

# Drew Holiner

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## Expert CV

### PROFILE

Leading expert on Russian and CIS law with over 20 years' experience providing expert evidence and advice in international arbitration and cross-border litigation. Acted as expert adviser or expert witness in over 100 matters worldwide before UK, US, European and Asia-Pacific courts and tribunals, instructed by international law firms, governments, financial institutions, multinational corporates and private parties representing diverse interest across jurisdictions and conflicts.

Drew's expert practice encompasses Russian, Kazakhstani, Kyrgyz, Ukrainian and Belarusian law, with particular depth in matters involving sanctions and countersanctions, cross-border enforcement, corporate and banking law, and disputes affected by geopolitical risk.

Qualified in jurisdictions across the UK, US, EU, CIS and UAE, Drew's combination of qualifications and cross-system expertise allows him to assist tribunals and parties in disputes requiring knowledge of both common law and civil law traditions. His experience as international arbitrator and counsel informs his expert witness work by providing practical understanding of tribunal needs and litigation strategy.

### ADMISSIONS

- UK: England and Wales; British Virgin Islands
- US: California; Washington state
- EU: Ireland
- CIS: Russia; Kazakhstan (AIFC Court)
- UAE: Dubai (DIFC Courts)

### LANGUAGES

English (native); Russian (fluent); German (intermediate); Mandarin, Arabic (beginner).

### EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Moscow University for the Humanities – Jurist (Russian law)
- BPP Law School – GDL, BVC (English law)
- Graduate, ICC Advanced Arbitration Academy for North America
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

## EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Experience	100+ advisory expert / expert witness instructions
Courts	UK (England, BVI, Cayman, Isle of Man) US federal/state (NY, CA, TX, DC, IL, NC, NV) Asia-Pacific (Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand) Europe (CJEU, ECtHR, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Cyprus, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco)
International arbitral tribunals	ICC, LCIA, HKIAC, ICSID, AAA-ICDR, PCA
Disciplinary tribunals	World Athletics, Sports Resolutions, International Psychoanalytical Association, ad hoc
Legal systems	Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Belarus
Selected major clients	Corporate: Google, JPMorgan, GE, AerCap Government: US DOJ, UK NCA, Revenue Commissioners (Ireland), DIA (Russia) SOEs: VTB Bank, Naftogaz, BTA Bank
Recognition	15+ years Chambers & Partners, Legal500

## EXPERT WITNESS APPROACH

Drew's approach as expert witness emphasizes:

- Independent analysis focused on assisting the decision-maker
- Clear written opinions accessible to judges and tribunals
- Effective oral testimony and cross-examination experience
- Collaboration with instructing solicitors and counsel
- Understanding of expert duties and tribunal expectations
- Ability to explain civil law concepts to common law tribunals and vice versa

Drew's experience as international arbitrator and counsel informs his expert work by providing practical understanding of tribunal needs, litigation strategy, the expert's role in dispute resolution, and effective presentation of complex foreign law issues.

## TYPICAL EXPERT INSTRUCTIONS

Drew's expert practice frequently addresses:

- Contract, tort, unjust enrichment and limitation
- Company, banking and insolvency law
- Sanctions, countermeasures and export controls
- Security of obligations and negotiable instruments
- Agency and employment law
- Civil and criminal law and procedure, antisuit injunctions
- Service of foreign process, international treaty obligations
- Private international law and conflict of laws

- Enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards
- Corporate governance and directors' duties
- Insurance and reinsurance
- Confidentiality and data protection
- Fraud, duress and asset tracing
- Creditors' remedies and invalidation of transactions
- Constitutional, administrative and tax law

## EXPERT EVIDENCE & ADVICE

Drew is recognised as one of the leading experts on Russian and CIS law in international arbitration and cross-border litigation. He has acted as expert in over 100 matters worldwide involving parties from the UK, US, Middle East and Asia-Pacific, including before:

