

# Drew Holiner

---

## Counsel CV

### PROFILE

Commercial barrister with over 20 years' experience as lead and co-counsel in complex international arbitrations and cross-border commercial disputes. Qualified in jurisdictions across the UK, US, EU, CIS and UAE, Drew is frequently instructed in matters involving sanctions, geopolitical risk, energy, infrastructure, finance, corporate matters and technology disputes, and has acted opposite King's Counsel in several international arbitrations.

Drew is recognized for his strategic case management and ability to navigate complex, multi-jurisdictional disputes. He brings particular value to matters requiring integration of commercial strategy with regulatory, geopolitical and enforcement considerations, and regularly advises on disputes affected by sanctions, parallel proceedings and cross-border enforcement risk.

Drew's experience as arbitrator and expert witness complements his counsel work with practical understanding of tribunal perspectives and substantive depth in foreign law issues. His combination of qualifications and cross-system expertise uniquely positions him to advise on the interaction between UK, US and EU sanctions and Russian countermeasures, and to assist parties in disputes requiring knowledge of both common law and civil law traditions.

Regularly instructed by international law firms, governments and state-owned entities, financial institutions, multinational corporates and private parties on matters across the UK, US, Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

Drew has been recognised in leading legal directories Chambers & Partners and Legal500 for his work as counsel, with clients and colleagues highlighting his depth of analysis, clarity and effective advocacy, and ability to navigate complex disputes.

### 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

## COUNSEL EXPERIENCE

As counsel, Drew has experience in energy, finance, corporate, media and technology disputes affected by sanctions or other geopolitical measures involving parties from Europe, the US, Middle East, Asia, Africa and the CIS. Drew's practice integrates commercial, regulatory and geopolitical expertise. He is frequently instructed as lead or co-counsel in high-value matters requiring strategic management of foreign law issues, parallel court proceedings, enforcement risk and cross-border strategy, and has acted opposite King's Counsel in multiple international arbitrations.

Drew has been recognised in leading legal directories Chambers & Partners and Legal500 for his work as counsel, with clients and colleagues highlighting his depth of analysis, clarity and effective advocacy, and his ability to navigate complex disputes.

Representative matters include:

- LCIA (2024-2025) – Lead counsel in fintech dispute alleging application of Ukrainian sanctions.
- LCIA (2023-2024) – Lead counsel in sport investment dispute involving enforcement of pledge over shares in premier division Spanish football club.
- LCIA (2022-2024) – Lead counsel in dispute concerning effect of Chinese offtake agreement to a Zimbabwean lithium mining project.
- LCIA (2018-2021) – Co-counsel in corporate governance dispute in Russian oilfield services.
- LCIA (2018-2019) – Co-counsel in finance dispute involving alleged extortion scheme.
- LCIA (2017-2018) – Lead counsel in TV licensing fees arbitration.
- LCIA (2010-2017) – Co-counsel in two arbitrations over sale of Moscow shopping mall
- LCIA (2010-2014) – Co-counsel in series of arbitrations concerning control of a multi-billion-dollar landmark real estate development in Moscow
- LCIA (2011-2014) – Co-counsel for major Russian bank over sale of telecoms company

## COUNSEL APPROACH

Drew's practice as counsel emphasises problem-solving in complex disputes, particularly:

- Lateral thinking in developing cross-jurisdictional, interim and extrajudicial remedies
- Strategic analysis and case theory development
- Management of complex foreign law and expert evidence issues

- Effective advocacy in hearings and cross-examination
- Coordination with international counsel teams
- Sanctions awareness and cross-border enforcement strategy
- Experience working with tribunals across diverse legal traditions

## **ARBITRATOR EXPERIENCE**

Drew's experience sitting as international arbitrator informs his advocacy by providing insight into tribunal decision-making and procedural preferences.

Experience as 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.

Representative appointments: UNCITRAL (PCA-supported) China-Turkmenistan railway dispute (2024-), ICC sanctions-impacted energy dispute (2023-), DIAC oil supply guarantee (2025), 27 consolidated LCIA agricultural finance arbitrations (2021-2025), LCIA Singapore-Switzerland mining finance (2024).

## **EXPERT EVIDENCE & ADVICE**

Drew's expertise on Russian and CIS law supports his counsel work on matters involving foreign law issues, sanctions and cross-border enforcement. He has acted as expert in over 100 matters on Russian, Kazakhstani, Kyrgyz, Ukrainian and Belarusian law before UK, US, European and Asia-Pacific courts and tribunals.

Representative matters: Expert for AerCap in multi-billion-dollar aircraft leasing dispute (England), expert for Russia's Deposit Insurance Agency in USD 2.5bn freezing order (England), expert in USD 1.3bn fiduciary duty claim (New York), expert for Google on countersanctions (California), expert for JPMorgan on banking litigation and countersanctions (England), expert for US DOJ, UK NCA, Irish Revenue Commissioners.

## **PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS**

Drew's has advised and acted as counsel in more than 50 cases before the European Court of Human Rights and UN Human Rights Committee. While he does not maintain a standalone human rights practice, this work complements his commercial practice where it intersects with public international law, state conduct and individual rights issues, particularly in high-risk jurisdictions. This experience is especially relevant in commercial disputes involving:

- Sanctions, countermeasures and asset freezes.
- Prosecutions and fair trial concerns in politically sensitive environments.
- Bank de-risking and PEP-related concerns of HNWIs.
- Cross-border regulatory risk.
- Concurrent civil and criminal proceedings.

Representative matters include:

- *Yukos Oil Company v Russia* (property rights, fair trial)
- *Google v Russia* (freedom of expression, fair trial)
- *Merchant International Company v Ukraine* (legal certainty, fair trial)
- *Aleksanyan v Russia* (unlawful detention, search of corporate counsel's office)

## RECENT DIRECTORY QUOTES

### 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 unprecedentedly high ability to quickly absorb and understand matters." – Chambers UK, 2026 – International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance
- "Solicitors appreciate his technical knowledge, teamwork and responsiveness." – Legal 500, 2024 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

### Arbitrator

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

### Expert

- "Drew is an absolute expert in Russian law. He probably knows more about the area than anyone else in the UK Bar." "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

### General

- "Drew is responsive, razor-sharp, business-oriented and provides concise and practical advice that is straight to the point." – Chambers UK and Chambers Global, 2025 – Commercial Dispute Resolution
- "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
- "Drew Holiner is adept at putting complex foreign law concepts into terms a judge can easily understand." – Chambers UK, 2024 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

## CONTACT

Email: [dholiner@monckton.com](mailto:dholiner@monckton.com)

Chambers: +44 20 7405 7211