


Christopher Birks


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Christopher is an associate in the Litigation and Arbitration team.

Christopher specialises in complex commercial disputes, often involving a cross-border element. He has experience with court applications in support of arbitration proceedings, as well as the enforcement of arbitral awards.

In addition to his contentious practice, Christopher has advised businesses on a range of commercial and regulatory issues.

Track record

Acting for an Italian company

Acting for an Italian company in ICSID arbitration proceedings against the Arab Republic of Egypt relating to a waste management project.

Acting for an Asian investor

Acting for an Asian investor in enforcing a high-value arbitral award against an African State.

Acted for a Belgian partnership

Acted for a Belgian partnership in defending an application in the Queen's Bench Division for a third party debt order in respect of several works of art.

Acted on behalf of an aircraft leasing group

Acted on behalf of an aircraft leasing group in a Commercial Court dispute with a Southeast Asian airline group arising out of the non-payment of sums due under various leases and guarantees. The claim involved connected insolvency proceedings before the Paris Commercial Court.

Acted on behalf of a contractor

Acted on behalf of a contractor in an eleven-party dispute in the Technology and Construction Court arising out of faulty electrical work in an industrial fire suppression system.

Acted for a manufacturer

Acted for a manufacturer in a high-value CIArb commercial arbitration involving connected proceedings in the United States.

Advised an Australasian aircraft maintenance company

Advised an Australasian aircraft maintenance company on the merits of an American contractual counterparty's invocation of a force majeure clause on the grounds of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions on international travel.

Defended a South American freight carrier

Defended a South American freight carrier in Circuit Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the degradation of perishable cargo in transit.

Seconded to aviation claims handling team

Seconded to the aviation claims handling team of a top insurance company.

Advised on the judicial sale of property

Advised on the scope and procedure for an application for judicial sale of property belonging to a West African government. Engaged with issues of bailment and sovereign immunity.

Acted for a syndicate of insurers

Acted for a syndicate of insurers in a Commercial Court coverage dispute arising out of damage to an aircraft engine.

Admissions

England & Wales, 2018

Education

University of St Andrews, MA (Hons) International Relations

King's College London, MA Intelligence & International Security

University of Law, Graduate Diploma in Law

University of Law, Legal Practice Course

Languages

English

French

Key dates

Year joined: 2022

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