

MONCKTON CHAMBERS
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About Us

Monckton Chambers is a leading set of barristers' chambers, based in London. We practise across a wide range of commercial and civil law, with a particular focus on:

- Competition
- Commercial Litigation & Arbitration
- Procurement
- Information law & Data
- EU
- Tax: VAT & Duties
- Regulatory
- Administrative & Public
- Sport

We are recognised as market leaders in specialist advocacy, advisory and dispute-resolution services. We are renowned for our intellectual rigour, commercial focus and ability to get results.

We act for private sector clients (from multinationals to SMEs and private individuals), the UK Government, regulators, public bodies, NGOs and non-UK bodies, including foreign states and the EU institutions.

This breadth of experience means that members are sensitive to the commercial objectives of private clients and also have a good understanding of governmental and regulatory decision-making processes. Several members have a detailed knowledge of specific industries and sectors.

We are able to work directly with clients and their in-house legal teams as well as in partnership with law firms who wish to engage us to help represent their clients.

We have a dedicated team of clerks who can be contacted at all times. Profiles of each clerk and their contact details can be found on the Clerking Team page of our website. The clerks have a detailed knowledge of all areas of practice and are suitably placed to advise on appropriate selection of counsel, their availability and fees and charging mechanisms.

A first point of contact for any enquiries is our Senior Practice Manager, Chris O'Brien.

He can be contacted on:
cobrien@monckton.com
+447840384813.



OUR CORE PRACTICE AREAS

Administrative, regulatory and public law:

Monckton Chambers has a strong reputation for its traditional focus in public law on EU, commercial, competition and regulatory matters, particularly in terms of utilities regulation. They are experts in acting in judicial reviews for government and commercial entities.

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton Chambers' members practise across a remarkably wide spectrum of public law cases, representing clients ranging from individuals, charities and businesses to local authorities and Secretaries of State. Much of Chambers' public law work has a commercial focus. Members of Chambers frequently act in judicial review challenges (on both the claimant and the defendant side) to the decisions of Ministers, local authorities and regulatory bodies. EU law and the European Convention on Human Rights are often involved.

Commercial dispute resolution - litigation & arbitration:

Members practise in all areas of commercial litigation and arbitration, including Banking and Finance, Civil Fraud, Company (Shareholders disputes and Joint Venture disputes), Insolvency, Consumer Protection and Private International Law. We act in a broad range of commercial disputes before the Commercial Court and the Chancery Division, as well as the appellate courts. Members have been engaged as Counsel or Arbitrator in matters administered by an array of institutional bodies including LCIA, HKIAC, DIAC, ADGM, ICC, UNCITRAL, ICAC, AIFC, AFSA, SIAC, LMAA as well as ad-hoc arbitrations. Many of our cases have an international element. We act in international arbitrations and have acted in many foreign jurisdictions, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, the British Virgin Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore, Gibraltar, Channel Islands and the

Isle of Man.

Competition:

Monckton Chambers 'has a fantastic reputation and the barristers are commercial, pragmatic and knowledgeable'.

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton is one of the leading competition law sets at the English Bar and its members are involved in almost every major competition case in this jurisdiction. Work encompasses both appeals against and judicial review challenges to decisions of the Competition and Markets Authority and other 'sectoral' competition regulators such as Ofcom. We are regularly instructed in private competition law damages actions, including class actions under the new 'collective proceedings' regime, where (for example) victims of cartels seek compensation for their losses. Competition disputes often involve complex commercial trials, private international law and sustained cross-examination of expert and factual witnesses. We have unique experience with Mergers & Acquisitions, Joint Ventures and Takeover litigation both in the UK and around the world.

EU law:

A strong group of practitioners offering assistance in all areas of EU law. Members have deep experience of EU law and procedure due to their consistently high level of activity in this area. They receive strong praise from a long list of impressive clients.

- CHAMBERS UK

We are recognised as pre-eminent in all areas of EU law. Members have acted before almost every court or tribunal in litigating EU law issues. Several members have worked within European agencies and at the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU).

Christopher Vajda KC, the former UK Judge of the CJEU, has now returned to full time practice at Chambers following Brexit. Several members are now dual qualified (in Ireland) in order to retain access to and appear before the European courts and regulators. Our knowledge of Brexit-related issues is unsurpassed, leading in the emerging area of EU-relations law that governs the specific new legal relationship between the EU and UK and having appeared in landmark cases such as 'The Miller' litigation before the UK Supreme Court.

