



Lord Goldsmith KC

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"devastating in the courtroom and tremendously smart"

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Lord Goldsmith KC is a former Attorney General of the United Kingdom (2001-2007) former Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales and a pre-eminent legal practitioner renowned for his international arbitration and litigation work.

Lord Goldsmith KC re-joined Fountain Court on 1 January 2026 as counsel and arbitrator, having previously been a Member of Chambers from 1972 to 2001. Between 2007 and 2025 he practised at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, serving as London Co-Managing Partner and Chair of European and Asian Litigation.

He graduated with double First Class Honours in Law from Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, holds a Master's degree from Cambridge, and an LL.M. from the University of London. Lord Goldsmith KC practised from Fountain Court between 1972 and 2001, specialising in commercial, corporate and international litigation, with a particular emphasis on appellate advocacy. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987 at the age of 37 and became Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales at 45. He has served as a Crown Court Recorder and Deputy High Court Judge. He has appeared in numerous leading cases before the UK Supreme Court, the House of Lords, the Privy Council and the Court of Appeal, as well as before the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice. He has also appeared before courts in overseas jurisdictions, including Singapore and the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Lord Goldsmith KC acts as counsel in arbitrations under all major institutional rules, including LCIA, ICC (where he co-chaired the Task Force on Arbitration Involving States and State Entities), SIAC, HKIAC, SCC and in ad hoc proceedings. He recently successfully represented an independent oil company in a claim exceeding US\$50 billion against a major oil company concerning pre-emption rights.

He also sits as arbitrator and accepts appointments as chair/president, sole arbitrator and party-appointed arbitrator under major institutional rules, including ICSID and ad hoc proceedings.

He has served as Vice Chair of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and currently sits on the Court of the International Arbitration Centre of Abu Dhabi (ArbitrateAD). He writes and speaks frequently on arbitration and public international law.

Lord Goldsmith KC was created a Life Peer in 1999 and appointed a Privy Counsellor in 2001. He served as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative in negotiating the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights. He is a Bencher of Gray's Inn and has been Visiting Professor of European Legal Studies at Columbia University, New York. He was the inaugural Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee, scrutinising and advising on the ratification of all new UK treaties.

He is registered as a Foreign Lawyer before the Singapore International Commercial Court and is admitted permanently in Belize (2010), the British Virgin Islands (2011), New South Wales (2010), Paris (1997) and Northern Ireland (2001). He has also been admitted on a case-specific basis in jurisdictions including St Kitts and Nevis, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and The Bahamas. He is included on the Delhi International Arbitration Centre's panel of arbitrators and in the international database of the Arbitration Center at the Institute of Modern Arbitration, Moscow.

Lord Goldsmith KC has long been committed to pro bono work and access to justice. He founded the Bar Pro Bono Unit (now Advocate), a nationwide charity providing free legal services by barristers, and established the Attorney General's Pro Bono Coordinating Committees. He was the first Chair of the Access to Justice Foundation and currently serves as Chair of LawWorks, the national solicitors' pro bono charity. He has received a Lifetime Award for Extraordinary Contribution to the Development of Pro Bono Culture in Europe.

He is ranked Band 1 by Chambers & Partners in its Global, European, Asia-Pacific and UK Guides for International Arbitration (General Commercial & Insurance), Public International Law and Commercial Dispute Resolution. Legal 500 recognises him as a leading individual for Corporate Crime and International Arbitration and recommends him for Commercial Litigation and Public International Law. He is featured in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame for International Arbitration and has been recognised by Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global for work in Belize, India, Africa and South-East Asia. He has been named a Global Elite Thought Leader for Arbitration by Lexology.

Lord Goldsmith KC has acted in matters of the highest sensitivity for Prime Ministers, Presidents, senior government officials, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals. He served as Attorney General for England and Wales and Advocate General for Northern Ireland for seven years, during which he had superintendence of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office, and developed substantial experience in white-collar crime and public law.

