

# Tom Watret

Year of call: **2023**  
Degree: **LLB Hons (Edinburgh, First Class), BCL (Oxford, Distinction)**



Tom accepts instructions across all of Chambers' practice areas, including in commercial disputes, civil fraud, competition law, public and regulatory law, sanctions and sport.

Recent highlights of Tom's experience include assisting with the following cases:

- R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another: For the appellant, Elliot Associates, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).
- BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others [2024] CAT 48: For Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the "market mitigation rule" and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).
- Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad [2024] EWHC 673 (Comm): For the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (with Shane Sibbel).
- Banque Havilland and others v the FCA [2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC): For the applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (with Fraser Campbell).

Before coming to the Bar, Tom was a commercial litigation associate at Latham & Watkins in London, where he was ranked in the Legal 500 (2022) as a 'key lawyer' in Commercial Litigation: Premium with the quote "Endlessly resourceful and hard working to get the best possible result for the client."

Tom has also worked as the Judicial Assistant to Lord Hodge, the Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, assisting with complex and high profile appeals across all areas of the law.

Tom studied law at the universities of Oxford and Edinburgh, where he was awarded various prizes and scholarships, including the Monckton Chambers Prize for Competition Law and the Allen & Overy Prize for Corporate Finance Law on the BCL.

## EXPERIENCE

---

### Commercial

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law.

### Cases

#### **Delancey Real Estate and Asset Management & Others v HMRC**

Assisted Leona Powell in acting for the claimants in a high value contractual dispute with HMRC.

#### **I v A and others**

Assisted in acting for a claimant company in a fraud claim against its former partner in an aviation leasing and consultancy joint venture, relating to the value received for the buyout (with Harry Adamson).

#### **Re: a freezing injunction**

Assisted in acting for one of several defendants defending an application for a freezing injunction (with Harry Adamson).

#### **G v S**

Assisted in acting for a defendant to a debt claim also involving a corruption investigation by foreign anti-corruption authorities (with Harry Adamson).

#### **T v A**

Worked on advice on obtaining interim charging orders enforcement against English property in enforcement proceedings arising from a multi-jurisdictional dispute (with Harry Adamson).

#### **R v D**

Worked on advice on bringing Part 8 proceedings to obtain declaratory relief to force a contested share sale to complete (with Harry Adamson).

#### **A v G**

Assisted in acting for the defendants in a claim for alleged unpaid commission arising from the sale of a business (with Harry Adamson).

### **Re HMRC**

Worked on advice for HMRC regarding the construction of various intra-group claims and set-offs as part of an investigation into unpaid tax (with Harry Adamson).

### **Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad**

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

Assisted in acting for the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (with Shane Sibbel).

### **G v S**

Assisted in acting for the claimant, the owner of a catalogue of reggae and dub music recordings, against a multinational record company, seeking declaratory relief as to the status of the licences to the recordings (with Shane Sibbel).

### **S and another v S and others**

Assisted in acting for the defendants in a fraud claim concerning the acquisition of a villa, involving issues of foreign law (with Shane Sibbel).

### **O v T**

Assisted in acting for an investment firm in the oil and gas sector in a summary judgment application for c. US\$5 million, raising issues concerning the penalty clause doctrine (with Fraser Campbell).

### **Re a re-insurance company**

Assisted in acting for the petitioner in an unfair prejudice petition concerning the fair valuation of the petitioner's shares (with Fraser Campbell).

### **Shield v Shield**

Assisted in acting for the defendants in an ongoing dispute relating to a company reorganisation (with Fraser Campbell).

### **A v A and another**

Assisted in acting for the defendants, a technology company and its owner-director, in a c. US\$20m claim for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations made in a share sale (with Fraser Campbell).

**W v C**

Assisted in acting for the claimants, a global hotel business, in claims against the licensors of its intellectual property for breach of contract following a complex business acquisition and subsequent restructuring (with Fraser Campbell).

**R (on the application of Annington Property) v The Secretary of State for Defence**

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Annington, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning challenges to decisions of the Ministry of Defence relating to enfranchisement of service family accommodation, one of The Lawyer's Top 10 Appeals of 2024 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

**BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others**

[2024] CAT 48

Assisted in acting for Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the "market mitigation rule" and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

**The Football Association Premier League Ltd v Everton Football Club**

Assisted in acting for the Premier League in an appeal concerning the costs of Section W proceedings against Everton Football Club (with Jason Pobjoy).

**R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another**

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

## Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of civil fraud, asset recovery & injunctive relief law.

## Cases

**Delancey Real Estate and Asset Management & Others v HMRC**

Assisted Leona Powell in acting for the claimants in a high value contractual dispute with HMRC.

**I v A and others**

Assisted in acting for a claimant company in a fraud claim against its former partner in an aviation leasing and consultancy joint venture, relating to the value received for the buyout (with Harry Adamson).

**Re: a freezing injunction**

Assisted in acting for one of several defendants defending an application for a freezing injunction (with Harry Adamson).

