

# Alexander Riddiford

Called to the Bar 2011

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Alex specialises in all aspects of domestic and cross-border insolvency and restructuring law (for which he is ranked in Chambers & Partners) and commercial litigation (for which he is ranked in Legal 500), both domestic and offshore. Alex was called to the Bar of the BVI in 2021.

Alex's cases often involve complex securitisation structures and structured finance issues. He also has a keen interest in the law of cryptoassets and cryptoasset recovery.

Recent domestic cases in which Alex has appeared include acting:

- unled for the successful Claimants in *Business Mortgage Finance 4 plc v Rizwan Hussain & Ors* [2021] EWHC 171 (Ch) (a decision of Miles J granting final injunctions restraining unlawful interference in various true-sale securitisations);
- as junior counsel led by Daniel Bayfield QC for the successful Claimants in *Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (in administration) v Exotix Partners LLP* [2019] EWHC 2380 (Ch) (a decision of Hildyard J concerning the construction and implication of terms in oral trades of Peruvian bonds);
- as junior counsel led by William Trower QC (now Mr Justice Trower) for the successful Claimants in *Business Mortgage Finance 6 Plc v Greencoat Investments Limited* [2019] EWHC 2128 (Ch) (a decision of Zacaroli J concerning, among other things, the construction of various terms of a securitisation's transaction documents);
- as junior counsel led by Tom Smith QC in *Business Mortgage Finance 6 Plc v Roundstone Technologies Limited* [2019] EWHC 2917 (Ch) (a decision of Nugee J concerning, among other things, the concept of ostensible authority in the context of a purported receivership); and
- unled for the successful Applicants in *Re Nortel Networks France SAS* [2019] EWHC 2447 (Ch) and [2019] EWHC 2778 (Ch) (applications seeking, among other things, Snowden J's approval of the Nortel administrators' remuneration); and
- as junior counsel led by Tom Smith QC for the successful Applicants in *Oyekoya v Target Servicing Limited* [2020] EWHC 1910 (Ch) (applications before Birss J for the strike-out of numerous sets of proceedings certified as "totally without merit").

Alex's recent experience also includes acting for a Cayman fund in very high-value arbitral proceedings seated in Hong Kong.

Alex was called to the Bar of the BVI in 2021. Alex's recent offshore work includes acting for the Defendants to high-value proceedings in the BVI.

Before joining South Square Alex gained a double first and a doctorate in Classics from Oxford University, becoming a lecturer at Magdalen College. As the sole winner of the Peter Taylor Scholarship for 2010/2011 Alex was the top Inner Temple scholar in his year.

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## Insolvency and Restructuring

- Acting in the Waterfall II litigation in the High Court ([2016] Bus LR 17; [2015] B.P.I.R. 1162; [2017] B.C.C. 1)
  - Acting in the Waterfall I litigation in the Court of Appeal ([2016] Ch 50)
  - Acting in the Waterfall III litigation on an application for directions in relation to a proposed settlement ([2017] All ER (D) 45 (Aug))
  - Acting for the joint administrators of various Nortel Group companies on their successful application for the Court's sanction of the Nortel Group global settlement which concerned the proper allocation of a US\$7.3 billion fund across the Nortel Group's entities worldwide (*Re Nortel Networks UK Ltd* [2017] Bus. L.R. 590) and again on their successful application for directions in relation to potential administration expense claims (*Re Nortel Networks UK Ltd* [2017] B.C.C. 325)
  - Winding-up petitions
  - Administration appointment and extension applications
  - Bankruptcy petitions
  - Applications to set aside statutory demands
  - Advising and acting for officeholders in professional negligence actions
  - Directions applications by insolvency officeholders
  - Applications for validation orders
  - Applications for the appointment of provisional liquidators
  - Preference/transaction at an undervalue applications
  - Advising in relation to domestic and cross-border insolvency/restructuring issues
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## Banking and Finance

- Acting for the claimants in an action by Class X noteholders under a commercial mortgage backed securitisation (*Hayfin Opal Luxco 3 SARL v Windermere VII CMBS Plc* [2016] EWHC 782 (Ch))
  - Instructed in relation to the preparation of expert evidence on English law in the New York proceedings *Libertyview Leverage Plus Fund v Barclays Bank*
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## Commercial Litigation and Arbitration

- Acting for the claimants in an action by Class X noteholders under a commercial mortgage backed securitisation (*Hayfin Opal Luxco 3 SARL v Windermere VII CMBS Plc* [2016] EWHC 782 (Ch))
  - Advising and drafting proceedings on behalf of a major multinational company seeking declaratory relief against a bank to prevent it paying out under calls on various Portuguese law governed guarantees
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## Offshore

- Junior counsel for the defendants in *Joan Nolan & Ors v Minerva Trust Company Ltd & Ors* [2014] JRC 078A, the leading Jersey dishonest assistance action
  - Regularly advising Jersey advocates on various commercial, insolvency and trust matters
  - Assisted with preparation for major Cayman litigation
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## Career

2011 Called to the Bar of England and Wales

2006-2009 Tutor and Lecturer in Greek literature at Magdalen College, Oxford University

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## Memberships

Commercial Bar Association

Chancery Bar Association

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## Publications

Regular Contributor to *International Corporate Rescue*

Contributor to *Corporate Rescue and Insolvency*

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## Education and Qualifications

2011 BPP, BPTC

2010 City University, GDL

2009 Magdalen College, Oxford University, DPhil Classics (thesis published by Oxford University Press)

2006 Magdalen College, Oxford University, MSt Classics, Distinction

2005 Magdalen College, Oxford University, BA (Hons) Classics with Sanskrit, Double First

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## Prizes and Scholarships

Peter Taylor Scholar (Inner Temple) [sole recipient of Inner Temple's top BPTC scholarship 2010/2011]

Princess Royal Scholar (Inner Temple) [one of four recipients of Inner Temple's top GDL scholarship 2009/2010]

Serle Court Prize for Equity and Trusts (City University, 2010)

MSt and DPhil studentships (AHRC, 2005-2009)  
Scholar (Magdalen College, Oxford University, 2003-2005)

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## **Interests**

Sanskrit and Bengali literature