BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

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Georgina Petrova

YEAR OF CALL: 2011

"Georgina's analysis is first rate and she displays excellent judgement". "Extremely responsive and personable", she is "tactically savvy" and "incredibly quick at absorbing complex facts"

Legal 500 / Chambers & Partners

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Practice Overview

Georgina Petrova advises and acts (led and unled) in a broad spectrum of complex, high-value commercial disputes in litigation and arbitration. In litigation, most of her work is in the English courts, but she also acts in other common law-based jurisdictions in the Caribbean and the Middle East. Her arbitration practice encompasses commercial and investor-state disputes under all major institutional rules (including LCIA, ICC, SCC, SIAC, HKIAC and ICSID) as well as *ad hoc* , and arbitration-related court proceedings in England and abroad.

Georgina has represented states, multinational companies and high net-worth individuals in disputes involving a wide range of industries and sectors, including banking and finance, energy and natural resources, the pharmaceutical industry, tech and telecoms, and relating to parties and business interests located all over the world, including Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Russia and the CIS. Her work often involves parallel proceedings and advice on global strategy as well as raising conflict of laws or jurisdictional issues and requiring foreign law evidence. Alongside general commercial claims, Georgina has a substantial civil fraud practice, regularly acting for claimants and defendants in conspiracy and other economic tort claims as well as obtaining and resisting freezing orders and other interim relief.

Georgina's current and recent instructions include: acting for the Beko Defendants in the ongoing multi-party Grenfell Tower Litigation arising out of the catastrophic fire in 2017 (led by Helen Davies KC and Edward Harrison KC); acting for the former shareholders of a British drug developer in a US$50m+ contractual claim against a major pharmaceutical company in the Patents Court (led by Adrian Speck KC in the three-week trial, Georgina undertook the interlocutory and pre-trial advocacy); acting for insurance giant Willis Towers Watson in a joint venture dispute listed for trial in the DIFC Courts in 2026, involving contract and conspiracy claims under UAE law (led by Roger Masefield KC); and acting for Thurrock Borough Council in its claims arising out of the complex alleged fraud by Liam Kavanagh, which left the Council insolvent and was the subject of a BBC

Panorama documentary as well as being widely reported in the national press (led by Craig Morrison KC). Further examples of Georgina's recent cases are provided under the tabs below.

Georgina is ranked as a leading junior in the fields of commercial dispute resolution, civil fraud and international arbitration in the legal directories, which include the following commentary: " *Georgina is tactically savvy and unbelievably quick to take in detail*." "*Georgina has an encyclopedic knowledge of matters relating to public international law and a wonderful ability to convert complex concepts clearly in her writing* ." " *Extremely responsive and personable; organised and communicative; very sharp and able to distil the key points; commercially-minded; and overall a pleasure to work with* ." "*Georgina's analysis is first rate and she displays excellent judgement. She is an excellent team player and her written work is always sharp and client-friendly* ." " *She is incredibly quick at absorbing complex facts and getting to the heart of the dispute* ." *"Georgina is incredibly hardworking, diligent and an excellent junior*."

Georgina is a case reviewer for Advocate, the Bar's national pro bono charity, and she undertakes pro bono work via Advocate and the High Court's CLIPS scheme. She is Brick Court Chambers' representative to COMBAR and a longstanding mentor to aspiring candidates to the Bar under the COMBAR scheme for underrepresented groups.

Commercial

Georgina acts and advises in commercial disputes across a wide range of industries and sectors including banking/finance, energy (including mining and oil & gas), pharma, tech and telecoms. Her areas of expertise include contract and commercial law, company/shareholder disputes, civil fraud, professional liability, jurisdiction and conflict of laws and arbitration-related court proceedings. Georgina is admitted as a Part II Practitioner before the DIFC Courts.