Information law and data protection:

A particularly strong set when it comes to...EU information laws [with] an invaluable level of familiarity with the DPA, the FOIA and the EIR.

- CHAMBERS UK

We are one of the leading sets in cases involving freedom of information and data protection, in which context members draw on their substantial expertise in EU law. Our barristers regularly act in appeals under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations. We provide advice and representation on data protection issues, including damages claims. Monckton has unparalleled knowledge of the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and is instructed in appeals against penalties imposed under it by the Information Commissioner.

Public procurement law:

Monckton Chambers devotes more than 20 barristers to this area and has been at the forefront of the sector from its inception. Its strong team of silks and juniors has the pedigree and skill to tackle the larger matters of the day...

- CHAMBERS UK

Procurement law imposes a range of obligations upon public bodies and utilities. The law has grown out of principles of EU law which are concerned to prevent discrimination on nationality grounds but now extends to consideration of the fairness of procurement procedures and the efficiency of their outcomes. Monckton Chambers is the market leader in this fast developing and often highly litigious field. Those engaged in this practice area are often involved in a range of high value disputes covering

diverse subject matters such as high speed trains, defence equipment, clinical products and services, national public building programmes, or even new Parliament buildings.

Sports:

Monckton Chambers enjoys 'great strength in depth'. Members cover the full range of sports disputes and appear in all the associated tribunals, including FA arbitrations and disciplinary hearings, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the FIA International Court of Appeal.

- LEGAL 500

Sports law encompasses a wide range of legal disciplines from contract law to EU competition and free movement law. Chambers' work is often very high profile, working for national sports governing bodies, individual players (from footballers to female boxers), teams and clubs, and broadcasters. It involves litigation before specialist sports courts and tribunals, such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, as well as the High Court, the European Court of Justice, the General Court, the European Commission and the Competition Appeal Tribunal. A number of Members of Chambers also act as arbitrators in sports disputes.

Tax & Duties:

The leading European chambers covering VAT and other European issues, Monckton has a strong group of silks and juniors regularly engaged in notable cases, acting for both taxpayers and HMRC. The members' significant expertise in EU matters means that they act for clients at European level, as well as in the UK before Tax Tribunals, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

- CHAMBERS UK

Members routinely act for the tax payer and tax collector. Market leaders in the field of Indirect Taxation, members have extensive experience of VAT and Duties litigation with client representation at every level of the court system. The tax work is cutting edge and often breaks new legal ground. We also have a leading trade and customs practice acting for a range of business operators as well as UK authorities including HMRC, The Department for Business & Trade and the Trade Remedies Authority.



Steven Gee KC

Commercial Litigator and Arbitration Specialist including in Commercial Fraud, Disputes cross borders, Chancery, Conflicts of Law, Insolvency and Partnerships and Joint Ventures. Admitted to Practice in New York and the US District Courts for the Southern District of New York, and Eastern District of New York, the BVI, Eastern Caribbean and Antigua. Appeared in appellate courts in Eastern Caribbean, Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Bahamas, Hong Kong, Republic of Ireland as well as England. Author of *Gee on "Commercial Injunctions"*, now in its 7th Edition 2021 (Supplement 2022), published by Sweet and Maxwell.

Michael Bowsher KC

Michael is involved in a large number of commercial disputes and these usually arise in matters with some connection with the public sector or utilities where his expert knowledge in the relevant contracts and commercial practices are particularly relevant. Michael Bowsher KC has appeared as counsel in many of the major procurement cases over more than a decade. His contentious practice is complemented by a substantial practice in providing legal and strategic advice for bidders and purchasers throughout the procurement process. Michael is active in a range of dispute resolution arrangements. He has often been appointed as arbitrator, mediator and expert by CEDR, LCIA, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Technology and Construction Solicitor Association.

Paul Harris KC

Paul is a highly experienced commercial litigator, known for his court room and strategic skills. He also sits as an arbitrator in commercial and sports matters and gives evidence as an expert witness. His reputation extends, in particular, to the fields of administrative/public, broadcasting, general commercial, competition including collective actions and subsidy control, energy, entertainment, European, pharmaceuticals and sports law. Paul continues to be highly in demand as a sports law advocate. His success in leading the legal team for Manchester City FC in its appeal at CAS against the decision by UEFA to ban it from the Champions League for two seasons has cemented his position at the top of the sports law tree.