- UK courts (England, BVI, Cayman Islands, Isle of Man)
- US courts (New York, California, Texas, DC, Illinois, North Carolina, Nevada)
- Asia-Pacific courts (Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand)
- European courts (Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Cyprus, Ireland)
- Court of Justice of the European Union and European Court of Human Rights
- Arbitral tribunals under ICC, LCIA, HKIAC, AAA-ICDR and ICSID rules
- Disciplinary tribunals and boards (World Athletics, International Psychoanalytical Association)

Drew is also a trusted advisory expert on the laws of Russia and other CIS states in matters involving parties from the UK, US, Middle East, Europe and Asia-Pacific, and is regularly instructed by law firms in London, Hong Kong, Singapore and the EU in disputes involving sanctions, corporate governance, insolvency, foreign law issues and cross-border enforcement.

Drew is especially valued for his independence and ability to convey complex legal concepts across different legal systems. He has been instructed by parties representing diverse interests in disputes involving Russian and CIS law, both for and against Western corporations, Russian and Ukrainian state entities, and government authorities across multiple jurisdictions.

For more than 15 years, clients have consistently highlighted Drew's clarity, accessibility and presentational skills as an expert witness in leading legal directories such as Chambers & Partners and Legal 500.

## RUSSIAN LAW (representative matters, non-exhaustive)

### United Kingdom Courts and Matters

- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court on Russian insurance law and countersanctions measures in multi-billion-dollar aircraft leasing litigation
- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court for Russia's Deposit Insurance Agency on Russian company, insolvency, tort and limitation law in application for USD 2.5bn freezing order against bank owner

- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court for JPMorgan on Russian counter-sanctions issues and anti-suit injunction in multi-million USD banking litigation impacted by sanctions
- UK (England): Expert witness in a public inquiry on the powers of the Russian executive branch and law enforcement under anti-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation
- UK (BVI): Expert witness to Commercial Court on Russian tort, limitation, insolvency and banking law in claim alleging embezzlement of bank assets and knowing assistance
- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court for Naftogaz on Russian criminal and commercial secrecy law
- UK (Cayman Islands): Expert witness to Grand Court of Cayman Islands on Russian law on service of foreign process and Russian's international treaty obligations
- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court for UK National Crime Agency on enforcement of costs orders in Russia
- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court on Russian inheritance law, wills and private international law in probate proceedings
- UK (Cayman Islands): Advisory expert on Russian law on promissory notes and bills of exchange for Grand Court proceedings in company winding up petition
- UK (BVI): Advisory expert on shareholders remedies under Russian company, contract and tort law for Russian investor alleging an illegal corporate raid in High Court proceedings
- UK (England): Advisory expert on Russian administrative, labour and immigration law for UK software publisher in English High Court proceedings concerning alleged copyright infringement
- UK (England): Advisory expert on Russian tort, labour and limitation law in High Court proceedings arising from serious industrial incidents in the mining sector

## United States Courts and Matters

- US (New York): Expert witness to Supreme Court of New York on Russian contract, tort, unjust enrichment and limitation law in USD 1.3bn claim of breach of fiduciary duty in joint venture
- US (California): Expert witness to US federal court for Google on Russian counter-sanctions issues and commercial court procedure, anti-suit injunctions
- US (North Carolina): Expert witness to US federal court for US Department of Justice on Russian criminal and company law in prosecution of former Russian defence contractor for embezzlement and attempted murder
- US (Nevada): Expert witness to Nevada state court on Russian insolvency law and commercial court procedure in fraudulent conveyance action brought by Russian bank
- US (New York): Expert witness to US federal court for VTB Bank on Russian law on countersanctions, personal data and banking law
- US (Illinois): Expert witness to Illinois state court on Russian law on professional negligence in malpractice action brought against major international law firm
- US (New York): Expert witness in multi-billion rouble ICC arbitrations on Russian company and agency law for Luxembourg investment company
- US (Texas): Advisory expert in tax dispute for Department of Justice on Russian corporate and insolvency law
- US (New York): Expert witness to US federal court on Russian company law and fraudulent transfers