- The Grenfell Tower Litigation (The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and another v. Beko Poland Manufacturing and others): acting for Beko, the white goods and electronics manufacturer, in this high-profile multi-party High Court litigation arising out of the catastrophic fire in 2017 (led by Helen David KC and Edward Harrison KC). The litigation concerns claims by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and its tenants management organisation against a number of defendant groups alleged to have been culpable for the events giving rise to the fire, which killed 72 residents and caused extensive property and other damage. The Claimants estimate their losses at over £350m. A 12-month trial is listed to commence in 2028.
- SRS and 24 others v Biogen International and another: acting for the former shareholders in a British pharmaceutical company that developed a potentially ground-breaking treatment for neuropathic pain. The claimants' contractual claim for deferred consideration under a sale agreement with Biogen gave rise to complex issues of contractual interpretation. The three-week trial in 2025 involved extensive technical expert evidence in clinical trial design and

pharmacology and consideration of the meaning and scope of important concepts in drug development such as proof of concept and similarity of population (led by Adrian Speck KC at trial, Georgina undertook the interlocutory and pre-trial advocacy).

- Al Futtaim and others v Willis Limited and others: acting for global insurance company Willis Towers Watson in a dispute with its co-venturers in the Middle East in proceedings before the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts, involving claims in contract and conspiracy under Dubai, Lebanese and UAE law (led by Roger Masefield KC).
- Thurrock Borough Council v Kavanagh and another: acting for Thurrock Borough Council in its claims arising out of the complex alleged fraud by Liam Kavanagh, which left the Council insolvent and was the subject of a BBC Panorama documentary as well as being widely reported in the national press (led by Craig Morrison KC). The Council's claims include High Court fraud claims against Mr Kavanagh and his company, Rockfire Capital Limited and in separate proceedings, claims in professional negligence against APSE (described below).
- Thurrock Borough Council v The Members of the Association for Public Service Excellent (APSE): acting for the Council in its claims in professional negligence against the members of APSE, an unincorporated association whose membership consists of local authorities (led by Craig Morrison KC). The claims arise from valuations prepared by APSE in respect of a portfolio of solar farms, which were majority owned by Mr Kavanagh and which provided security for the Council's investment of around £400 million in bonds issued by a company majority-owned by Mr Kavanagh.
- AutoStore Technology v Ocado Group plc: acting on the commercial law aspects of this high-profile US $5 billion patent infringement dispute between AutoStore, a Norwegian warehouse robot technology innovator, and Ocado (led by Vernon Flynn KC). The High Court trial was one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases for 2021 and the first-instance judgment ([2023] EWHC 716 (Pat)) addressed a number of important legal questions regarding the Patents Act 1967, the characterisation of breach of confidence claims in private international law and the meaning and scope of Article 11 of the Rome II Regulation ('*culpa in contrahendo*'). The case settled shortly before an appeal was due to be heard in 2024.
- PJSC National Bank "Trust" v. Soloshanskiy et al: acting as sole counsel in an application for the discharge of a freezing injunction made in support of civil proceedings in Cyprus relating to claims for conspiracy under Russian and Cypriot law. The claimant, a Russian state bank and one of Russia's largest banks, alleged that the defendants, together with others, had conspired to wrongfully procure an injunction from the Cypriot courts so as to prohibit the Claimant's sale at auction of a Russian company. On that basis, it claimed a loss of £24.8 million in damages. The injunction application raised important and novel issues including as to the scope of the inexpediency exception under section 25(2) of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.
- Zurich Insurance Company Limited (UK Branch) v. National Foam Inc. and another: acting for the claimant in an application for an anti-suit injunction restraining US proceedings brought in breach of arbitration clauses contained in a suite of insurance policies (led by Stephen

Midwinter KC).