Kassie Smith KC

Kassie is one of the Bar's leading specialists in competition, telecoms, EU and regulatory litigation. She is described as "brilliant on her feet" and "a delight to work with". "Her drafting is impeccable, her analysis is invariably spot on, and her cross examination is devastatingly effective". She has also developed an international practice, working in jurisdictions from the Channel Islands to the BVI to Hong Kong, as well as in various high-value, international arbitrations. She has appeared in over 30 cases before the European Court of Justice and, having been called to the Irish bar, continues to act in the CJEU post Brexit.

Robert Palmer KC

Robert is widely recognised as a leader in the fields of public law, regulatory law, EU law and competition law. Legal directories have consistently recommended him, describing him as "incredibly well respected, very practical and brilliant in court". Robert's wide experience includes work in the telecommunications, energy, financial services, pharmaceutical and aviation sectors.

Valentina Sloane KC

Ranked as a "Star Individual" in Chambers & Partners, Valentina Sloane KC is a leading litigator and advocate across the fields of procurement, VAT and other indirect taxes, trade and customs, commercial, regulatory and public law. The leading directories have consistently recommended Valentina as a top ranked barrister in her fields of specialist expertise. She has been described as "One of the best advocates of her generation", "extraordinarily bright", "incredibly compelling", "a formidable opponent", and "a tough, tenacious and brilliant advocate" with "excellent command of the detail and complex litigation work".



Gregory Pipe

Greg is a heavy-weight commercial practitioner who litigates and advises on complex and high value disputes both in England & Wales and internationally. Above all, he is highly competitive and takes satisfaction from the results he obtains for his clients. Greg has a particularly wide experience in business sale and shareholder disputes. In addition, he has a particular interest in and ability to deal with lengthy and complex technology, hardware, telecoms and engineering disputes including those with a heavy scientific focus. "He's excellent on the really heavy stuff and very good with clients."

William Buck

William has a strong practice covering a wide spectrum of high value commercial disputes civil fraud, insolvency and offshore matters. He has been consistently recommended in Chambers and Partners (both in the UK and Global editions) as a leading commercial practitioner in his field. As well as undertaking high value work in the Court of Appeal and the High Court of England and Wales, he has developed a substantial international and cross-border practice, undertaking work in many other jurisdictions, such as the Isle of Man, Jersey, Italy, Gibraltar, Spain, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

Drew Holiner

Drew specialises in commercial dispute resolution and is admitted to practise in Russia, England & Wales, the BVI, the DIFC, the United States (California) and Ireland. Drew is regularly instructed to act as counsel or arbitrator in commercial disputes, and in particular those involving application of the laws of Russia. Drew is fully fluent in both English and Russian and is equally comfortable working in either language. He has experience in arbitrations conducted under HKIAC, ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL and ICAC (Russia) rules.

Ligia Osepciu

Ligia specialises in competition law, public procurement, telecommunications law and utilities regulation. She has been involved in a number of high profile & high value cases in these areas. She regularly advises private and public sector clients on complex legal and strategic issues across these fields. Ligia has previously been seconded to Ofgem (the UK regulator of gas and electricity markets) where she gained a strong grounding in electricity and gas transmission and distribution licensing and charging regimes. She has advised both the regulator and private parties on a range of transmission and distribution issues. Within her procurement practice she has particular experience of NHS procurement, ICT projects and mid-contract change or termination in the context of long term Public Private Partnerships or Private Finance Initiatives.

Francis Hornyold-Strickland

Francis has a broad commercial practice, with a particular emphasis on international arbitration, civil fraud, shipping, art, media and entertainment disputes. He is regularly sought after for advice on particularly complex cases and has a thriving advisory and advocacy practice both in the English High Court and overseas. As counsel he acts in a wide range of commercial disputes, both unled and led, in high court litigation, and arbitration. He is familiar with all major international rules including: LCIA, DIAC, ICC, UNCITRAL, SIAC, HKIAC, the Swiss Arbitration Rules, and LMAA rules. Francis is also a registered practitioner in the DIFC Courts in Dubai and the ADGM Courts in Abu Dhabi, where he appears regularly including, most recently, in a US\$160,000,000 anti-suit injunction in the ADGM.

