



# Alexander Milner KC

Call 2006 | Silk 2022

anm@fountaincourt.co.uk



**a** +44 (0)20 7583 3335

Described in directories as "brilliant in every respect" and "a Rolls-Royce choice for all cases", Alexander Milner KC is recommended in the fields of commercial dispute resolution, international arbitration, aviation, banking and finance and civil fraud.

He has appeared as lead counsel in the UK Supreme Court and on many occasions in the Court of Appeal and the High Court, as well as international arbitration tribunals.

A Russian speaker, he has appeared in many of the largest disputes to emerge from Russia and other ex-Soviet states, including Berezovsky v Abramovich, BTA Bank v Ablyazov, Mezhprombank v Pugachev and Bank St Petersburg v Arkhangelsky (where the trial judge praised his "very effective" cross-examination). He has also participated in numerous major arbitrations, including claims between Gazprom and Naftogaz of Ukraine where the sums in dispute exceeded \$100 billion.

His cases often involve the law of Russia and other post-Soviet countries, and he has extensive experience of conflicts of law, jurisdictional disputes, and the enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitration awards, as well as cases involving economic sanctions. He frequently makes and defends applications for injunctive relief.

His aviation practice includes all types of leasing, aircraft financing and regulatory matters, including those relating to airport slots.

Alexander sits as an arbitrator and has been appointed to numerous tribunals in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Moscow. He is an empanelled arbitrator at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, the Asian International Arbitration Centre (Kuala Lumpur), and the BVI International Arbitration Centre.

He is a registered practitioner at the Dubai International Financial Centre.

## Recent Highlights

Beograd Innovation Ltd v Somovidis [2025] EWHC 1182 (Comm)

DX: 5 LDE



Acting for a creditor seeking to enforce a Russian judgment in England. Successfully resisted the Defendant's jurisdiction challenge based on parallel Russian insolvency proceedings.

#### Russian Aircraft Litigation

Acting for a number of aircraft owners and lessors pursuing claims against reinsurers for the loss of aircraft leased to Russian airlines following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The trial is listed for Autumn 2026.

FW Aviation (Holdings) 1 Ltd v VietJet Aviation Joint Stock Company [2024] EWHC 1904 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 928 (Comm)

Acting for a Vietnamese airline in a complex aviation finance dispute concerning four Airbus A-321 aircraft leased under a "JOLCO" structure.

Federal Republic of Nigeria v Process & Industrial Developments Ltd [2023] EWHC 2638 (Comm), [2025] 1 WLR 129

Widely publicised case in which the Commercial Court set aside an award worth \$11 billion against Nigeria under s.68 of the Arbitration Act, on the ground of fraud and conduct contrary to public policy. Acted as lead counsel for P&ID in subsequent hearings before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court concerning the circumstances when a court should award costs in a foreign currency.

Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera Communications Corp [2021] QB 744

Acting for Hytera, a large Chinese radio manufacturer, in proceedings to enforce parts of a US judgment for \$700 million. Successfully appealed against a \$345 million freezing order. Two further appeals in the substantive enforcement proceedings are listed for December 2025.

## Expertise

#### **Aviation & Travel**

Notable Aviation & Travel cases

Russian Aircraft Litigation

Acting for a number of aircraft owners and lessors pursuing claims against reinsurers for the loss of aircraft leased to Russian airlines following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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#### FW Aviation v VietJet [2024] EWHC 1904 (Comm), [2025] EWHC 928 (Comm)

Acting for a Vietnamese airline in a complex aviation finance dispute concerning four Airbus A-321 aircraft leased under a "JOLCO" structure.

#### AerSale 25362 Ltd v Med-View Airline Plc [2018] EWHC 3912 (Comm)

Acted for aircraft lessors in Commercial Court proceedings against a Nigerian lessor to recover sums due under two leases of Boeing 737s.

#### R (Monarch Airlines Ltd) v Airport Coordination Ltd [2017] EWCA Civ 1892

Judicial review proceedings brought by the administrators of an insolvent airline concerning its right to be allocated valuable slots at Gatwick and Luton airports in order to sell the slots to raise money for its creditors.

#### National Air Services v Creditrade LLP [2016] EWHC 2144 (Comm)

Acted for a lessor in Commercial Court proceedings against a Ukrainian airline following the termination of two leases of Embraer 95 aircraft.

#### Sheikh Kaki v National Air Services [2015] EWCA Civ 731

Claim for breach of a contract for the sale of an interest in a Gulfstream aircraft.