**G v S**

Assisted in acting for a defendant to a debt claim also involving a corruption investigation by foreign anti-corruption authorities (with Harry Adamson).

**T v A**

Worked on advice on obtaining interim charging orders enforcement against English property in enforcement proceedings arising from a multi-jurisdictional dispute (with Harry Adamson).

**Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad**

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

Assisted in acting for the claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising from underlying proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (with Shane Sibbel).

## Public & Regulatory

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of public & regulatory law.

## Cases

**Re: anti-publication injunctions:**

Worked on advice to a regulator on defending anti-publication injunctions (with Harry Adamson).

**Re: the Legal Aid Agency**

Assisted in acting for the Lord Chancellor in a judicial review concerning the lawfulness of part of the Exceptional Funding Guidance (with Shane Sibbel).

## **R (Duff) v the Secretary of State for Justice**

[2024] EWHC 917 (Admin)

Assisted in acting for the Parole Board in a judicial review concerning a decision of the Secretary of State for Justice to terminate the appointment of a member of the Parole Board (with Fraser Campbell).

## **Re: Cabinet Office FOI**

Assisted in acting for the Cabinet Office in proceedings under the Freedom of Information Act (with Fraser Campbell).

## **H v S**

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings concerning the disclosure of information about spent convictions (with Fraser Campbell).

## **Re a public body**

Worked on advice to a public body on various issues concerning disclosure obligations and redactions (with Fraser Campbell).

## **Banque Havilland and others v the FCA**

[2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC)

Successfully acted for the third party rights applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (with Fraser Campbell).

## **Attorney General's Office v S**

Assisted in acting for the Attorney General in seeking an order for committal against a person who had repeatedly breached an extended civil restraint order (with Fraser Campbell).

## **Re MA**

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings before the Parole Board concerning the imposition of a polygraph condition (with Jason Pobjoy).

## **R (on the application of Annington Property) v The Secretary of State for Defence**

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Annington, in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning challenges to decisions of the Ministry of Defence relating to enfranchisement of service family accommodation, one of The Lawyer's Top 10 Appeals of 2024 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

**R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another**

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

**Re: a public body**

Assisted in acting for a public body in relation to a claim seeking additional reasons for a refusal to investigate certain historic allegations (with Jason Pobjoy).

**Re: FOIA matter for a public body**

Assisted in acting for a public body in responding to a FOIA appeal concerning a report into alleged misconduct (with Jason Pobjoy).

## Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties & human rights law.

## Cases

**Re: the Legal Aid Agency**

Assisted in acting for the Lord Chancellor in a judicial review concerning the lawfulness of part of the Exceptional Funding Guidance (with Shane Sibbel).

**R (Duff) v the Secretary of State for Justice**

[2024] EWHC 917 (Admin)

Assisted in acting for the Parole Board in a judicial review concerning a decision of the Secretary of State for Justice to terminate the appointment of a member of the Parole Board (with Fraser Campbell).

**H v S**

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings concerning the disclosure of information about spent convictions (with Fraser Campbell).

**Re MA**

Assisted in acting for the Secretary of State for Justice in proceedings before the Parole Board concerning the imposition of a polygraph condition (with Jason Pobjoy).

**Case C-202/24 Alchaster**

Assisted in acting for the Secretaries of State for Justice and the Home Office in proceedings before the Grand Chamber of the CJEU concerning the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and extradition arrangements between the EU and the UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (with Jason Pobjoy and Sir James Eadie KC).

**The J. Paul Getty Trust v Italy**

Assisted in acting for the Getty Trust in relation to proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights concerning the application of Article 1, Protocol 1, to an order for the confiscation of an object of cultural heritage (with Jason Pobjoy).

**B v G**

Assisted in acting for a UK media group in defending claims by a religious organisation (with Jason Pobjoy and Ben Jaffey KC).

**R (Elliott Associates and another) v the London Metal Exchange and another**

Assisted in acting for the appellant, Elliot Associates, on an appeal to the Court of Appeal in a claim concerning the LME's decision to cancel nickel futures trades, coupled with a \$470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2023 (with Jason Pobjoy and Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

## Sanctions

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of sanctions law.

## Cases

**Sanctions advice for designated person**

Worked on advice to a designated person on possible divestments of relevant assets and challenging their designation (with Jason Pobjoy).

**Sanctions advice for HMT**

Worked on advice to the Treasury on enforcing certain agreements with a designated person (with Jason Pobjoy).

**Sanctions advice for insolvency administrators**

Worked on advice to insolvency administrators in relation to the possible distribution of funds from a company formerly owned by a designated person (with Jason Pobjoy).



