



Gillian Hughes

Call 2018

✉ gsh@fountaincourt.co.uk

☎ +44 (0)20 7583 3335

Gillian Hughes has a broad commercial practice, including in banking and finance, general commercial litigation, arbitration, conflict of laws and civil fraud.

Gillian has experience in a range of heavy and complex disputes, often international in nature. She enjoys working both as part of large teams of solicitors and counsel and as also as sole counsel.

Prior to starting practice as a tenant, Gillian was a Judicial Assistant at the Commercial Court, tutor at Oriel College (Oxford) in Contract Law and worked as a research assistant on a project into the contract laws of Asian jurisdictions.

Recent Highlights

Modernatx, Inc v Pfizer Limited and others [2024] EWHC 1648 (Pat)

Acting (led by Anneliese Day KC) for Moderna in proceedings for patent infringement in relation to issues arising from whether a voluntary statement made by Moderna took effect as consent under the Patents Act 1977, including issues of conflicts of laws. (One of The Lawyer 'Top Cases' of 2024).

JPM Morgan v WeRealize.com Ltd [2024] EWHC 1437 (Comm) (Dame Clare Moulder DBE)

Acting (in a counsel team led by Richard Handyside KC and Rosalind Phelps KC) for JP Morgan in a dispute concerning the parties' Shareholders' Agreement raising issues of contractual construction and US banking regulatory restrictions.

Alam/Hacking/Siddique v HDI Global Specialty SE (heard by the Court of Appeal in March 2024)

Acting (led by Ben Lynch KC) for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) intervening in cojoined appeals concerning the limitation position in respect of claims brought against insurers under section 2 of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.



Moon v Link Fund Solutions [2022] EWHC 3344 (Ch)

Acting (led Richard Handyside KC and Rupert Allen) for LFS defending claims brought by investors in the Woodford Equity Income Fund, including successfully resisting an application for a GLO.

ICC arbitration

Acting (led by Bankim Thanki KC and Simon Atrill KC) in a substantial ICC arbitration relating to alleged breaches of a Share Purchase Agreement. Claims exceed \$1 billion.

Expertise

Aviation & Travel

Reported Aviation & Travel cases

Gama Aviation (UK) Ltd v MWWMMWM Ltd [2021] EWHC 2229 (Comm) and [2021] EWHC 3667 (Comm)

Acting (led by Michael McLaren KC) for a provider of aviation services in respect of claims for unpaid sums under an aircraft support services agreement. Successfully obtaining default judgment and resisting a set aside application; and successfully obtaining a debarring order for failure to pay judgment debts.

Wallis Trading Inc v Air Tanzania Company Limited [2020] EWHC 339 (Comm)

Acting as Judicial Assistant to Butcher J during the trial of claims arising out of an aircraft leasing transaction.

Notable Aviation & Travel cases

Acting as sole counsel in the County Court on behalf of airlines defending claims brought against them under EU Regulation 261/2004.

Banking & Finance

Reported Banking & Finance cases

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Moon v Link Fund Solutions [2022] EWHC 3344 (Ch)

Acting (led by Richard Handyside KC and Rupert Allen) for LFS defending claims brought by investors in the Woodford Equity Income Fund, including successfully resisting an application for a GLO.

Abernethy v Barclays Bank and others

Acting (led by Richard Handyside KC) for HSBC defending collective proceedings in respect of alleged unfair relationship claims under s. 140 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, including resisting an application for a GLO and challenging use of a single “omnibus” claim form under CPR rule 7.3 (heard in October 2024).

Fir Tree Capital Opportunity Master Fund LP and others v SBB Treasury OYJ and another

Acting (led by Laura John KC) for the claimant noteholders seeking early redemption of notes for breach of the consolidated coverage ratio by the bond issuer and guarantor.

Kijani Resources Limited (in liquidation) v Royal Bank of Scotland

Acting (led by Nicholas Medcroft KC) for RBS defending claims for alleged breaches of the *Quincecare* duty in proceedings in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar (listed for trial in 2025).

Alam/Hacking/Siddique v HDI Global Specialty SE (heard by the Court of Appeal in March 2024)

Acting (led by Ben Lynch KC) for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) intervening in cojoined appeals concerning the limitation position in respect of claims brought against insurers under section 2 of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.