#### Virgin Atlantic Airways v K.I. Holdings [2014] EWHC 1671 (Comm)

Acted for one of the defendants to a £40 million claim arising out of the supply of aircraft seats by a fraudulent manufacturer.

#### Aerotransleasing v Polet Airlines [2014] EWHC 1318 (Comm)

Obtained and successfully defended an injunction under s.25 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 in support of Russian proceedings, preventing the removal of a Russian-registered AN-124-100 aircraft from the jurisdiction.

Acting for a lessor in an LCIA arbitration against an Asian airline alleging fraud in connection with the leasing of two Airbus 319 aircraft.

Acting for a national airline in an LCIA arbitration against a lessor relating to the early termination of six Airbus aircraft.



Acting for a Russian airline in an LCIA arbitration relating to the leasing of a number of Boeing 737 aircraft.
Acting for a Portuguese airline in Commercial Court proceedings brought by an Italian airline in connection with a wet lease of a Boeing 767 aircraft.
Acting for the Light Aircraft Association in High Court proceedings arising out of a fatal gyroplane accident.
Alexander has substantial experience of claims against airlines and aircraft operators under the Montreal Convention 1999, Regulations EC 261/2004 and 1107/2006, and at common law, and of advising on aviation insurance, leasing/financing and regulatory matters.
Banking & Finance
Notable Banking & Finance cases
JSC Privatbank v Kolomoisky [2025] EWHC 1987 (Ch)
Acting for a Ukrainian businessman defending a \$2 billion claim by a Ukrainian bank, governed by Ukrainian law.
Deutsche Bank AG v Unitech Global Ltd [2019] EWHC 969 (Comm)
Acted for a syndicate of lenders in proceedings to recover a \$300 million debt from an Indian property development group (led by Richard Handyside KC).
LIC Telecommunications v VTB Capital Plc [2019] EWHC 1747 (Comm)
Acted for the Claimants in two trials of preliminary issues under Luxembourg law, in the context of a conspiracy claim against a Russian bank said to have misappropriated a substantial Bulgarian telecoms business (led by Stephen Rubin KC).
Quoi v National Westminster Bank plc [2016] EWHC 1351 (QB)
Acted as sole counsel for the bank, successfully defending a multi-million-pound claim for breach of contract arising out of the collapse of a construction business.
Smeaton v Equifax plc [2013] 2 All ER 959

Acting for the defendant credit reference agency in this leading Court of Appeal case on the scope of the duties imposed on CRAs under the Data Protection Act 1998.



Acting for major banks in numerous High Court cases defending claims by customers alleging breach of contract, breach of duty, fraud and conspiracy, and in claims involving mortgages, guarantees, mistaken payments, credit agreements etc.
Representing both claimants and defendant banks in High Court proceedings alleging mis-selling of interest rate hedging products.
Acting for two investors in proceedings against an asset manager under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 for failing to procure the return of a series of investments in structured products.
JSC Mezhdunarodniy Promyshlenniy Bank v Pugachev [2016] 1 WLR 160
Acted for the Defendant in conjoined appeals to the Court of Appeal in relation to a \$2 billion freezing order.
Bank St Petersburg v Arkhangelsky [2014] 1 WLR 4360
Acted for a Russian businessman in proceedings involving an alleged fraud by a Russian bank. Obtained a rare anti- enforcement injunction in the Court of Appeal ([2014] 1 WLR 4360), restraining the enforcement of Russian judgments said to have been obtained by fraud.
Civil Fraud
Notable Civil Fraud cases
AvB
Acting for the Respondent to a \$1.5 billion claim based on an alleged fraud in the oil and gas sector.
JSC Privatbank v Kolomoisky [2025] EWHC 1987 (Ch)
Acting for a Ukrainian businessman defending a \$2 billion fraud claim governed by Ukrainian law.
Bourlakova v Bourlakov [2024] EWHC 765 (Ch)
Applications for freezing and proprietary relief in a \$2 billion dispute over the estate of Mr Oleg Bourlakov, a deceased Russian billionaire.
Republic of Nigeria v Process & Industrial Developments Ltd [2023] EWHC 2638 (Comm)
Challenge to an arbitration award worth \$11 billion under s.68 of the Arbitration Act. The Court set aside the award



on the ground that it was procured by fraud and conduct contrary to public policy.

#### PJSC Tatneft v Bogolyubov [2021] EWHC 411 (Comm)

Acted for a Ukrainian oligarch in his successful defence of a \$300 million fraud claim brought by a Russian oil company under Russian law.