Kristina Lukacova

Kristina has a broad commercial and chancery commercial practice with a focus on civil fraud, company law, insolvency disputes, and competition damages claims. Recent highlights include an appearance in the Court of Appeal in a €480 million damages claim, a five-week arbitration in Stockholm in a damages claim raising issues of FRAND, and a group action against a life assurance company involving over 400 claimants based in more than 40 jurisdictions. Described as "brilliant at drafting", "very bright, very committed and extremely hard-working", and with "an eye for detail and tactical nous". She is also described as "fantastic technically" and "a very able advocate", her written work as "superb", and her advice as "clear and unequivocal".

SECTOR EXPERIENCE

- **AVIATION** – We are at the forefront of the law, as evolved, relating to the Aviation sector and its related industries. Regularly acting for airlines, passengers, manufacturers, regulators, airport operators and suppliers.
- **ROAD & RAIL** – Clients include regulators, service operators, Governments and suppliers.
- **TECHNOLOGY** – We regularly act for the biggest Tech companies in the world as well as regulators and consumers.
- **ENERGY** – Whether it is price controls in the electricity market or consultation on new nuclear power, the development of renewables or modifying the gas network, we have been called upon to advise and act in a wide range of cases for a variety of clients.
- **TELECOMS** – We have a leading-edge practice in telecommunications and electronic communications generally. We regularly appear in the leading telecoms cases for telecoms companies, broadcasters, content providers and regulators.
- **SPORT** – Monckton Chambers serves a broad range of clients within the sports sector from national sports governing bodies, individual participants, clubs, agents and broadcasters.
- **FINANCIAL SERVICES** – We act on behalf of a range of banking and financial services clients, both in the UK and internationally. Regularly instructed by financial providers, including banks and insurance companies on a range of matters, both contentious and non-contentious. We deal with both regulatory and commercial matters.
- **INTERNATIONAL TRADE & CUSTOMS** – We have unrivalled specialist expertise in the areas of trade and customs. Members have appeared before the CJEU, the General Court, WTO panels and the EFTA Court.
- **PHARMACEUTICAL & HEALTH** – Regularly engaged in disputes concerning pricing, contractual arrangements and consumer law issues. Acting for regulators, businesses and consumers.
- **UTILITIES** – Members regularly act for regulated companies, the sector-specific regulators and other industry participants in Court Litigation, Arbitration and advisory matters.
- **TAX** – Chambers is consistently lauded as one of the top sets for Tax & Duties in the legal directories. Members are recommended in Who's Who Legal as Global and National Leaders in the fields of Tax Controversy and Corporate Tax.
- **COMMODITIES** – Regularly act in international sales contract cases, particularly those under, CISG, CIF and FOB Incoterms, and those subject to specific industry standard forms, such as FOFSA and GAFTA.

WHAT THE DIRECTORIES SAY

Monckton Chambers "Set of the Year" – CHAMBERS UK BAR AWARDS 2022

Monckton Chambers "Competition Set of the Year" – CHAMBERS UK BAR AWARDS 2023

"Monckton Chambers "Competition Set of the Year" – LEGAL 500 BAR AWARDS 2023

"Monckton Chambers handles the full spread of telecommunications law work" – CHAMBERS UK

"Clients include significant telecoms companies, content providers and both UK and overseas regulatory bodies including Ofcom" – CHAMBERS UK

"We love working with Monckton; we have never had anything other than a superb service from their barristers, who cover a good spectrum of issues" – LEGAL 500

"Monckton Chambers is excellent. The quality, breadth and depth of Counsel at both senior and junior level is reassuringly consistent" – LEGAL 500

"Monckton is an incredibly impressive set of chambers with a number of outstanding barristers. They are very client focused and provide excellent service in all respects. Absolutely top notch!" – LEGAL 500

Monckton are one of the 'go-to' chambers for some public law work" – LEGAL 500

"The clerks are really good and easy to deal with, it's a pretty seamless operation" – CHAMBERS UK

"The service levels and responsiveness of the clerks at Monckton Chambers are first rate" – CHAMBERS UK