BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

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

Tom Wood

YEAR OF CALL: 2017

"Tom Wood is outstanding for commercial and banking disputes. As well as brilliant legal skills, he also has experience as a solicitor, which gives him a wonderful insight into how solicitors work."

Chambers & Partners 2025

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



Practice Overview

Tom is a leading commercial junior, regularly acting in high-profile multi-party cases with an international element. His broad practice covers banking and financial services, contractual issues, civil fraud, derivatives, insurance/reinsurance, shareholder disputes, commercial agency, telecoms, and professional negligence. Tom has acted in a number of disputes featured in The Lawyer's 'Top 20' cases in recent years, including BTI 2014 LCC v PwC (2024), the $2 billion Mozambique 'Tuna Bond' litigation (2023) and the FX-rigging litigation, and is regularly instructed unled in a range of commercial disputes. Tom also has extensive experience of arbitration, having acted (led and unled) in LCIA, ICC and ad hoc proceedings. He was shortlisted for Financial Services and Insurance Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 2025 Awards.

Tom is listed in the categories of Commercial Dispute Resolution, Banking & Finance and Professional Negligence (Chambers & Partners 2026), and Banking and Finance, Commercial Litigation, Civil Fraud and Insurance and Reinsurers (Legal 500 2026). The Directories have said:

"He is an excellent team player with a fantastic courtroom style. Very calm under pressure."

"He is very perspicacious, rapidly grasping the essential elements in any dispute. Tom is highly responsive and has a global view of any legal dispute, assessing the commercial elements as well as the legal aspects."

"One of the Bar's ascendant stars. Besides being a first-rate lawyer, he is articulate, clever, level headed and persuasive. He can vary his tone from aggressive to mild, depending on the needs of the moment, and has a fantastic feel for the mood of the court."

"Tom is simply first rate. He is extremely intelligent, his drafting is clear and precise, and he has a very nice manner with clients. He is very easy to work with."

"Tom is a superb junior. He provides clear and commercially valuable advice, and he is someone who quickly cuts to the heart of a matter. He is one for the difficult cases."

Tom's significant current and recent instructions include:

- ***Various Claimants v Vodafone Limited***: acting for Vodafone in its defence of multiple Commercial Court claims said to be worth a total of c.£85 million by 62 current and former franchise partners for relief under the Commercial Agents Regulations and damages/restitution in respect of alleged breaches of contract.
- ***BTI 2014 LLC v PwC***: acted for BTI in an auditors' negligence claim for damages worth several hundred million-dollars.
- ***Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others***: acted for three banks which provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique in the multi-party proceedings relating to the substantial $2 billion 'tuna bonds' scandal involving allegations of bribery, corruption and conspiracy involving a number of Government officials.
- ***Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA & Dexia Crediop SpA v Commune di Venezia (Financial List):*** acted for the claimant banks in proceedings concerning an ISDA Master Agreement, and in connection with Venice's €100 million counter-claim, tried in the Commercial Court.
- Acting for HSBC in substantial follow-on and stand-alone damages claims against several international banking groups (in the Commercial Court and Competition Appeal Tribunal) concerning alleged manipulation of forex rates and bid/ask spreads over an 11-year period. Tom was part of the Defendants' counsel team on the Claimants' application to strike-out aspects of the Defendants' pass-on Defences.

Before coming to the Bar, Tom practised as a Solicitor Advocate and Associate at Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer for four years, specialising in general commercial, shareholder disputes and civil fraud. He completed secondments as a Judicial Assistant to the Commercial Court, Chancery Division and Supreme Court.

Tom has a wide experience of using legal AI tools in practice, having used a number of the market-leading providers as part of hearing and trial preparation, and he regularly advises on how best to utilise AI effectively as part of trial preparation.

Banking and finance

Tom regularly acts for banks and financial institutions and is ranked as a leading junior for Banking and Finance in the Legal 500 2026 (Tier 2) and Chambers & Partners 2026 (Up and Coming). He was shortlisted for Financial Services and Insurance Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 2025 Awards. He has particular experience of fraud claims involving banks, investment funds, FX trading, interest-rate swaps, syndicated lending and miss-selling claims.