### **Sanctions advice for OFSI**

Worked on advice to OFSI on the interpretation and application of sanctions legislation relating to the concept of 'economic resources' (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice for the FCDO**

Worked on advice to the FCDO on claims for damages under SAMLA (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on settlement agreements**

Worked on advice on the lawfulness of entering into a settlement agreement with a designated person under UK and EU sanctions law (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice for the FCDO**

Worked on advice on issues under UK sanctions law arising from the possible distribution of funds from an insolvent person's estate (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on supply chains**

Worked on advice to UK and EU companies on agreements relating to the export of products from Russia and related transfers of funds (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

### **Sanctions advice for the FCDO**

Worked on advice to the FCDO on the interpretation of SAMLA (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on offshore company services**

Worked on advice to an offshore company providing registered office, agent and trust services on the application of EU sanctions (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on licenCes for payments for legal services**

Worked on advice to a law firm regarding the receipt of payments for legal services (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on legal services and "economic resources"**

Worked on advice concerning whether taking certain steps in litigation complied with UK and EU sanctions (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **Sanctions advice on set-off and release**

Worked on advice concerning the compliance with UK sanctions of various contractual mechanisms to set-off and release claims (with Jason Pobjoy).

## **Public International Law**

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of public international law.

### **Cases**

#### **Proceedings before the ICJ**

Assisted in acting for the FCDO in proceedings before the International Court of Justice seeking an advisory opinion on States' climate change obligations under international law (with Jason Pobjoy).

#### **Advice on the International Criminal Courts Act 2001**

Worked on advice to a public body on the application of the International Criminal Courts Act 2001 (with Jason Pobjoy).

#### **Re: international law advice**

Worked on advice concerning the International Court of Justice (with Jason Pobjoy).

## **Sport**

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of sports law.

### **Cases**

#### **The Football Association Premier League Ltd v Everton Football Club**

Assisted in acting for the Premier League in an appeal concerning the costs of Section W proceedings against Everton Football Club (with Jason Pobjoy).

## **Competition**

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of competition law.

## Cases

### **BIRA v Amazon**

Assisted in acting for the British Independent Retailers Association in collective proceedings seeking damages of c.£1 billion in the CAT, relating to Amazon's alleged use of proprietary seller data for its own product entry strategies (with Jason Pobjoy).

### **BSV Claims Ltd v Bittylicious Ltd and others**

[2024] CAT 48

Assisted in acting for Binance in an application to the CAT to strike out a claim worth up to £9 billion, concerning the application of the "market mitigation rule" and the loss of a chance doctrine in the collective proceedings context (with Jason Pobjoy and Brian Kennelly KC).

## Environment

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of environment law.

## Cases

### **Proceedings before the ICJ**

Assisted in acting for the FCDO in proceedings before the International Court of Justice seeking an advisory opinion on States' climate change obligations under international law (with Jason Pobjoy).

## EU Law

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of EU law.

## Cases

### **Case C-202/24 Alchaster**

Assisted in acting for the Secretaries of State for Justice and the Home Office in proceedings before the Grand Chamber of the CJEU concerning the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and extradition arrangements between the EU and the UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (with Jason Pobjoy and Sir James Eadie KC).

## Financial Services & Banking

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of financial services & banking.

### Cases

#### **Banque Havilland and others v the FCA**

[2024] UKUT 00115 (TCC)

Successfully acted for the third party rights applicant in obtaining disclosure from the FCA, in the context of an investigation into a private bank and its managers (with Fraser Campbell).

## Media & Entertainment

Tom accepts instructions in all areas of media & entertainment law.

### Cases

#### **G v S**

Assisted in acting for a defendant to a debt claim also involving a corruption investigation by foreign anti-corruption authorities (with Harry Adamson).

## ACHIEVEMENTS

---

### Education

- LPC (BPP University, Distinction)
- BCL (University of Oxford, Distinction)
- LLB (Hons), Law (University of Edinburgh, First Class)

### Scholarships, Awards, Prizes

- Monckton Chambers Prize for best performance in Competition Law (University of Oxford, 2015)
- Allen & Overy Prize for best performance in Corporate Finance (University of Oxford, 2015)
- South Square Scholarship (University of Oxford, 2014)
- Clark Foundation for Legal Education Award 2014
- Lorimer Scholarship (University of Edinburgh, 2014)

- Best performance in Commercial Law (University of Edinburgh, 2013)
- Best performance in Competition Law (University of Edinburgh, 2012)
- Best performance in Intellectual Property Law (University of Edinburgh, 2012)
- Best performance in International Private Law (University of Edinburgh, 2013)
- President of University of Edinburgh Mooting Society 2012-13
- Winner, University of Edinburgh Senior Mooting Competition 2011
- Sheriff TP MacDonald Memorial Prize for Advocacy 2011
- Runner-up, University of Edinburgh Junior Mooting Competition 2010

## Professional Experience

- Judicial Assistant to Lord Hodge, UK Supreme Court (2021-2022)
- Litigation associate, Latham & Watkins (2019-2022)
- Trainee solicitor, Latham & Watkins (2017-2019)
- Tutor, Conflict of Laws / Private International Law, University of Edinburgh (2015-2016)
- Legal Assistant, Scottish Law Commission (2014-2015)

VAT registration number: 000

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board