in a Chancery Division trial, alleging misuse of confidential information by a hedge fund (led by Andrew Green KC); and
- *Consumers' Association v Qualcomm Inc* : acting for Qualcomm in collective proceedings alleging an abuse of dominance (led by Daniel Jowell KC and Nicholas Saunders KC).

Before coming to the Bar, Charles graduated with a Congratulatory Double First in Classics from the University of Oxford (New College), where he came top of his year in philosophy. He achieved distinctions in both the GDL and the Bar Course at City Law School, and was awarded numerous scholarships and prizes throughout his studies. He accepts instructions across all areas of Chambers' practice.

Commercial

Charles accepts instructions across all areas of commercial law. He has experience in the Commercial Court, Chancery Division, Technology & Construction Court and in offshore jurisdictions. His recent cases include:

- *Municipio de Mariana v BHP Group* – acting for the Part 20 defendant (Vale S.A.) in a group action concerning the collapse of a Brazilian dam, in which over 600,000 claimants are seeking damages of £36 billion (led by Simon Salzedo KC, Vernon Flynn KC and Richard Eschwege KC, instructed by White & Case)
- *Arcadia Petroleum v Bosworth & Ors* – Commercial Court proceedings concerning losses caused by a 10-year freezing injunction, following the dismissal of a US\$325 million fraud claim relating to oil trading in West Africa (led by Richard Eschwege KC, instructed by Quinn Emanuel)
- *Illiquidx v Altana Wealth* [2025] EWHC 299 (Ch) – acted for the successful claimant in a 10-day Chancery Division trial alleging breach of contract, misuse of confidential information and infringement of trade secrets by a hedge fund; the defendants' appeal to the Court of Appeal is listed for summer 2026 (led by Andrew Green KC, instructed by RPC and Quinn Emanuel)
- *Chowgule v Shirke* – acting for the claimants in a hard-fought application for a freezing injunction relating to an alleged fraudulent scheme in the shipping industry (led by Simon Salzedo KC, instructed by Milbank)
- *Verloxi International Ltd v Antoshin* – jurisdiction challenge; defending subsequent applications for contempt (as a pupil, assisting Richard Eschwege KC)
- *Stokoe Partnership Solicitors v Patrick Grayson & Ors* – acting for the claimant in a case alleging breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy, involving allegations of unlawful hacking (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- *Prismall v Google UK Ltd & Deepmind Technologies Ltd* – representative proceedings under CPR Part 19 for alleged misuse of private information (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- *St James Holdings Ltd v Staveley* – a contractual dispute relating to the sale of Newcastle United Football Club (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- *Confidential matter* – advising a high net-worth individual in relation to a potential claim against a private bank for breach of contract, negligence, and breach of statutory duty (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- *Confidential matter* – advising a former employee of a renewable energy company in relation to a dispute regarding share entitlements (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)

Competition

Charles accepts instructions across all areas of competition law. His recent cases include:

- *Consumers' Association v Qualcomm* - acting for the defendant in collective proceedings alleging an abuse of dominance (led by Daniel Jowell KC and Nicholas Saunders KC, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright)
- *Justin Gutmann v Stagecoach & Ors* - the first standalone collective proceedings and the first to concern an alleged abuse of dominance (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)
- *Secretary of State for Health and Social Care & Others v Lundbeck Limited & Others* - follow-on damages claim in respect of alleged collusion between pharmaceutical companies (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)
- *BMW Emissions litigation* - proposed group litigation against BMW in connection with alleged 'defeat devices' as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)
- *Pharmacosmos UK Limited and another v Vifor Pharma UK Limited and others* - proceedings alleging an abuse of dominance in the pharmaceuticals sector (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- Advising on the prospects of proposed opt-out collective proceedings in respect of an alleged breach of the Chapter I prohibition in the technology sector (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)
- Advising a defendant company in the energy sector in respect of a proposed claim against it alleging excessive pricing (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- Advising a defendant utilities company in relation to the potential certification of opt-out collective proceedings against it alleging an abuse of dominance (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)

Arbitration

- An LCIA arbitration concerning a dispute in the investment management industry (as a pupil, assisting Richard Eschwege KC)
- A challenge, under sections 67, 68 and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996, to an award concerned with a reinsurance dispute (as a pupil, assisting Richard Eschwege KC)
- An HKIAC arbitration regarding patent portfolio licensing (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)

Public Law

Charles accepts instructions across all areas of public law. His recent experience includes:

- Acting for a victim of a serious sexual offence in judicial review proceedings regarding the police's failure to investigate (led by Jennifer MacLeod, instructed by Saunders)
- *Attorney General for the Falkland Islands v Teslyn Siobhan Barkman* – proceedings concerning the rights of dual nationals to vote and to hold office under the constitution of the Falkland Islands (as a pupil, assisting Gerard Rothschild)
- *Airwave Solutions Limited & Others v Competition and Markets Authority* – an application for review of a CMA decision under section 179 of the Enterprise Act 2002, raising issues concerning A1P1 property rights (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- 2021-2022: Bar Vocational Studies (Distinction, second in year), City Law School
- 2020-2021: Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), City Law School
- 2015-2019: BA Literae Humaniores (Congratulatory Double First), New College, University of Oxford

Scholarships and prizes

- Lord Scarman Scholarship, City Law School, 2022
- ICLR Busfield Prize for Legal Research and Opinion Writing, City Law School, 2022
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn, 2021
- City Law School Scholarship for Academic Excellence, 2021
- Lord Bowen Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn, 2020
- Gibbs Prize for the best performance in philosophy, University of Oxford, 2019
- Academic Scholarship, New College, University of Oxford, 2017