#### Bank St Petersburg v Arkhangelsky [2018] EWHC 1077 (Ch)

Acted for a Russian businessman in proceedings involving an alleged fraud by a Russian bank. Obtained a rare antienforcement injunction in the Court of Appeal ([2014] 1 WLR 4360), restraining the enforcement of Russian judgments said to have been obtained by fraud, and appeared at the trial to cross-examine the Claimant's experts and make submissions.

#### Fundo Soberano de Angola v Dos Santos [2018] EWHC 2199 (Comm)

Claim by the Angolan sovereign wealth fund against its former chairman and others to recover \$3 billion of assets alleged to have been fraudulently misappropriated.

#### NRC Holding Ltd v Danilitskiy [2017] EWHC 1431 (Ch)

Enforcing a judgment against the beneficial interest in a London property owned through an offshore structure, and obtaining injunctive relief in support of a €120 million fraud claim brought in Cyprus.

#### Vis Trading Co Ltd v Nazarov [2014] EWCA Civ 313

Appeal in a \$30 million fraud claim brought under Russian law. Subsequent committal proceedings reported at [2016] 4 WLR 1.

#### JSC Mezhdunarodniy Promyshlenniy Bank v Pugachev [2016] 1 WLR 160

Acted for the Defendant in conjoined appeals to the Court of Appeal in relation to a \$2 billion freezing order.

#### Tajik Aluminium Plant v Ermatov

Acted for seven of the defendants and the Part 20 claimant in a \$500 million fraud claim concerning the operations of an aluminium smelting plant in Tajikistan.

#### Bank St Petersburg v Arkhangelsky [2018] EWHC 1077 (Ch)

Acted for a Russian businessman in proceedings involving an alleged fraud by a Russian bank. Obtained a rare anti-



enforcement injunction in the Court of Appeal ([2014] 1 WLR 4360), restraining the enforcement of Russian judgments said to have been obtained by fraud, and appeared at the trial to cross-examine the Claimant's experts and make submissions.

# Commercial Disputes Notable Commercial Disputes cases

#### Federal Republic of Nigeria v Process & Industrial Developments Ltd [2023] EWHC 2638 (Comm)

Challenge to an arbitration award worth \$11 billion under s.68 of the Arbitration Act. The Court set aside the award on the ground that it was procured by fraud and conduct contrary to public policy. Acted as lead counsel for P&ID in subsequent proceedings in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court in relation to the Courts' jurisdiction to award costs in a foreign currency.

#### Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera Communications Corp [2021] QB 744

Acted for Hytera, a large Chinese radio manufacturer, in its successful appeal to the Court of Appeal against a \$345 million freezing order granted in support of proceedings in the USA alleging theft of trade secrets (led by Charles Béar KC). The Court of Appeal definitively restated the law relating to the 'unambiguous impropriety' exception to without prejudice privilege. Subsequently obtained a stay of enforcement proceedings for non-payment of costs orders: [2023] EWHC 1393 (Comm). Two further appeals in the substantive enforcement proceedings are listed for December 2025.

#### Republic of Tatarstan v Ukraine

Instructed by Ukraine in a \$400 million investor-state arbitration concerning the alleged expropriation of shares in an oil refinery.

#### Savchenko v Davletyarov [2019] EWHC 1186 (Comm)

Acted for the successful defendant in a contractual dispute relating to the sale of interests in a Russian bank.

#### Kazakhstan Kagazy Plc v Zhunus [2019] EWHC 2630 (Comm)

Acted for the respondent to a £14 million non-party costs application, following a \$300 million judgment handed down against the principal defendants.

#### Bank St Petersburg v Arkhangelsky [2018] EWHC 1077 (Ch)

Acted for a Russian businessman in proceedings involving an alleged fraud by a Russian bank. Obtained a rare antienforcement injunction in the Court of Appeal ([2014] 1 WLR 4360), restraining the enforcement of Russian