Significant instructions include:

- Acting for a leading international FX brokerage in its defence of multiple claims totaling around £50m by individual investors for alleged dishonest assistance and knowing receipt in connection with an international fraudulent FX trading scheme.
- Acting for multiple international investors on their claims against an investment advisor for fraudulent misrepresentations made in connection with investments in a failed healthcare fund.
- *Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others*: acted for three banks which provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique in the multi-party proceedings relating to the substantial $2 billion 'tuna bonds' scandal involving allegations of bribery, corruption and conspiracy involving a number of Government officials. [2023] EWHC 1650 (Comm). A 12-week trial was heard in October to December 2023.
- *Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA & Dexia Crediop SpA v Commune di Venezia (Financial List):* acted for the claimant banks in proceedings concerning an ISDA Master Agreement, and in connection with Venice's €100 million counter-claim, tried in the Commercial Court in June 2022. [2022] EWHC 2586 (Comm).
- Acted for an Italian investment bank in two Commercial Court claims against Italian local authorities for declaratory relief and damages in respect of long-term interest-rate swaps.
- *Allianz Global Investors v Barclays Bank and others,* acting for HSBC in substantial follow-on and stand-alone damages claims against several international banking groups concerning alleged manipulation of forex rates and bid/ask spreads over an 11-year period. Tom was part of the Defendants' counsel team on the Claimants' application to strike-out aspects of the Defendants' pass-on Defences [2021] EWHC 399 (Comm) and the subsequent appeal [2022] EWCA Civ 353.

Commercial

Tom practises across the full range of commercial work in Chambers and is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' for Commercial Litigation in Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 2026. He is regularly instructed as part of small and large teams in heavyweight commercial disputes, and has appeared with leading counsel before the Court of Appeal, High Court and Financial Reporting Counsel, and unled in the Commercial Court, Circuit and Commercial Court. He has particular experience of shareholder/JV disputes, high-value contract disputes, debt actions, claims in relation to commercial agencies under the Commercial Agents Regulations/Directive, and economic-tort claims.

Significant instructions include:

- *Various Claimants v Vodafone Limited*: acting for Vodafone in its defence of multiple claims said to be worth a total of £120 million by 62 current and former franchise partners for relief

under the Commercial Agents Regulations and damages/restitution in respect of alleged breaches of contract.

- *Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others* [2023] EWHC 1650 (Comm): acted for three banks which provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique in the multi-party proceedings relating to the substantial $2 billion 'tuna bonds' scandal involving allegations of bribery, corruption and conspiracy involving a number of Government officials. A 12-week trial was heard in October to December 2023.
- Acted for a UK energy business in its defence of claims by a German distributor for an indemnity pursuant to an English-law distribution agreement alleged to incorporate provisions of the German Civil Code entitling distributors to an indemnity in a manner analogous to commercial agents.
- Acted for a Canadian business in an application to the Commercial Court for a Worldwide Freezing Order in support of a c.$3m claim for unpaid debts and the subsequent proceedings.
- *De Havilland v SpiceJet*: acted for De Havilland in its successful application for summary judgment for liquidated damages of around US$43m for breaches of an aircraft purchase agreement [2021] EWHC 362 (Comm) and in De Havilland's successful application to have SpiceJet's appeal struck out [2021] EWCA Civ 1834.
- *Mayer Cars and Trucks v Jaguar Land Rover Limited*: acted for JLR in ongoing Commercial Court proceedings concerning a claim of unlawful means conspiracy and unjust enrichment. [2021] EWHC 2984 (Comm). The case settled shortly before a two-week trial.
- *West Ham v E20*: acted for E20 on its defence of West Ham United's claims relating to the rights to use the London Stadium, including defending a privilege challenge [2018] EWHC 2784, and an expedited appeal on privilege issues [2018] EWCA Civ 2652. The case settled on the first day of trial.
- *L&J Lonsdale Metals v Jaguar Land Rover*: acted for JLR in resisting a Circuit Commercial Court claim for breach of contract and counterclaiming for payment of a trade debt.
- *Lotus v Marcassus* [2019] EWHC 3128 (Comm): acted for a defendant challenging jurisdiction over a debt claim in the Commercial Court.
- Acted for a major Indian pharmaceuticals manufacturer in LCIA proceedings concerning a contract dispute with a purchaser involving allegations of breach of warranty.

Civil fraud

Many of Tom's cases involve serious allegations of fraud and dishonesty, and he has extensive experience of the different aspects of fraud litigation including urgent applications for interim relief. He is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' for Civil Fraud in the Legal 500 2026.

