

## Firdaus Mohandas

YEAR OF CALL: 2023

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### Practice Overview

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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 concerning the management of Nornickel, the world's largest producer of refined nickel (acting for Whiteleave and Mr Potanin, on a team led by Tim Lord KC). The fourteen-week trial is scheduled to commence in April 2027.
- ***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). The Court of Appeal judgement can be read [here](#).
- ***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). The ten-week trial is scheduled to commence in March 2026.
- ***Greensill Bank AG v Secretary of State for Business and Trade***: Ongoing £350 million Commercial Court proceedings brought by the Insolvency Administrator of Greensill Bank AG in respect of the Secretary of State's termination of certain Covid-19 loan guarantee agreements (acting for Greensill Bank AG, on a team led by Tim Lord 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

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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 Nor Nickel, 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). See Court of Appeal judgement [here](#).
- *Greensill Bank AG v Secretary of State for Business and Trade and Greensill Capital UK Limited* – ongoing £350 million Commercial Court proceedings brought by the Insolvency Administrator of Greensill Bank AG in respect of the Secretary of State's termination of certain Covid-19 loan guarantee agreements (with Tim Lord KC and Ben Woolgar)
- *Banca Credinvest v Ota.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 Ota.Markets Limited, with Tony Singla KC)
- *NMCN Plc and NMCN Sustainable Solutions Limited v BDO LLP* – claim brought by joint liquidators of infrastructure companies for negligence and/or breach of contract by the companies' former auditors (acting for NMCN, with Tony Singla KC and Kyle Lawson)
- *OCU v Mark and David Matthews* – claim brought by the purchasers of an engineering company against the sellers, alleging breaches of warranties and undertakings in a share purchase agreement (acting for OCU, with Fionn Pilbrow KC and Mathias Cheung)
- *DH Corporate Holdings Limited and Others v OCU* – claim brought by the sellers of two electricity transmission and distribution companies against buyers for deferred consideration

allegedly owing to the former (acting for OCU, with Fionn Pilbrow KC)

- *Asiatrust Limited v Teal Turtle Inc and Bolder Corporate Services* – claim brought by a Cook Islands-based trustee for rectification of a BVI company register (acting for Asiatrust, with Ben Woolgar)

## COMPETITION

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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)

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

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### 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)