judgments said to have been obtained by fraud, and appeared at the trial to cross-examine the Claimant's experts and make submissions.
Astor Management AG v Atalaya Mining Plc [2018] EWCA Civ 2407; [2017] 1 Lloyd's Rep 476; [2017] 1 CLC 72
Acting for the Defendants in a €60 million contractual dispute relating to the acquisition and commissioning of a copper mine in Spain (led by Stephen Moriarty KC).
Fundo Soberano de Angola v Dos Santos [2018] EWHC 2199 (Comm)
Claim by the Angolan sovereign wealth fund against its former chairman and others to recover \$3 billion of assets alleged to have been fraudulently misappropriated.
LIC Telecommunications Sarl v VTB Capital Plc [2018] EWHC 169 (Comm), [2019] EWHC 1747 (Comm)
Acted for the Claimants in two trials of preliminary issues under Luxembourg law, in the context of a conspiracy claim against a Russian bank said to have misappropriated a substantial Bulgarian telecoms business (led by Stephe Rubin KC).
JSC Mezhdunarodniy Promyshlenniy Bank v Pugachev [2016] 1 WLR 160
Acted for the Defendant in conjoined appeals to the Court of Appeal in relation to a \$2 billion freezing order.
Berezovsky v Abramovich [2012] EWHC 2463 (Comm)
Acted for Boris Berezovsky in his well publicised \$5 billion claim against Roman Abramovich in relation to the ownership of Russian oil and aluminium assets.
Competition
Notable Competition cases
Instructed on behalf of two groups of banks in ICSID arbitrations against an EU Member State raising defences based on the CJEU's <i>Achmea</i> judgment.
Gave written and oral expert evidence on EU competition law issues in two ICC arbitrations between major European airlines and a global distribution system operator.
Advising a major financial services company on issues relating to the revisions to the EU Payment Services Directiand regulation of multilateral interchange fees.



Providing legal opinions in connection with proceedings between the EU Commission and a pharmaceutical company regarding the circumstances in which patent settlement agreements infringe the EU competition rules.
Providing written expert evidence in Lithuanian proceedings on the application of Article 101 TFEU to agreements between a number of banks and a provider of cash handling services.
Providing a legal opinion in connection with an action against the EU Commission regarding the lawfulness of a dawn raid.
Advising manufacturers of electronic cigarettes as to the legality of the proposed revisions to the Tobacco Products Directive.
Advising leading European airlines on the interpretation and application of the EU slots regulation.
Advising major drinks and clothing manufacturers on the interpretation of EU regulations concerning the labelling of spirit drinks and textiles.
Advising two non-European investment funds as to whether their shares constituted eligible investments for the purposes of a UCITS scheme within the meaning of Commission Directive 2007/16/EC (the Eligible Assets Directive).
Advising a number of law firms as to the compatibility of the rules of an EU Member State's Bar Association with the EC Treaty.
Advising a Czech bank as to whether a restructuring plan adopted by the Czech state constituted aid applicable after accession requiring review by the Commission under Article 108 TFEU.
Assisted Sir Francis Jacobs KC in preparing numerous expert reports and opinions on behalf of companies and national governments, in connection with proceedings before arbitral tribunals, national courts and regulators, the EU Commission and courts, and the International Court of Justice.
International Arbitration - as arbitrator
Notable International Arbitration - as arbitrator cases
Presiding arbitrator in a SIAC arbitration relating to a contract for the sale of hydrocarbons.



Party-nominated arbitrator in a Hong Kong-seated arbitration relating to a commodities dispute.
Sole arbitrator in an expedited arbitration in the Russian Arbitration Centre, Moscow, between a law firm and a former client arising out of a previous LCIA arbitration.
Party-nominated arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Singapore relating to the leasing of commercial passenger aircraft.
Party-nominated arbitrator in two related LCIA arbitrations between Russian parties concerning a financing transaction in the energy field.
Party-nominated arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration between Russian and Asian parties relating to the licensing of pharmaceutical products.
Party-nominated arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration brought by a company against a Russian individual under a guarantee.
Party-nominated arbitrator in a \$10 million arbitration between two offshore companies in the International Commercial Arbitration Court, Moscow.
Sole arbitrator, appointed by the LCIA, in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the provision of legal services to a company in Kazakhstan.
International Arbitration - as counsel
Notable International Arbitration - as counsel cases
AvB
Acting for the Respondent to a \$1.5 billion claim based on an alleged fraud in the oil and gas sector.
AvB
Instructed by a major exporter in a series of international arbitrations against purchasers of goods arising out of UK and EU sanctions against Russia.
Republic of Tatarstan v Ukraine

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Instructed by Ukraine in a \$400 million investor-state arbitration concerning the alleged expropriation of shares in an oil refinery.

#### NJSC Naftogaz v PJSC Gazprom [2019] 2 Lloyd's Rep 20

Instructed by Naftogaz of Ukraine in proceedings to enforce a \$2.5 billion arbitration award, including applications for freezing relief and for a stay under s.103(5) of the Arbitration Act.

