



David Russell

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Areas of Practice

Litigation / Trial Practice | International Arbitration & Cross-Border Disputes | Aviation Litigation | Construction Dispute Resolution

David Russell helps businesses resolve high-stakes, complex and/or cross-border disputes. He has worked on some of England's most prominent commercial cases of recent years, and advises clients across the full lifecycle of English litigation and international commercial arbitration: from initial strategy and risk assessment through to alternative dispute resolution, trial and appeal. His practice spans breach of contract, civil fraud, product liability and defamation, across industries including financial services, insurance, media, automotive, aviation, property and construction.

David combines the courtroom authority of a practising English barrister with the strategic judgment of a former investment banker. Before law, he spent several years in corporate finance, and he continues to hold the Chartered Finance Analyst designation. He is therefore deeply familiar with deal structures and valuation methodologies, and adept at translating technical financial or accounting data into persuasive legal arguments. In short, he is especially effective for clients facing disputes where numbers tell the story, or where damages quantum is a key issue.

As a law student, David was awarded the Lincoln's Inn Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Hardwicke Entrance Award and Buchanan Prize, the University of Law Provost's Award for Excellence, and the City University Prize for Tort Law. He then served as Judicial Assistant to Sir Geoffrey Vos (Chancellor of the High Court) and completed pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings (a leading set of commercial chancery chambers). In both roles, he was exposed to cutting-edge issues in financial services litigation and the boundaries of legal professional privilege.

Representative Experience

- Represented claimant in ICC arbitration of c. \$5 billion dispute involving alleged consultant breach of contract and negligence under FIDIC-based agreement.

- Appeared as junior counsel for two of the defendants in *London Capital and Finance PLC & Ors v Thomson & Ors*, English High Court litigation concerning an alleged c. £240 million investment fraud (named a Top 20 Case of 2024 by *The Lawyer*).
- Appeared for engineering company in ICC arbitration against main contractor on construction project, with total claims and counterclaims exceeding £50 million.
- Acted for Qatar Airways in English High Court litigation against Airbus, worth more than £1 billion, regarding premature aircraft fleet degradation (named a Top 20 Case of 2023 by *The Lawyer*).
- Represented global trade finance fund in £15 million constructive trust and unjust enrichment claim in English High Court against counterparty to one of its borrowers.
- Acted for venture capital firm in LCIA arbitration proceedings regarding alleged breaches of investment agreement.
- Advised property development company on potential claims and counterclaims arising from joint venture agreement dispute.
- Defended multinational company against potential data breach claims following cyberattack.
- Defended national newspaper against defamation claim in English High Court, successfully negotiating settlement with claimant.
- Represented Dana UK Axle Limited in product liability claim against component supplier Freudenberg FST GmbH; secured exclusion of defendant's expert evidence and obtained judgment awarding client over £11 million plus indemnity for future losses.
- Defended multinational trade credit insurer against breach of contract claim in English High Court, bringing counterclaim for breach of duty of fair presentation under Insurance Act 2015.

Admissions

England

Wales

Languages

English, Spanish (Intermediate), French (Intermediate)

Recognitions

Lincoln's Inn Lord Mansfield Scholarship

Hardwicke Entrance Award

Buchanan Prize

University of Law Provost's Award for Excellence

City University / 1 Chancery Lane Prize for Tort Law

Education

Bar Professional Training Course, University of Law, London
Graduate Diploma in Law, City University, London, Distinction
B.A., University of Bristol, Modern Languages, First Class Honours

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
CFA Institute, CFA UK