Recent Highlights

Lord Goldsmith KC represented the Republic of Korea in successfully defending a US\$218 million investor-state dispute (ISDS) claim brought by Schindler Holding AG before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); tribunal dismissed all claims, finding no breach of investment protection standards in relation to Hyundai Elevator.

Lord Goldsmith KC represented Hess in a high-profile arbitration against ExxonMobil and CNOOC, securing a decisive victory that enabled Chevron's \$53 billion acquisition of Hess to proceed – a transformative transaction in the global energy sector.

Expertise

Commercial

Reported Commercial cases

Caparo v. Dickman (House of Lords)

The leading case on auditors' liability and tortious damages for economic loss in which Lord Goldsmith acted for the successful appellant.

ADT v. Binder Hamlyn

At the time, this was the largest ever award of damages against auditors obtained for negligent advice given during the course of a takeover.

See also **Law Society v KPMG Peat Marwick;**

Mannesmann v. Goldman Sachs

A claim to exclude Goldman from the takeover of Mannesmann, which Lord Goldsmith successfully defended for Goldman Sachs

PJSC Tatneft v Bogolyubov & ors (Court of Appeal)

Strike out decision in major fraud claim successfully overturned.

Okpabi and others v Royal Dutch Shell (Supreme Court)

Liability of parent company for alleged environmental pollution by overseas subsidiary

Jalla and Another v Shell International Trading and Shipping Co limited (Supreme Court)

Alleged liability in nuisance for pollution; leading case on limitation.

McKillen v Misland (Cyprus) Investments Lrd and others (Court of Appeal)

Pre-emption and shareholder rights

Attorney General of the Cayman Islands v Wahr Hansen (Cayman Court of Appeal and Privy Council)

Whether an offshore trust was a valid charitable trust.

Public Law

Lord Goldsmith has had extensive experience arguing constitutional and public law cases before the English Courts and other common law courts overseas including in the Caribbean

Reported Public Law cases

R (Jackson and Others) v. Attorney General (court of Appeal and House of Lords)

The seminal constitutional law decision of the House of Lords regarding the power of the House of Commons to override the House of Lords in legislative matters under the Parliament Acts

Robinson v. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Others (Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland) and House of Lords

Acted for the Secretary of State (Northern Ireland) (). The case concerned the validity of the election of the First Minister and Deputy in the Northern Ireland Parliament

Zuniga & Others v. Government of Belize

A significant constitutional challenge to “anti-investor” legislation in Belize which breached international treaties, international laws on human rights, the rule of law and international principles of arbitration.

Public International Law

As well as extensive experience of investor state arbitrations his Public International Law experience includes appearing in the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Justice including for

Reported Public International Law cases

The State of Qatar and Qatari entities and individuals

In international claims arising out of the boycott by United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Egypt against Qatar, including twice prevailing in proceedings on provisional measures before the International Court of Justice under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Azerbaijan

In its dispute with Armenia in relation to Nagorno Karabakh

Human Rights

Reported Human Rights cases

The Center for Reproductive Rights (UK Supreme Court)

In its successful intervention in the UK Supreme Court concerning the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's challenge to Northern Ireland's criminal laws on abortion.

Saadi v. UK (European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber)

A case considering, inter alia, violations of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Rights Action Centre of Nigeria (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights)

In a claim seeking redress from the Nigerian government for the forcible eviction of 300,000 inhabitants from their homes from the Maroko township near Lagos

Commonwealth Lawyers Association, the Human Dignity Trust and the International Commission of Jurists (Supreme court of Belize)

In litigation successfully challenging the constitutionality of laws criminalising homosexuality in Belize, and assisting with a similar challenges in other common law countries

Hatton and Others v. the United Kingdom (European Court of Human Rights)

The complaint about night flights at Heathrow airport and whether they breached the ECHR

Kingdom of Spain v. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (European Court of Justice)

Concerning the right of Commonwealth citizens resident in Gibraltar to vote in European elections.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland v. European Parliament and Council of the European Union and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland v. European Parliament and Council of

Cases in the ECJ, both of which concern the proper legal basis for the exercise of legislative powers by the European institutions.