- NMC v. Manghat and others : acting for the joint administrators of NMC Healthcare Ltd before the Abu Dhabi Commercial Court resisting third-party disclosure orders relating to an alleged multi-billion fraud (led by James McClelland KC).
- Bourlakova v Bourlakov and others : acting for Loudmila Bourlakova, wife of deceased oligarch Oleg Bourlakov, against her deceased husband's relatives and associates in claims arising from a conspiracy to defraud Mrs Bourlakova and her daughters of their rightful share of the family's assets. Georgina acted (led by Helen Davies KC) for the claimant in successfully resisting multiple challenges to the English Court's jurisdiction. Trower J's judgment is available here: [2022] EWHC 1269 (Ch).
- EnQuest v. BP : acting for EnQuest, a UK-based petroleum exploration and production company, in a dispute with British Petroleum regarding the operation costs of one of Europe's largest oil terminals (led by Fionn Pilbrow KC).
- VTB v Sberbank and others : acting for Sberbank, Russia's largest bank, in a High Court dispute with VTB involving allegations of fraud in the context of the insolvency of one of Russia's largest oil refineries (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and James Willan KC). The dispute gave rise to complex and novel issues of jurisdiction relating to proceedings commenced in support of London-seated arbitration proceedings. Sberbank successfully challenged the English Court's jurisdiction. Cockerill J's judgment is available here [2021] EWHC 1758 (Comm)
- Hinduja v Hinduja: acting for the Hinduja brothers in a multi-billion dollar High Court dispute over the family's assets (led by Lord Goldsmith KC).
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria v Royal Dutch Shell plc and others: acting for the Shell defendants in multi-billion dollar High Court proceedings commenced by Nigeria and involving allegations of fraud and bribery of senior public officials including four former Nigerian presidents in relation to the grant of a prospecting licence over one of Africa's largest oil deposits (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and James Willan KC). The Shell defendants successfully challenged the English Court's jurisdiction. Butcher J's judgment is available here [2020] EWHC 1315 (Comm)
- United Company Rusal Plc v Crispian Investments Ltd and Whiteleave Holdings Ltd [2018] EWHC 2415 (Comm): acting for Vladimir Potanin's company, Whiteleave, in a five-day High Court trial of a shareholders' dispute involving Rusal and Roman Abramovich's company, Crispian, over shares in Norilsk Nickel, the world's largest producer of palladium and one of the largest producers of nickel, platinum and copper (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and Daniel Toledano KC). The dispute related to the construction of a Right of First Refusal contained in a shareholders' agreement and also involved allegations of conspiracy.
- Investec v Glenalla Properties Ltd and others [2018] UKPC 7: acting for Robert Tchenguiz and trusts associated with him in nine complex, long-running, conjoined appeals to the Privy Council from the Guernsey Court of Appeal involving issues of trusts law, contract and

restitution (led by Lord Goldsmith KC).

- Acting for one of the world's leading gold producers in a dispute over the sale of two gold mines in West Africa under the LCIA rules, London seat, applying English law (led by Fionn Pilbrow KC).
- Acting for a leaseholder in a substantial contractual dispute with the state of Montenegro over the lease for a luxury resort on the Montenegrin coastline under the LCIA rules, London seat, applying Montenegrin law (led by Salim Moollan KC).
- Acting for a Chinese multinational company in enforcement proceedings before the BVI courts (led by Vernon Flynn KC).
- Acting for a London-listed mining company in its dispute with a sovereign African state: Georgina acted for the claimants in the arbitral proceedings (under the UNCITRAL Rules, London seat) and in the confidential Commercial Court proceedings in support of the arbitrations (led by Wendy Miles KC).
- Georgina's recent advisory work includes: advising a multi-national telecoms provider on a prospective BIT claim against an Asian state under the ICSID rules (as sole counsel); advising a Central Asian state on prospective claims against a neighbouring state and state-owned companies arising out of an environmental disaster (with Stephen Midwinter KC); advising on appeal proceedings relating to an arbitral award under the LCIA rules with a seat in the Caribbean (with Wendy Miles KC); advising an investor in an African gas project (with Mark Howard KC); advising a multinational telecommunications company in a contractual dispute with a major European network provider (with Mark Howard KC); advising a Magic Circle law firm in relation to foreign proceedings against the firm (again with Mark Howard KC); advising Huawei in relation to a suite of contractual arrangements with various network providers in the UK in light of the UK Government's banning Huawei from its 5G networks due to national security concerns (as sole counsel).

