



# William O'Hara

Call 2024

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Will is developing a broad commercial practice across Chambers' core areas of expertise.

Will studied Classics and Law at the University of Cambridge, taking a starred first in Classics (with the highest mark in his year) and a first in Law. He then pursued postgraduate study in law at the University of Oxford, obtaining a distinction in the BCL and a distinction in his MPhil, alongside several academic prizes and scholarships.

Before coming to the Bar, Will taught law to undergraduate students at Oriel College, Oxford; volunteered as a FRU representative in the Employment Tribunal; and worked as a research assistant in insolvency law. His academic research is focussed on security rights and the use of equitable interests in commercial transactions.

## Recent Highlights

Assisting with an application for permission to appeal in a letter of credit dispute, raising issues of foreign illegality and the scope of the rule in *Ralli Bros* [1920] 2 KB 287 (during pupillage).

Assisting with a heavy cross-border bribery claim, raising complex issues as to the enforcement of foreign penal and public law (during pupillage).

Assisting with a complex company dispute, involving allegations of breach of directors' duties and claims for an account of profits (during pupillage).

Assisting with advice on the application of POCA 2002 to allegedly tainted supply chains following the Court of Appeal's judgment in *R (World Uyghur Congress) v National Crime Agency* [2024] EWCA Civ 715 (during pupillage).

Assisting with the defence of a claim brought by the victim of an APP fraud against a receiving bank (during pupillage).

# Expertise

## Administrative & Public Law

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### Notable Administrative & Public Law cases

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Assisting with a proposed judicial review of the policy and decision-making of a major UK industry regulator (during pupillage).

## Aviation & Travel

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### Notable Aviation & Travel cases

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#### **Air Europa Líneas Aéreas, S.A.U. v BOC Aviation Limited**

Assisting with a claim in restitution arising out of the non-delivery of commercial aircraft, raising complex issues of total failure of basis (during pupillage).

## Banking & Finance

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Will has a particular interest in the law of security, and in the use of equitable interests (including charges and trusts) in financial transactions.

### Notable Banking & Finance cases

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Assisting with the defence of a claim brought by the victim of an APP fraud against a receiving bank (during pupillage).

Assisting with the defence of a claim brought against a bank by an entity allegedly owned and controlled by sanctioned persons (during pupillage).

## Civil Fraud

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### Notable Civil Fraud cases

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Assisting with a claim brought by a company against its former director involving allegations of breach of directors' duties and claims for an account of profits (during pupillage).

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Assisting with a heavy cross-border bribery claim, raising complex issues as to the enforcement of foreign penal and public law (during pupillage).

## Commercial Crime

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Before coming to the Bar, Will taught criminal law to undergraduate students at Oriel College, Oxford. He retains a keen interest in the intersection of criminal and commercial law.

### Notable Commercial Crime cases

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Assisting with advice on the application of POCA 2002 to allegedly tainted supply chains following the Court of Appeal's judgment in *R (World Uyghur Congress) v National Crime Agency* [2024] EWCA Civ 715 (during pupillage).

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Assisting with research into the criminal disclosure regime (during pupillage).

## Commercial Disputes

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### Notable Commercial Disputes cases

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Assisting with a heavy cross-border bribery claim, raising complex issues as to the enforcement of foreign penal and public law, and the scope of Dicey Rule 20 (formerly Dicey Rule 3) (during pupillage).

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Assisting with an application to set aside or vary an English judgment enforcing a judgment of the US courts (during pupillage).

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Assisting with defence of a claim for anti-suit injunctive relief (during pupillage).

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Assisting with advice on the application of the Commercial Agents Regulations (during pupillage).

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Assisting with advice on potential claims under a warranty and indemnity policy arising out of the sale of an energy company (during pupillage).

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Assisting with advice on a cross-border dispute arising out of the sale and purchase of equipment for a gas-processing plant (during pupillage).

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Assisting with an application for permission to appeal in a letter of credit dispute, raising issues of foreign illegality and the scope of the rule in *Ralli Bros* [1920] 2 KB 287 (during pupillage).

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Assisting with the defence of a claim brought against a bank by an entity allegedly owned and controlled by sanctioned persons (during pupillage).

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Assisting with a heavy commercial dispute involving issues of ostensible authority (during pupillage).

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Assisting with advice on the scope and application of CPR 22 on statements of truth (during pupillage).

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Assisting with a potential application for security for costs in a dispute between parties to a joint venture agreement (during pupillage).

## Company, Restructuring & Insolvency

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### Notable Company, Restructuring & Insolvency cases

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Assisting with a complex company dispute, involving allegations of breach of directors' duties and claims for an account of profits (during pupillage).

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Assisting with a potential unfair prejudice petition, involving allegations of diversion of profits and business destruction (during pupillage).

## Construction, Energy & Infrastructure

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### Notable Construction, Energy & Infrastructure cases

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Assisting with advice on potential claims under a warranty and indemnity policy arising out of the sale of an energy company (during pupillage).

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Assisting with a cross-border dispute arising out of the sale and purchase of equipment for a gas-processing plant (during pupillage).

## Employment

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### Notable Employment cases

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Assisting with the privilege dimensions of a whistleblowing claim brought by a senior employee against his former employer (during pupillage).

## Group Litigation

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### Notable Group Litigation cases

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#### Pan NOx Emissions Litigation

Assisting with the defence of group litigation proceedings arising out of the sale and manufacture of diesel vehicles and alleging breach of EU emissions limits (during pupillage).

## Insurance & Reinsurance

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### Notable Insurance & Reinsurance cases

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Assisting with advice on a COVID-19 reinsurance dispute (during pupillage).

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Assisting with advice on potential claims under a warranty and indemnity policy arising out of the sale of an energy company (during pupillage).

## International Arbitration

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### Notable International Arbitration cases

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Assisting with drafting a potential application for security for costs in an LCIA arbitration (during pupillage).

## Privilege, Confidentiality & Conflicts of Interest

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### Notable Privilege, Confidentiality & Conflicts of Interest cases

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Assisting with the privilege dimensions of a whistleblowing claim brought by a senior employee against his former employer (during pupillage).

## Sanctions

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### Notable Sanctions cases

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Assisting with the defence of a claim brought against a bank by an entity allegedly owned and controlled by sanctioned persons (during pupillage).

## Education

- BA, Law and Classics (Churchill College, Cambridge): Starred First in Classics (Part IA); Double First in Law (Part IB and Part II)
- BCL (Mansfield College, Oxford): Distinction
- BTC (BPP University): Distinction
- MPhil (Exeter College, Oxford): Distinction

## Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

### University of Cambridge

- Henry Arthur Thompson Scholarship
- Hart-Marshall Prize in the Arts and Humanities
- College academic scholarship for performance in Tripos (renewed each year)

### University of Oxford

- Law Faculty Prizes in Advanced Property and Trusts and Constitutional Theory (for best performance in BCL exam papers)
- Clarendon Scholarship (full funding for MPhil research)
- Non-stipendiary lecturer in law at Oriel College, Oxford

### Middle Temple

- Jules Thorn Scholarship
- Certificate of Honour (for performance on BTC)

## Languages

Russian (advanced), French (advanced), German (basic).