Private International Law

Reported Private International Law cases

Overseas Union Insurance v. New Hampshire Insurance (European Court of Justice and House of Lords)

Leading case on Brussels Convention and forum shopping.

Spiliada Maritime Corp. v. Cansulex (The Spiliada) (House of Lords)

The leading case in the House of Lords on forum non conveniens.

Sarrjo v Kuwait Investment Authority (House of Lords)

Leading case on the Brussels Convention and “related actions”.

Arbitration

Reported Arbitration cases

Lord Goldsmith KC represented the Republic of Korea in successfully defending a US\$218 million investor–state dispute (ISDS) claim brought by Schindler Holding AG before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); tribunal dismissed all claims, finding no breach of investment protection standards in relation to Hyundai Elevator.

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British Caribbean Bank Ltd v. Attorney-General of Belize (Caribbean court of Justice)

Decision of the Caribbean Court of Justice in proceedings successfully lifting an anti- arbitration injunction imposed by the courts of Belize in relation to an arbitration commenced under a Bilateral Investment Treaty

Geogas v Trammo Gas (“the Baleares”)

Ust-Kamenogorsk Hydropower Plant JSC v. AES Ust-Kamenogorsk Hydropower Plant LLP (UK Supreme Court)

A landmark arbitration appeal to determine whether the English Court had jurisdiction to grant an anti-suit injunction in circumstances where no arbitration is intended or in prospect.

BTL Employees' Trust

A shareholder in Belize Telemedia Limited, concerning the re-nationalisation without compensation of BTL and the amendment of the Belize Constitution to enshrine the nationalisations and to curtail the courts' power to protect fundamental rights, including the right to property.

Arbitration Matters

Details are generally confidential. Lord Goldsmith has dealt extensively with matters concerning most industries including particularly energy, commercial contracts, fraud cases and shareholder disputes.

White Collar

Reported White Collar cases

Rawlinson & Hunter v Central Criminal Court (Divisional Court)

In judicial review proceedings brought in respect of search warrants issued a relating to a Serious Fraud Office investigation into the collapse of Kaupthing Hf., an Icelandic bank

Commissioner of Police V Sanapareddy (Bermuda Court of Appeal)

Validity of search warrants

Directory Quotes

"a consummate advocate with brilliant command of detail and process" and "one of the best cross-examiners of all time and is unchallenged in that space"

"smooth, calm and collected" and "a phenomenal lawyer"

"a consummate advocate with brilliant command of detail and process" and "his power of analysis just scores the goal."

"one of the best advocates in the world" with a "first-rate mind"

"his insights are invaluable" and is "a real heavyweight in cross-border disputes"

"hugely impressive" and "a deep thinker and problem solver"

"has experience and gravitas; having him as counsel can have a significant difference" and "exceedingly intelligent and intuitive"

“a terrier and will fight to the death” and “a real superstar”

“it is a real pleasure to work with someone with such wisdom and experience”

International Bar / Court Appointments

Chairman of the Bar of England & Wales

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Access to Justice Foundation

Chairman of the Howard League Commission on Crime and Problem Gambling

Chairman of the International Agreements Committee (a Select Committee of the House of Lords)

Chairman of the Financial Reporting Review Panel (1997–2000)

Co-Chairman of the IBA’s Human Rights Institute (1998–2001)

Co-Chairman of the ICC Task Force on States and State Entities

Council Member of the International Bar Association (IBA)

Member of the Singapore International Commercial Court Committee

Fellow of the American Bar Foundation

Council Member of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)

Council Member of the International Section of the American Bar Association

Board Member of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

Member of the International Advisory Board of the Association of Caribbean Corporate Counsel

Member of the Independent Governance Committee of FIFA (a committee which considered corruption allegations concerning football’s governing body)

Nominated member of the P.R.I.M.E. Finance Panel of Experts

Languages

- French (fluent)
- German (conversational)



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