Significant instructions include:

- Acting for a leading international FX brokerage in its defence of multiple claims totaling around £50m by individual investors for alleged dishonest assistance and knowing receipt in connection with an international fraudulent FX trading scheme.
- Acting for multiple international investors on their claims against an investment advisor for fraudulent misrepresentations made in connection with investments in a failed healthcare fund.
- *Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others* [2023] EWHC 1650 (Comm): acted for three banks which provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique in the multi-party proceedings relating to the substantial $2 billion 'tuna bonds' scandal involving allegations of bribery, corruption and conspiracy involving a number of Government officials. A 12-week trial was heard in October to December 2023.
- Acted for a shareholder in a multi-million US$ property business in LCIA proceedings against his JV partner (involving allegations of dishonest misappropriation of assets and unfair prejudice) including two successful applications for interim relief to the LCIA.
- *Sakab Saudi Holding Co v Al Jabri & Ors, Re: HSBC & Ors* [2021] EWHC 3390 (QB): acted for the successful applicants on an application to the English Court pursuant to a letter of request from the Canadian Court in connection with a US€3.47 billion fraud claim.
- Advised a large conglomerate on potential claims for fraudulent and negligent misstatement against a JV partner in relation to a multi-million dollar property development.
- Acted for an Italian business in connection with claims against a former director and his associates for dishonest breach of directors' duties, misappropriation of assets, knowing receipt and dishonest assistance.

Insurance and Reinsurance

Tom regularly advices on insurance matters and is ranked in the Legal 500 2026 Insurance and Reinsurance category (Tier 4). He was shortlisted for Financial Services and Insurance Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 2025 Awards.

Significant instructions include:

- Acting for reinsurers in their defence of ad hoc arbitral proceedings in connection with claims under a 'follow the settlements' clause.
- Acting for reinsurers in connection with the Russian Aircraft Litigation.
- Acted for a number of Museums and Art Galleries on substantial business interruption claims arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of which involved issues arising out of the

Supreme Court's judgment in the FCA test case.

- Advising a major insurer on substantial business interruption claims by an aircraft manufacturer.

International Arbitration

Tom has extensive experience of arbitral proceedings as junior counsel, unled and as an instructing solicitor, including LCIA, ICC, GAFTA and ad hoc proceedings. He was ranked as a 'Rising Star' for Arbitration in the Legal 500 2024. Tom also regularly advises on matters involving jurisdictional disputes concerning arbitration agreements and ancillary proceedings before national courts.

Significant instructions include:

- Acting for reinsurers in their defence of ad hoc arbitral proceedings brought by a major insurer in connection with claims under a 'follow the settlements' clause relating to significant liabilities arising from the 'Social Outburst' in Chile in 2019. A four-week trial is listed for early 2026.
- Acting in a s.69 appeal on a point of law in respect of a GAFTA arbitral award.
- Acted for the buyer of a yacht in an ad hoc arbitration concerning unpaid liabilities on the vessel.
- Acted for a shareholder in a multi-million US$ property business in LCIA proceedings against his JV partner (involving allegations of dishonest misappropriation of assets and unfair prejudice) including two successful applications for emergency interim relief to the LCIA.
- Acted for a major international generics manufacture in LCIA proceedings concerning claims for breach of contract worth US$2m and cross-claims for loss of profits and revenue for alleged breach of warranty worth US $2m, involving issues concerning the FDA regime.

Professional negligence

Tom is ranked as Up and Coming for Professional Negligence by Chambers & Partners 2026.

Significant instructions include:

- *BTI 2014 LLC v PwC* : acted for BTI in an several hundred million-dollar auditors' negligence claim (which settled during the 10-week trial in June 2024).
- *Watchstone v KPMG*: acted for KPMG in its defence of claims said to be worth £14m centered on allegations of breach of duty in connection with an audit.

- *The Financial Reporting Council v Deloitte and others*: acted for Deloitte in its defence of the FRC's Formal Complaint concerning audits of Autonomy Corporation plc prior to its US$11 billion acquisition by Hewlett Packard.