Civil fraud

Georgina has significant experience and expertise in civil fraud disputes. She is recommended as a civil fraud junior in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. Examples of her recent civil fraud instructions include:

- Al Futtaim and others v Willis Limited and others : acting for global insurance company Willis Towers Watson in a dispute with its co-venturers in the Middle East in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts, involving claims contract and conspiracy claims under UAE law (led by Roger Masefield KC)
- Thurrock Borough Council v Kavanagh and another : advising and acting for Thurrock Borough Council in its claims arising out of the complex alleged fraud by Liam Kavanagh,

widely reported by the press including by BBC Panorama, the FT and Guardian, which left the Council insolvent (led by Craig Morrison KC). The Council's claims include High Court fraud claims against Mr Kavanagh and his company, Rockfire Capital Limited, and negligence claims against the Association for Public Service Excellent (APSE).

- PJSC National Bank "Trust" v. Soloshanskiy et al : acting as sole counsel in an application for the discharge of a freezing injunction made in support of civil proceedings in Cyprus relating to claims for conspiracy under Russian and Cypriot law. The claimant, a Russian state bank and one of Russia's largest banks, alleged that the defendants, together with others, had conspired to wrongfully procure an injunction from the Cypriot courts so as to prohibit the Claimant's sale at auction of a Russian company. On that basis, it claimed a loss of £24.8 million in damages. The injunction application raised important and novel issues including as to the scope of the inexpediency exception under section 25(2) of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.
- NMC v. Manghat and others : acting for the joint administrators of NMC Healthcare Ltd before the Abu Dhabi Commercial Court resisting third-party disclosure orders relating to an alleged multi-billion fraud (led by James McClelland KC).
- Bourlakova v Bourlakov and others : acting for Loudmila Bourlakova, wife of deceased oligarch Oleg Bourlakov, against her deceased husband's relatives and associates in claims arising from a conspiracy to defraud Mrs Bourlakova and her daughters of their rightful share of the family's assets. Georgina acted (led by Helen Davies KC) for the claimant in successfully resisting multiple challenges to the English Court's jurisdiction. Trower J's judgment is available here: [2022] EWHC 1269 (Ch).
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria v Royal Dutch Shell plc and others [2020] EWHC 1315 (Comm): acting for the Shell defendants in multi-billion dollar High Court proceedings commenced by Nigeria and involving allegations of fraud and bribery of senior public officials including four former Nigerian presidents in relation to the grant of a prospecting licence over one of Africa's largest oil deposits (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and James Willan KC). The Shell defendants successfully challenged the English Court's jurisdiction. Butcher J's judgment is available here [2020] EWHC 1315 (Comm).
- Hinduja v Hinduja : acting for the Hinduja brothers in a multi-billion dollar dispute, involving allegations of fraud and dishonesty, in relation to the family's assets (led by Lord Goldsmith KC).
- United Company Rusal Plc v Crispian Investments Ltd and Whiteleave Holdings Ltd [2018] EWHC 2415 (Comm): acting for Vladimir Potanin's company, Whiteleave, in a five-day High Court trial of a shareholders' dispute involving Rusal and Roman Abramovich's company, Crispian, over shares in Norilsk Nickel, the world's largest producer of palladium and one of the largest producers of nickel, platinum and copper (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and Daniel Toledano KC). The dispute related to the construction of a Right of First Refusal contained in a shareholders' agreement and also involved allegations of conspiracy.

Arbitration

Georgina's arbitration practice includes disputes under all major institutional rules (including LCIA, ICC, SCC, SIAC, HKIAC and ICSID) and *ad hoc*, as well as related court proceedings in England and abroad. She has acted for multinational companies and high net-worth individuals, as well as for and against states and state-owned enterprises. Much of her work is multi-jurisdictional, involving parallel proceedings and advising on global strategy.