## Asia-Pacific Courts and Matters

- China (Hong Kong): Expert witness to High Court on Russian contract law, commercial court procedure, private international law
- Singapore: Expert witness to High Court on Russian law on service of foreign process and enforcement of foreign judgments in action to enforce a USD 100+m arbitral award
- New Zealand: Expert witness to High Court on Russian securities law in claim concerning alleged illegal trade in shares of Russian gas major

## European Courts and Matters

- Norway: Expert witness to District Court on Russian corporate and property law and Russia's international treaty obligations in action to enforce arbitral award against Russian mining claims in Svalbard
- Denmark: Expert witness to High Court on Russian arbitration law, public policy and commercial court procedure in action seeking to injunct payments to Russian creditor under guarantees
- EU (CJEU): Expert witness on application of Russian Maritime Doctrine in challenge to designation of Russian shipping company under European sanctions
- COE (ECtHR): Expert witness for Google on Russian media regulations and administrative and commercial court procedure in challenge of fines and injunctions imposed in Russia
- Ireland: Expert witness for Irish tax authority in action to challenge tax assessment on Russian contract and insolvency law and effect of judgments
- Monaco: Expert witness to World Athletics disciplinary tribunal on Russian criminal and data protection law in multiple anti-doping disciplinary proceedings
- Sweden: Expert witness to Svea Court of Appeal on Russian contract law in challenge to arbitral award
- Norway: Advisory expert on application of Russian export controls and sanctions law to specialised maritime assets operated by foreign transport company
- Netherlands: Expert witness on Russian arbitration law and commercial court procedure for Russian investor seeking enforcement of annulled Russian arbitral award
- Netherlands: Expert witness on Russian tax and insolvency law, enforcement proceedings for former management of a Russian oil major
- Armenia: Advisory expert on Russian civil and insolvency law in dispute concerning control and restructuring of a regional investment company
- Netherlands: Advisory expert on Russian law rules governing promissory notes for BVI investment company in district court proceedings
- Netherlands: Expert witness on various matters of Russian civil law (place of payment, unjust enrichment, set-off) in district court proceedings seeking the attachment of monies held by a Dutch oil trader
- Netherlands: Advisory expert in PCA arbitration on Russian constitutional law and criminal law in dispute arising from state regulatory and enforcement measures affecting foreign-owned financial assets

## KAZAKHSTANI LAW

- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court on Kazakhstani law on proprietary remedies, constructive and resulting trusts, fraudulent transfers and limitation in fraud claim against former employees of Kazakhstani paper company
- UK (BVI): Expert witness to Commercial Court for BTA Bank on Kazakhstani law on tort, company, banking, labour and limitation law, proprietary and personal causes of action and remedies in claim alleging embezzlement of bank assets by employees
- UK (England): Advisory expert in High Court proceedings on Kazakhstani insolvency law and duties of rehabilitation manager
- UK (England): Advisory expert in High Court proceedings on Kazakhstani law on directors' duties, tort, unjust enrichment and limitation in claim concerning alleged scheme to defraud Kazakhstani bank
- UK (England): Advisory expert in ICC arbitration on Kazakhstani contract, tort and unjust enrichment law in dispute concerning pricing and regulatory measures affecting an energy infrastructure project

## KYRGYZ LAW

- UK (England): Expert witness to High Court on Kyrgyz constitutional law and criminal procedure in tort claim alleging assassination attempt by relative of Kyrgyz President
- UK (Isle of Man): Expert witness to High Court on Kyrgyz constitutional, company, tort, unjust enrichment and limitation law in claim alleging unlawful seizure of telecommunications company through judgment allegedly obtained by fraud
- UK (England): Advisory expert on the impact of Kyrgyz law (contract, criminal, arbitration and insurance) in international arbitration arising from serious security incidents affecting a mining project
- UK (BVI): Advisory expert in Commercial Court proceedings on Kyrgyz family, property and private international law in action for division of marital property
- Canada: Advisory expert in enforcement action against Kyrgyz state in Canada on Kyrgyz constitutional and arbitration law