Publications

- "Privy Council confirms availability of backward tracing", Herbert Smith Freehills Litigation Notes, 10 August 2015
- "Court of Appeal clarifies jurisdiction to order disclosure in support of freezing injunctions", Herbert Smith Freehills Litigation Notes, 19 March 2015
- "Supreme Court corrects 'wrong turn' in English law, holding that bribes received by an agent are held on trust for the principal", Herbert Smith Freehills Litigation Notes, 21 July 2014
- "Court of Appeal confirms account of profits available as remedy for dishonest assistance" (with Robert Hunter), Herbert Smith Freehills Litigation Notes, 17 July 2014
- "Supreme Court finds trustee fraud exception under Limitation Act does not apply to claims for dishonest assistance / knowing receipt", Herbert Smith Freehills Litigation Notes, 20 February 2014

Education & Qualifications

Before transferring to the Bar, Tom practised as a Solicitor Advocate and Associate at Herbert Smith Freehills LLP for four years, specialising in general commercial disputes, civil fraud and contentious trusts. He completed secondments during that time as a Judicial Assistant to the Commercial Court and Chancery Division and as a Legal Adviser to BP Legal Dispute Resolution. In 2013, Tom won the City of London Solicitors' Company Prize, awarded annually to the Trainee Solicitor showing the most promise as a future City solicitor. In 2015-2016, Tom was Judicial Assistant to Lord Wilson and Lord Hodge at the Supreme Court.

Tom graduated from the University of Oxford where he was awarded the top First in his year in Music, winning the University Gibbs prize. He completed a Master of Studies with Distinction, before going on to achieve Distinctions in the GDL and the LPC.

Professional experience

2017-2018: Pupillage, Brick Court Chambers
2017: Called to the Bar of England and Wales
2013-2015, 2016-2017: Solicitor Advocate and Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, London

(Dispute Resolution)
2015-2016: Judicial Assistant to Lord Wilson and Lord Hodge, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
2013: Legal Assistant, BP Legal Dispute Resolution2012: Judicial Assistant to the Commercial Court and Chancery Division
2011-2013: Trainee Solicitor, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

Education

2014: Higher Rights of Audience, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP (top of cohort) 2011: Legal Practice Course, BPP Law School (Distinction)

2009-2010: Graduate Diploma in Law, BPP Law School (Distinction)

2007-2008: Master of Studies, Christ Church, University of Oxford (Distinction) 2004-2007: BA in Music, Christ Church, University of Oxford (First Class, top of year)

Scholarships and prizes

Pupillage

Lord Reid Senior Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2018)

Bar European Group Phoenicia Scholarship (2018)

As a SolicitorCity of London Solicitors' Company Prize (2013)

Herbert Smith Freehills LPC Prize (2011)

University of Oxford

Arts and Humanities Research Council Award (2007) University Gibbs Prize for top first (2007)

Christ Church Finals Prize (2007) Clifford Smith Prize (2007) Dixon Scholarship (2006)

Academic and Instrumental Exhibition Awards (2005-2006)

Directory Quotes

"Tom was very responsive and efficient throughout the instruction. He demonstrated an impressive ability to turn work around under tight deadlines without compromising on depth of analysis." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"A commercially astute lawyer who is exceptionally quick to grasp all the nuances of complex situations. He is thoroughly dependable when giving advice." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom goes the extra mile for his clients and is in control of both the details and the big picture when handling complex cases." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom Wood has a stellar career in front of him. He is very clever, very insightful and is someone who combines penetrating legal analysis with real tactical awareness and commercial nous." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom Wood is very bright, diligent, responsive and a real pleasure to work with. He handles complex cases with ease." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He has been brilliant and is diligent, responsive and user-friendly." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He is involved in a lot of the big cases. Silks and chambers like working with him." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom is very bright and has really good judgement. He did a good job on a case we had, and the judge wrote a letter complimenting the work he did." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"His work ethic and the reliability of the finished product are outstanding. His legal analysis was spot-on. He's the sort of junior you'd want." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom was excellent; incredibly responsive, and his advice was very insightful. It's been a real pleasure to work with him." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He has been brilliant and is diligent, responsive and user-friendly." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom is clever, hard-working, doesn’t try to be the centre of attention but is a safe pair of hands. I look for him as a junior whenever I can; he knows how to work in a team incredibly well." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom is a rising star; really easy to work with and incredibly hard-working. His drafting is exceptional and his client care is first-class." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He is one of Brick Court's top juniors and outstanding in everything he does; a superstar in the making." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Tom is responsive and very easy to work with. He adjusts his communication style well according to his audience (e.g., when asked to join client calls at short notice). He understands the pressures solicitors are under and helps with managing client expectations. Tom's drafting is crisp and easy to follow." (Legal 500 2027)