#### Eastern European Engineering Ltd v Vijay Construction (Proprietary) Ltd [2016] EWHC 1450 (Comm)

Application under s.103 of the Arbitration Act 1996 for security for a \$20 million award said to have been procured by intimidation/blackmail.

#### Stemcor UK Ltd v Global Steel Holdings Ltd [2015] 1 Lloyd's Rep 580

Obtained a stay of proceedings to recover \$150 million from two guarantors pending an arbitration between the creditor and the principal debtor.

SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore relating to the manufacture and supply of Covid-19 vaccine products.

\$500 million LCIA arbitration concerning an alleged fraud against a Russian bank.

Sole counsel for a Russian airline in an LCIA claim concerning an alleged \$200 million fraud.

Acted in an LCIA arbitration between two prominent Russian individuals relating to the ownership and disposal of extremely valuable industrial and real estate assets.

Sole counsel in a \$100 million LCIA arbitration brought by a Russian bank to enforce an option agreement.

Acted in an LCIA arbitration arising out of the sale of a Russian supermarket chain.

Acted in an LCIA claim brought by a steel trader to recover a debt of \$200 million from an industrial enterprise in Eastern Europe.

Acted for a well-known "oligarch" in LCIA proceedings to recover a loan of \$100 million.

Acted in an LCIA arbitration relating to the ownership of shares in a Russian technology company estimated to be



worth more than \$3 billion.
Acted in an LCIA arbitration concerning the alleged fraudulent disposal of a Russian joint venture asset.
Sole counsel for a Russian manufacturer in an ICC arbitration in Geneva to recover over €5 million from a joint venture partner.
Acted in a €300 million ICC arbitration between joint venture partners relating to the construction of a telecoms network.
Directory Quotes
"He is my first choice at the Bar for aviation matters. He's phenomenally bright."
Chambers & Partners
"He is brilliant legally and strategically. He is responsive and deals with complex issues very easily."
Chambers & Partners
"Fantastically bright and all over foreign law. Commercial and charming."
The Legal 500
"Very clever, drafts beautifully. A pleasure to work with. Excellent cross-examination skills."
Legal 500
"Meticulously prepared, extremely responsive and his analysis is first rate. He is well known for his work on foreign law issues, and in particular in Russian and CIS disputes - where his work is particularly impressive."
Legal 500
"Absolutely excellent courtroom skills and very convincing before the judge. He has a strong understanding of the client's commercial needs and is very good at looking at the bigger picture."



Chambers & Partners

"A ferociously clever silk"

Legal 500

"A phenomenal barrister, who is incredibly sharp-witted."

Chambers & Partners

"Well ahead of the pack in terms of the standard of his advocacy."

Legal 500

# Directory Rankings

#### Chambers & Partners - Global

- International Arbitration The English Bar
- Dispute Resolution: Commercial UK

#### Chambers & Partners - UK

- Aviation
- Banking & Finance
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance

### Legal 500 - UK

- Aviation
- Banking & Finance
- Commercial Litigation
- Fraud: Civil
- International Arbitration: Counsel



## Education

- BVC (Outstanding), Inns of Court School of Law
- CPE (Distinction), City University
- BA Modern & Medieval Languages (First Class), King's College, Cambridge

## International Bar / Court Appointments

Registered Practitioner at the Dubai International Financial Centre.

## Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

- Registered Practitioner at the Dubai International Financial Centre.
- Member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the Arbitrator List of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the BVI International Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the List of Arbitrators of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the Asian International Arbitration Center, Kuala Lumpur.
- Member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, Seoul.
- Listed arbitrator at the Russian Arbitration Center, Moscow.
- Executive Committee member, Russian & CIS Arbitration Network.
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.
- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lord Bowen Scholarship, City University Scholarship, Hardwicke Scholarship, Shelford Scholarship, and Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn.

## **Publications**

- Liability for property fraud: *P&P Property v Owen White & Catlin, Journal of Professional Negligence*, Vol. 33 No. 3 (2017)
- Liability for negligent investment advice following extraordinary market turmoil: *Rubenstein v HSBC Bank plc, Journal of Professional Negligence*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (2013)
- 'Advantages and disadvantages of arbitrating Russian and CIS disputes in western Europe', *Transnational Dispute Management* Vol. 9, issue 3 (April 2012)
- 'Regulation EC 261/2004 and "extraordinary circumstances", Air and Space Law 34, no.3 (2009); 215-220
- Contributor to the Civil Procedure Reports (Sweet & Maxwell)



## Languages

- French (fluent)
- Italian (good working knowledge)
- Russian (fluent)

## Awards