## UKRAINIAN LAW

- UK (England): Advisory expert in High Court proceedings on Ukrainian contract, tort, unjust enrichment, company and limitation law in claim alleging scheme to defraud Ukrainian bank
- UK (England): Advisory expert in High Court proceedings on Ukrainian contract, limitation and company law in claim arising from fallout of mining and ferroalloy joint venture

## BELARUSIAN LAW

- US (DC): Advisory expert in ICSID arbitration on Belarusian banking and insolvency law in claim concerning state regulatory action against major Ukrainian bank

## COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS

Drew is also frequently instructed as an advisory expert and expert witness on the laws of common law jurisdictions in courts and tribunals in Russia and other CIS states, most recently on the laws of England and Hong Kong.

## ARBITRATOR & COUNSEL EXPERIENCE

Drew's experience as international arbitrator and counsel informs his expert witness work by providing deep understanding of tribunal needs, litigation strategy and the expert's role in dispute resolution.

**Arbitrator:** Chair, sole and party-appointed arbitrator in matters seated in London (LCIA, ICC), Dubai (DIAC), Hong Kong (HKIAC) and Central Asia (AIFC IAC), involving sanctions, energy, finance and corporate disputes. Experience includes presiding over DIAC arbitration, serving as PCA-appointed arbitrator in government railway dispute, and LCIA-appointed arbitrator in 27 consolidated agricultural finance arbitrations.

**Counsel:** Lead and co-counsel in international arbitrations involving sanctions, foreign law and cross-border enforcement, including Spanish football club investment dispute, Zimbabwean lithium mine dispute, Ukrainian sanctions matter, and multi-billion-dollar Moscow real estate project.

## PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

Drew has provided expert evidence and acted as counsel in cases before the European Court of Human Rights and UN Human Rights Committee, including expert opinions on Russian law in *Yukos Oil Company v Russia* and *Google v Russia*. This experience complements his expert practice in commercial disputes involving state conduct, sanctions and regulatory issues.

Drew has also provided expert advice and evidence in multiple matters concerning compliance of criminal and regulatory proceedings with applicable human rights standards, for use in representations to governments, financial institutions and regulators.

## RECENT DIRECTORY QUOTES

### Expert

"Drew is an absolute expert in Russian law. He probably knows more about the area than anyone else in the UK Bar." "Drew is responsive, razor-sharp, business-oriented and provides concise and practical advice. He has an incredible background for working on CIS-related matters." "Drew has fantastic language skills. He doesn't overburden you with details. All his comments are economical but always on point." – Chambers Global, 2025 – International Arbitration – The English Bar

"Drew is responsive and business-orientated and provides concise and practical advice that is straight to the point." – Chambers UK and Chambers Global, 2025 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Drew Holiner is adept at putting complex foreign law concepts into terms a judge can easily understand." – Chambers UK, 2024 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

## **Arbitrator**

"Drew is an excellent arbitrator [...] wise and impartial [and] respected by both sides." – Legal 500, 2025 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Arbitrator

## **Counsel**

"A fantastic asset to have when you're faced with complex [cross-]border disputes." "He's very responsive, and he is very good at explaining things clearly." – Chambers UK, 2026 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

"It is a pleasure to have Drew Holiner as a representative in the arbitration. He is extremely smart and has an unprecedently high ability to quickly absorb and understand matters." – Chambers UK, 2026 – International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance

## **General**

"Highly responsible. Impressive expertise and knowledge of procedural nuances of international commercial arbitration. Takes care of the client's practical needs." – Legal 500, 2025 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

"Solicitors appreciate his technical knowledge, teamwork and responsiveness." – Legal 500, 2024 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

## **CONTACT**

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