Allianz Global Investors GmbH & Others v Deutsche Bank AG London & Others [2022] CAT 44

Acting (led by Thomas De La Mare KC and Simon Atrill KC) for a US bank in proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal based on alleged cartel behavior in respect of FX trading.

PJSC Bank "Finance and Credit" v Zhevago [2021] EWHC 2522 (Ch)

Acting for (led by Charles Samek KC and Tetyana Nesterchuk) a Ukrainian bank in liquidation and the Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund in relations to claims in tort and unjust enrichment under Ukrainian law against the bank's former owner and controller and an application for worldwide freezing injunctions.



Notable Banking & Finance cases

Acting for (led by Thomas De La Mare KC and Simon Atrill) an American bank in proceedings brought against it in the High Court for alleged anti-competitive conduct.

Acting for and advising (led by David Railton KC and Craig Morrison) a loan sovereign investment authority in relation to claims for damages and rescission in respect of a transaction allegedly procured by fraud and bribery.

Advising the Financial Services Compensation Scheme on matters in relation to the interpretation of the compensation rules and provisions of FSMA.

Acting for lenders defending claims for alleged unfair relationships under s. 140 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

Civil Fraud

Notable Civil Fraud cases

Parsdome Holdings Limited v Plastic Energy Global SL

Acting (led by Laura John KC) for the defendant defending claims for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation in respect of an investment.

Acting for and advising the purchaser and guarantor under an SPA in relation to claims for dishonest assistance and conspiracy in respect of the purchase price (led by Edward Levey KC).

Acting for and advising (led by David Railton KC and Craig Morrison) a loan sovereign investment authority in relation to claims for damages and rescission in respect of a transaction allegedly procured by fraud and bribery.

Commercial Disputes

Reported Commercial Disputes cases

Modernatx, Inc v Pfizer Limited and others [2024] EWHC 1648 (Pat)

Acting (led by Anneliese Day KC) for Moderna in proceedings for patent infringement in relation to issues arising from whether a voluntary statement made by Moderna took effect as consent under the Patents Act 1977, including issues of conflicts of laws. (One of *The Lawyer* 'Top Cases' of 2024).



EE Limited v Virgin Mobile Telecoms Limited [2023] EWHC 1989 (TCC)

Acting (led by Adam Zellick KC) for Virgin Mobile defending EE's claim for alleged breach of an exclusivity obligation and successfully obtaining summary judgment dismissing the claim as being precluded by an exclusion clause for anticipated profits.

Chocolate City v WEA International Inc [2023] EWHC 2874 (Comm)

Acting (led by Tamara Oppenheimer KC) for the defendant (a Warner Music Group company) in a dispute relating to whether a facility agreement contained a right of prepayment and raising issues of conflicts of laws (on jurisdiction and choice of law). Successfully obtained reverse summary judgment in favor of Warner's construction and dismissing Chocolate City's claim.

Epsilogen Limited v Abzena (Cambridge) Limited (Commercial Court)

Acting (led by Rosalind Phelps KC) for the defendant contract development and manufacturing company defending claims for alleged breaches of contract based on alleged failures to comply with allegedly applicable cGMP (ICHQ7, EU Directive 2003/94/EC and FDA guidance) in developing and manufacturing a novel antibody drug.

Gama Aviation (UK) Ltd v MWWMMWM Ltd [2021] EWHC 2229 (Comm) and [2021] EWHC 3667 (Comm)

Acting for (led by Michael McLaren KC) a provider of aviation services in respect of claims for unpaid sums under an aircraft support services agreement. Successfully obtaining default judgment and resisting an application to set aside; successfully obtaining a debarring order for failure to pay judgment debts.

Notable Commercial Disputes cases

Parsdome Holdings Limited v Plastic Energy Global SL

Acting (led by Laura John KC) for the defendant defending claims for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation in respect of an investment.

Assisting Richard Lissack KC in preparing an expert report on matters of English law (including choice of law and product liability) to be adduced in proceedings in the Supreme Court of New York in connection with alleged claims against various talc manufacturers for alleged exposure to asbestos contaminated products.

Advising a seller under a SPA in connection with a dispute as to the preparation of a completion accounts adjustment.

