

Christopher Coffin

CONSULTANT | LONDON, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

 christopher.coffin@withersworldwide.com



Christopher is a consultant in the litigation and arbitration team.

He is a commercial litigator with 30 years' experience of major and complex cases. He advises on commercial disputes ranging from derivatives disputes, loan recoveries, asset tracing and fraud to contentious insolvency. He has acted for many family offices, major international companies backed by high net worth individuals and private capital, banks and financial services organisations. Chris specialises in handling disputes relating to Ukraine and the CIS

He is a regular speaker at conferences in Moscow, St Petersburg, Baku, Almaty, Kiev and Yekaterinburg.

He has acted for and against many international banks, high net worth individuals, insurance companies and members of the legal profession including High Court judges.

TRACK RECORD

Representing the largest litigation funders of the Excalibur case in subsequent proceedings relating to their liability to the successful defendants and their subsequent claim against their former advisers.

Representing the sellers of a substantial stake in a publicly listed CIS natural resources company in defence of a fraud claim by the purchasers, which included complex issues of disclosure pursuant to freezing orders and search and seizure relief obtained by the claimants.

Representing a CIS client in long running High Court litigation concerning alleged loans and conspiracy.

Representing a Russian borrower in a high profile English High Court litigation with a Russian bank.

Coordinating litigation arising from a shareholder's dispute in Cyprus, Anguilla and Belize on behalf of Russian shareholders in a global financial business.

Advising a Russian owned Hong Kong company in a dispute over a success fee relating to the sale of shares.

Representing clients from Russia and Azerbaijan in confidential LCIA arbitrations.

Representing a Russian company in a dispute with a US company arising from a design and build contract.

Representing the BVI subsidiary of a large Russian mining company, in a dispute about a cargo of lead ingots held at the Russian port of Novorossiysk.

Representing a Russian owned BVI company in successfully obtaining judgment setting aside a company voluntary arrangement on the grounds of material irregularity on the basis that the contracts for the purchase of land in St Petersburg entered into between the debtor and alleged Russian vendors, which created the liability of value sufficient enough to pass the CVA, were shams.

Representing a publicly owned company in recovering the proceeds of a fraud perpetrated on it by its in house accountant. This involved obtaining urgent injunctions first in England and then in Cyprus to freeze the stolen money and then secure its return.

Representing an Italian bank in a dispute with a French bank arising from an equity basket option transaction.

Advising an Italian bank on set off issues arising from the failure of Lehman Brothers.

Representing five Italian banks in a jurisdictional challenge to the English courts based on the place where payment had to be made under a confirmed letter of credit.

Representing a hotel developer in a case against the project manager whose failings caused the half built hotel to have to be demolished.

Representing a Malaysian grain exporter in a dispute over quality with the purchaser.

Representing the former state owned Romanian oil import/export company in a high value complex arbitration.

Representing barristers in over 130 cases in which negligence has been alleged against them.

Representing a Chinese bank which successfully disputed the registration in England of a default judgment obtained against it in the Italian court.

Acting for the borrower in a dispute with a Russian bank relating to port terminals and other businesses involving issues of breach of contract and duty, duress and deceit.

Acting for a borrower in a dispute with a Russian bank relating to a share sale agreement by way of security.

Advising a borrower as to its rights against an arranger of a loan facility.

Acted for insurers, most notably the Bar Mutual in defending claims against barristers, and the Travelers Insurance group in defending claims against solicitors.

ADMISSIONS

■ British Virgin Islands, 2012

■ England and Wales, 1980

PUBLICATIONS

Speaker at English Law Week in Moscow in November 2015

Speaker at the ABA conference on Dispute Resolution in Moscow in September 2015

Speaker at the 7th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Yerevan, the 8th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Kiev, and the 9th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Vienna

Speaker at BALA conferences in Baku in April 2013 and June 2015

MEMBERSHIPS

■ Board member of the Committee of the British Azerbaijani Law Association

■ Committee member of the British Kazakh Law Association

- Russian and CIS Arbitration Network
- London Court of International Arbitration
- British Russian Law Association
- British Italian Law Association

TALKS

- English Law Week in Moscow - November 2015
- ABA conference on Dispute Resolution in Moscow - September 2015
- The 7th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Yerevan
- The 8th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Kiev
- The 9th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Vienna
- BALA conferences in Baku - April 2013 and June 2015

EDUCATION

Wadham College, Oxford, B.A. History

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

DATES

JOINED: 1995
PARTNER: 1995

RECOGNITION

0000 - Chambers UK Top Ranked	Chambers UK 2018 - Ranked in - Chris Coffin	2020 Legal 500 UK recommended lawyer	2020 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual
2019 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual	2019 Chambers Top Ranked UK Chris Coffin	2017 Legal 500 UK Recommended Lawyer	2017 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual
2017 Chambers Christopher Coffin	2016 Legal 500 UK - Recommended Lawyer	2016 Chambers UK - Leading individual	2015 Legal 500 UK - Recommended Lawyer
2015 Chambers UK - Ranked In Leading Individual	2014 Legal 500 UK Recommended Lawyer	2014 Chambers UK Leading individual	2013 Super Lawyers UK Recognized
2013 Legal 500 UK - Recommended Lawyer			

British Virgin Islands

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