"Tom is extremely clever and diligent. He is a real details person and has shown himself to be highly capable of managing a large and demanding workload, addressing with admirable focus everything that's thrown at him. Highly user-friendly, Tom is a pleasure to deal with. His advocacy reflects this. He is extremely well prepared, and calm and thorough in his submissions to court." (Legal 500

2027)

"I worked with Tom Wood on a number of substantial business interruption insurance claims arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, acting for museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions. Tom was part of the counsel team led by Tony Singla KC and consistently provided thoughtful, commercially focused advice. He demonstrated a strong grasp of complex insurance coverage issues and was able to distill difficult points into clear, practical guidance for clients. Tom was highly responsive, well prepared, and a pleasure to work with throughout. He combines strong technical ability with sound judgment and a collaborative approach. He made a valuable contribution to achieving positive outcomes for our clients in challenging and fast-moving matters." (Legal 500 2027)

"Tom Wood has gravitas beyond his year of call. He was unfailingly reliable." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom Wood has earned recognition for his work on major audit cases for Big Four clients. Leaders appreciate the detail-oriented approach that he brings to bear in his cases." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom Wood has quickly built up a noteworthy practice, which includes acting in matters related to fraud claims involving banks, FX trading issues and mis-selling claims among numerous other mandates. Wood was previously a solicitor in a top international law firm so brings this experience to bear in his career at the bar." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom mastered everything quickly and was absolutely brilliant. He spotted the right angles to hit and the difficulties we faced. We had so much material to get through, but he found the right points." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom Wood is an excellent choice because of his good strategic judgement. His written work is of very high quality, and he understands what clients need." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom is great, super hard-working, detail-oriented and always pitches in." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"His written work is really high quality and he is a pleasure to deal with." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom is very thoughtful and strikes me as being very promising." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Tom is an outstanding junior who has appeared in a number of heavy commercial cases. His drafting is always first-class, and he is very good with clients." (Legal 500 2026)

"His ability to get things done is second to none, and his intelligence stands out." (Legal 500 2026)

"He is a very impressive junior." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Tom Wood is outstanding for commercial and banking disputes. As well as brilliant legal skills, he also has experience as a solicitor, which gives him a wonderful insight into how solicitors work." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Tom is very thorough, conscientious and user-friendly." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Tom is a team player, who works hard and gives clear advice." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"He has a great nose for fraud litigation. A junior with great strategic insight." (Legal 500 2025)

"He is an excellent team player with a fantastic courtroom style. Very calm under pressure." (Legal 500 2025)

"Tom is extremely hard working and detail oriented. He is willing to pitch in with any work, no matter how time consuming or technical, and his assistance with the foreign law expert evidence in particular was invaluable. He is switched on and generally has good instincts. He has a good manner with solicitors, third parties and clients and has a very bright future." (Legal 500 2025)

"Tom provides very clear written advice and works well as part of a team." (Legal 500 2025)

"An outstanding young barrister, who is able to deal with the most complex matters for the most difficult clients." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Tom Wood is a brilliant advocate. He is thoughtful, clever and determined." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Tom Wood is calm, bright, analytical and diligent." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Tom is a tremendously hard working junior, who is excellent for banking and commercial disputes." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"His written work is first rate and he interacts with clients very well." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"He is very perspicacious, rapidly grasping the essential elements in any dispute. Tom is highly responsive and has a global view of any legal dispute, assessing the commercial elements as well as the legal aspects." (Legal 500 2024)

"One of the Bar's ascendant stars. Besides being a first-rate lawyer, he is articulate, clever, level headed and persuasive. He can vary his tone from aggressive to mild, depending on the needs of the moment, and has a fantastic feel for the mood of the court." (Legal 500 2024)

"Tom is simply first rate. He is extremely intelligent, his drafting is clear and precise, and he has a very nice manner with clients. He is very easy to work with." (Legal 500 2024)

"Tom is a true star. He has immense technical knowledge, as well as being very easy to work with. His experience as a solicitor also means he is incredibly well versed in the procedural aspects of

arbitration and knows his way round the arbitration rules." (Legal 500 2023)

"Tom is a superb junior. He provides clear and commercially valuable advice, and he is someone who quickly cuts to the heart of a matter. He is one for the difficult cases." (Legal 500 2023)

"Tom is a rising star for Brick Court. He is exceptionally hard working and diligent, plus an astute litigation strategist." (Legal 500 2023)