Advising on various issues relating to the law of assignment.



Financial Services

Gillian has particular experience of advising and acting for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). She carried out a secondment with them in 2022, during which she advised them on various matters in relation to the FCA Handbook rules and FSMA provisions. More recently, she has also acted for the FSCS in successfully defending judicial review proceedings and as an intervenor in proceedings before the Court of Appeal on issues relevant to their work and objectives.

Notable Financial Services cases

Alam/Hacking/Siddique v HDI Global Specialty SE (heard by the Court of Appeal in March 2024)

Acting (led by Ben Lynch KC) for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) intervening in cojoined appeals concerning the limitation position in respect of claims brought against insurers under section 2 of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.

Acting as part of the counsel team for the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in relation to its investigations into the collapse of Carillion Plc, resulting in the highest fine that the FRC has ever imposed.

Group Litigation

Reported Group Litigation cases

Moon v Link Fund Solutions [2022] EWHC 3344 (Ch)

Acting (led Richard Handyside KC and Rupert Allen) for LFS defending claims brought by investors in the Woodford Equity Income Fund, including successfully resisting an application for a GLO

Notable Group Litigation cases

Abernethy v Barclays Bank and others

Acting (led by Richard Handyside KC) for HSBC defending collective proceedings in respect of alleged unfair relationship claims under s. 140 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, including resisting an application for a GLO.

Acting for (led by Thomas De La Mare KC and Simon Atrill) an American bank in collective proceedings brought against it in the Commercial Court and in proposed proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

Insurance



Notable Insurance cases

Alam/Hacking/Siddique v HDI Global Specialty SE (heard by the Court of Appeal in March 2024)

Acting (led by Ben Lynch KC) for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) intervening in cojoined appeals concerning the limitation position in respect of claims brought against insurers under section 2 of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010.

International Arbitration

Reported International Arbitration cases

The Republic of Korea v Mohammad Reza Dayyani & others [2019] EWHC 3580 (Comm)

Acting as a Judicial Assistant to Butcher J during the hearing in a s. 67 application to set aside an arbitral award of claims brought pursuant to the Korea-Iran Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Notable International Arbitration cases

Working as part of the legal team in an ICC arbitration relating to a high-value oil and gas dispute involving allegations of fraud, breach of contract and termination for repudiation.

Working as part of the legal team in an ICC arbitration relating to a high-value oil and gas dispute involving allegations of fraud, breach of contract and termination for repudiation.

Professional Discipline

Notable Professional Discipline cases

Acting as part of the counsel team for the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in relation to its investigations into the collapse of Carillion Plc, resulting in the highest fine that the FRC has ever imposed.

Advising (led by Patricia Roberston KC) in connection with potential negligence claims against a firm of solicitors and counsel.

Education

- BPTC (Outstanding), City Law School (2017-2018)



- Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) Distinction, Magdalen College, Oxford (2016-2017)
- BA (Hons) Law (Double First Class – 2nd in the third year, 4th in the first and second years), Selwyn College, Cambridge (2013-2016)

Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

- **Lincoln's Inn:** Eastham Scholarship (Pupillage year); Lord Mansfield Scholarship and Hardwicke Entrance Scholar (BPTC year)
- **Oxford:** Law Faculty Prize in Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law (2017); 3 Verulam Buildings BCL Scholarship (2016)
- **Cambridge:** Clive Parry Prize for International Law (2015); Rebecca Flower Squire Scholarship (2015); various College scholarships and prizes for performance in law examinations (2013-2016)
- **Mooting:** Winner of the Inter-Inn Mooting Competition (2018); Winner of Lincoln's Inn Inter-Provider Mooting Competition (2018); Winner of the Cambridge-KCL Moot (2016)
- **Times Law Awards 2013:** Third Prize Winner
- Tutor in Contract Law at Oriel College, Oxford (2017-2018)
- COMBAR

London

Fountain Court Chambers
Fountain Court
Temple
London EC4Y 9DH

T: +44 (0)20 7583 3335
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0329
E: chambers@fountaincourt.co.uk
DX: 5 LDE

Singapore

10 Collyer Quay
Ocean Financial Centre
#40-38
Singapore 049315

T: +65 6808 6611