

Firdaus Mohandas

YEAR OF CALL: 2023

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Practice Overview

Firdaus practises across all areas of commercial law, as well as in competition law. His notable current and recent experience includes:

- ***Rusal v Whiteleave, Potanin, Crispian, and Abramovich***: Ongoing Commercial Court civil fraud proceedings regarding the management of Nor Nickel, the world's largest producer of refined nickel (acting for Whiteleave and Mr Potanin, on a team led by Tim Lord KC)
- ***Palmali Shipping v Litasco***: Six-week US\$ 170 million Commercial Court trial in January-February 2025 brought against the trading arm of Russian oil giant Lukoil, for non-delivery of cargo under an alleged contract of affreightment (acting successfully for Litasco SA, on a team led by Tim Lord KC). The trial judgment can be read [here](#).
- ***Coupang v DAZN***: Court of Appeal hearing in June 2025 regarding the licensing rights to the FIFA Club World Cup feed (acting successfully for Coupang Corp, with Craig Morrison KC).
- ***Alex Neil Class Representative v Sony Interactive Entertainment***: Ongoing CAT collective proceedings alleging an abuse of dominant position in respect of Sony's operation of the PlayStation Store, said to have caused losses in the region of US\$ 5 billion (acting for Sony Interactive Entertainment, on a team led by Daniel Beard KC).

Firdaus is also developing an unled practice. Selected recent instructions include acting for a Zambian financial technology company in an LCIA arbitration worth US\$ 1.3 million, and for a shareholder in a major sports franchise in a deceit claim against a German bank.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Firdaus read law at St. John's College, Oxford, where he secured the second highest mark in the university, as well as the highest in the private law modules. He then undertook the BCL, followed by the Bar Course at the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, being awarded further scholarships and prizes along the way.

COMMERCIAL

Firdaus accepts instructions across all areas of commercial litigation. His recent experience includes:

- *Rusal v Whiteleave, Potanin, Crispian, and Abramovich* – ongoing civil fraud proceedings in the Commercial Court regarding the management of the Nornickel, the world's largest producer of refined nickel (with Tim Lord KC, Craig Morrison KC, and Joshua Pemberton, acting for Whiteleave and Mr Potanin)
- *Palmali Shipping v Litasco* – six-week US\$ 170 million Commercial Court trial in January-February 2025 brought against the trading arm of Russian oil giant Lukoil, for non-delivery of cargo under an alleged contract of affreightment (with Tim Lord KC, Craig Morrison KC, Geoffrey Kuehne, and Aarushi Sahore, acting successfully for Litasco SA). See trial judgment [here](#).
- *Coupang v DAZN* – Court of Appeal hearing in June 2025 regarding the licensing rights to the FIFA Club World Cup broadcast (acting successfully for Coupang, with Craig Morrison KC)
- *Banca Credinvest v Otala.Markets* – claim brought by a Swiss Bank against a private capital firm alleging wrongful repudiation of an agreement entered into for the issuance of index-linked securities (acting for Otala.Markets Limited, with Tony Singla KC)
- *OCU v Mark and David Matthews* – claim brought by purchasers of an engineering company against sellers, alleging breaches of warranties and undertakings in a share purchase agreement (acting for OCU, with Fionn Pilbrow KC)
- *RAKIA v Azima, Dechert & Others* – claim alleging state-sponsored hacking and the procurement of High Court and Court Appeal judgment by means of fraud by the Defendants (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for Dechert LLP)
- *Savannah SA v SAR* – proceedings brought by a Swiss business against a Senegalese oil and gas company alleging repudiation of a contract for the sale of petrol and diesel (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for Société Africaine de Raffinage)
- *IBM v LzLabs GmbH & Others* – contractual claim alleging an unlawful scheme by the Defendants to reverse-engineer IBM's mainframe software (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for IBM UK Ltd)
- *Thurrock Council v Liam Kavanagh and Rockfire Capital* – claim against a businessman and his company in respect of investment funds fraudulently misappropriated from a government council (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for Thurrock Borough Council)
- *Visa v Luxottica Retail* – proceedings brought in respect of an alleged breach of a settlement agreement by the Defendant (as a pupil, assisting Daniel Piccinin KC in acting for Visa Inc)
- *ESS and Tiger v Capita* – intellectual property dispute concerning the continuing validity of a

licence granted over the SIMS educational software (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for ESS and Tiger UK Bidco Limited)

- *Assensus v Wirsol* – claim brought against a solar power developer for allegedly unpaid contractual bonuses (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC in acting for Wirsol Energy Limited)
- Advising a major investment bank on the relationship between its contractual repayment obligations and the UK's sanctions against Russia (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC)

COMPETITION

Firdaus accepts instructions across all areas of competition law. His recent experience includes:

- *Alex Neil Class Representative v Sony Interactive Entertainment*: Ongoing CAT collective proceedings alleging an abuse of dominant position in respect of Sony's operation of the PlayStation Store, said to have caused losses in the region of US\$ 5 billion (acting for Sony Interactive Entertainment, on a team led by Daniel Beard KC)
- *Ennis v Apple* – collective competition law proceedings alleging that the Defendant's App Store commissions amount to unfair pricing (as a pupil, assisting Daniel Piccinin KC in acting for Apple Inc)
- *CICC II v Visa & Others* – collective proceedings brought by merchants alleging that the interchange fees set by the Defendant card companies amount to anti-competitive agreements (as a pupil, assisting Daniel Piccinin KC in acting for Visa Inc)
- *Secretary of State for Health & Others v Servier* – claim alleging anti-competitive conduct (including patent settlement agreements) by the Defendant pharmaceutical group with respect to the Perindopril drug (as a pupil, assisting Daniel Piccinin KC in acting for the Servier Group)
- *Asda & Others v Bremnes Seashore & Others* – claim brought by UK-based supermarkets alleging a price fixing cartel in respect of Atlantic salmon organised by the Defendants (as a pupil, assisting Tim Johnston in acting for Cermaq Group AS)
- *Secretary of State for Health & Others v Lundbeck & Others* – follow-on damages proceedings brought against pharmaceutical companies in respect of certain anti-competitive agreements (as a pupil, assisting Tim Johnston in acting for Lundbeck Limited)
- Assisting in acting for a global sports governing body in confidential arbitration proceedings brought to challenge its sporting rules (as a pupil, assisting Tim Johnston)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Education

2018-2021: BA Jurisprudence (First-Class), St. John's College, University of Oxford

2021-2022: BCL (Distinction), St. John's College, University of Oxford

2022-2023: Bar Course, Inns of Court College of Advocacy

Academic Scholarships and Prizes

Wronker Proxime Prize for Second Best Performance in Academic Cohort (Oxford University)

Gibbs Prize for Best Performance in Private Law Modules (Oxford University)

Slaughter and May Prize for Best Performance in Contract Law (Oxford University)

Casberd Scholarship for Performance in Law Moderations (St. John's College)

Daniel Slifkin Scholarship to read for the BCL (St. John's College)

Lord Mansfield Scholarship for Bar Course Studies (Lincoln's Inn)

Bronze Medal for Performance in Civil Litigation Exam (Inns of Court College of Advocacy)