Georgina has acted in arbitrations under a range of foreign laws, including those of Switzerland, Sweden, Cyprus and Nigeria, including:

- for the Russian Federation in a claim brought by a former Yukos Oil subsidiary under the Energy Charter Treaty alleging expropriation and other treaty breaches.
- for a publicly traded mining company in two London-seated UNCITRAL arbitrations against an African state.
- for a publicly traded oil & gas company in a Lagos-seated *ad hoc* arbitration against the Nigerian National Petroleum Company involving a dispute over lifting entitlements and fiscal stabilisation provisions.
- for a Cypriot oil & gas company in a two-week commercial arbitration (and related set-aside proceedings) in Stockholm under the SCC Rules, involving issues of illegality and civil fraud under German, Cypriot and Swedish law.
- for a Middle Eastern sovereign state in an *ad hoc* arbitration against another Middle Eastern sovereign state and state-owned enterprise, involving issues of contract and public international law.

In the context of arbitral proceedings, Georgina has also recently advised:

- a multi-national mining and commodities trading company on a contractual dispute involving allegations of bribery.
- an Africa-based private equity fund on a dispute arising out of the restructuring of an investment in the Ethiopian farming sector.
- an Indian private equity fund on the construction of a suite of agreements relating to a joint venture in the IT sector.

Examples of Georgina's recent arbitration-related court cases include:

- for one of the world's leading gold producers in a dispute over the sale of two gold mines in West Africa under the LCIA rules, London seat, applying English law (led by Fionn Pilbrow KC);

- for a leaseholder in a substantial contractual dispute with the state of Montenegro over the lease for a luxury resort on the Montenegrin coastline under the LCIA rules, London seat, applying Montenegrin law (led by Salim Moollan KC);
- for a publicly traded mining company in two London-seated UNCITRAL arbitrations against an African state;
- for the Russian Federation in a claim brought by a former Yukos Oil subsidiary under the Energy Charter Treaty alleging expropriation and other treaty breaches;
- for a publicly traded oil & gas company in a Lagos-seated *ad hoc* arbitration against the Nigerian National Petroleum Company involving a dispute over lifting entitlements and fiscal stabilisation provisions;
- for a Cypriot oil & gas company in a two-week commercial arbitration (and related set-aside court proceedings) in Stockholm under the SCC Rules, involving issues of illegality and civil fraud under German, Cypriot and Swedish law; and
- for a Middle Eastern sovereign state in an *ad hoc* arbitration against another Middle Eastern sovereign state and state-owned enterprise, involving issues of contract and public international law.

In the context of arbitral proceedings, Georgina has also recently advised:

- a multi-national telecoms provider on a prospective BIT claim against an Asian state under the ICSID rules;
- a Brazilian construction conglomerate on appeal proceedings relating to an arbitral award under the LCIA rules with a seat in the Caribbean (with Wendy Miles KC);
- an investor in an African gas project in relation to potential claims under a contract with a West African state entity as well as a prospective BIT claim;
- a multi-national mining and commodities trading company on a contractual dispute involving allegations of bribery;
- an Africa-based private equity fund on a dispute arising out of the restructuring of an investment in the Ethiopian farming sector; and
- an Indian private equity fund on the construction of a suite of agreements relating to a joint venture in the IT sector.

Examples of Georgina's recent arbitration-related court cases include:

- Zurich Insurance Company Limited (UK Branch) v. National Foam Inc. and another: acting for the claimant in an application for an anti-suit injunction restraining US proceedings brought in breach of arbitration clauses contained in a suite of insurance policies (led by Stephen Midwinter KC).

- Acting for a Chinese multinational company in enforcement proceedings before the BVI courts (led by Vernon Flynn KC).
- Bourlakova v Bourlakov and 12 others [2022] EWHC 1269 (Ch): acting for Loudmila Bourlakova, wife of deceased oligarch Oleg Bourlakov, against her deceased husband's relatives and associates in claims arising from a conspiracy to defraud Mrs Bourlakova and her daughters of their rightful share of the family's assets (led by Helen Davies KC). The Claimants succeeded in defending the English court's jurisdiction over the dispute, including in defeating a challenge based on section 9 of the Arbitration Act 1996, which raised issues as to the scope and effect of foreign law-governed arbitration clauses in the context of multi-party fraud disputes. Trower J's judgment is available here [2022] EWHC 1269 (Ch)
- VTB v Sberbank and others [2021] EWHC 1758 (Comm): acting for Sberbank, Russia's largest bank in a High Court dispute with VTB involving allegations of fraud in the context of the insolvency of one of Russia's largest oil refineries (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and James Willan KC). The dispute gave rise to complex and novel issues of jurisdiction relating to proceedings commenced in support of London-seated arbitrations. Sberbank successfully challenged the English Court's jurisdiction. Cockerill J's judgment is available here [2021] EWHC 1758 (Comm)
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria v Royal Dutch Shell plc and others [2020] EWHC 1315 (Comm): acting for the Shell defendants in multi-billion dollar High Court proceedings commenced by Nigeria and involving allegations of fraud and bribery of senior public officials including four former Nigerian presidents in relation to the grant of a prospecting licence over one of Africa's largest oil deposits (led by Lord Goldsmith KC and James Willan KC). The Shell defendants successfully challenged the English Court's jurisdiction. Butcher J's judgment is available here [2020] EWHC 1315 (Comm) Georgina also advised Shell in related ICSID proceedings.
- Confidential court proceedings in support of London-seated arbitrations between a London- listed mining company and a sovereign state (led by Wendy Miles KC).

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

2017 – 2023: Teaching Fellow in Contract Law, University College London

2013: Judicial Assistant to the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Lloyd at the Court of Appeal (Civil Division)

2012: LLM in International Commercial Law, University College London (Distinction)

2011: Bar Professional Training Course, Kaplan College (Very Competent) completed under the Inner Temple's Princess Royal Scholarship (one of the most prestigious academic scholarships awarded by the Inn)

2010: LLB in Law with German Law, University College London (First Class Honours). Various academic prizes and scholarships.

2008 – 2009: Certificate in Rechtswissenschaft (Law), Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München (Equivalent to First Class Honours)

MEMBERSHIPS

COMBAR

LCIA

LANGUAGES

Fluent: German and Bulgarian

Working knowledge: French and Russian

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"*Georgina is very bright, articulate, and quick to get to the heart of the matter in her advice."* (Legal 500, 2027)

"*Extremely responsive, incredibly smart, but also very personable and thoughtful. A delight to work with. Written advocacy is superb and technically excellent.*" (Legal 500, 2027)

"*Georgina's ability to consume enormous amounts of material in minutes is unrivalled. She does not shy away from sharp and robust advice when the client needs it most.* " (Chambers and Partners 2027)

"*Very clever and bright, and very good; she's a rising star.*" (Chambers and Partners 2027)

"*She's excellent; she has a bright future, writes really well and is a pleasure to deal with.* " (Chambers and Partners 2027)

"*Georgina is hands-on, user-friendly and responsive. She's happy to roll her sleeves up and do the work that some barristers may give back to solicitors.*" (Chambers and Partners 2027)

"*Georgina is extraordinarily competent, highly reliable and someone who's collaborative and friendly in her approach, which is not always the case for people with her intellectual firepower. She's quite something and definitely one to keep an eye on.*" (Chambers and Partners 2027)

"*Extremely responsive and personable; organised and communicative; very sharp and able to distil the key points; commercially-minded; and overall a pleasure to work with.*" (Legal 500, 2026)

"*Georgina has an encyclopedic knowledge of matters relating to public international law and a wonderful ability to convert complex concepts clearly in her writing.*" (Legal 500, 2026)

"*Georgina is tactically savvy and unbelievably quick to take in detail.*" (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"*Georgina Petrova is building a notable civil fraud practice, drawing on her experience as a solicitor. She is involved in cross-jurisdictional matters that are of high value and complexity* ." (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"*Georgina's analysis is first rate and she displays excellent judgement. She is an excellent team player and her written work is always sharp and client-friendly.*" (Legal 500, 2025)

"*She is incredibly quick at absorbing complex facts and getting to the heart of the dispute* ." (Legal 500, 2025)

"*Georgina is incredibly hardworking, diligent and an excellent junior. She is super-smart and certainly one to watch.*" (Legal 500, 2024)

Clients also describe Georgina as " *incredibly driven* " and an " *excellent team player* ". (Legal 500, 2021)

Georgina was 'Barrister of the Week' in *The Lawyer* (July 2021).