

# Rory Brown KC

KC 2026, Called to the Bar 2009

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Rory has taken silk at just sixteen years call. He spent much of the last year in the trial of one of the Lawyer Top 20 cases of 2025. Rory acted as sole trial counsel for a group of four defendants in the action brought by Kuwaiti government organisation, the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) against its former late director general, multiple banks, funds, and financial intermediaries for US\$1 billion (plus interest). The trial was heard in the Commercial Court between mid-March 2025 to March 2026 and took up 133 court days and featured 13 KCs and multiple junior counsel from the leading London commercial sets.

Rory is ranked as a leading individual in the following categories across Chambers and Partners, Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners Global and High Net Worth: civil fraud, commercial chancery, insolvency, traditional chancery, and private client litigation.

Directory quotes from Rory's time as junior counsel include:

*"Rory has the advocacy skills of a silk. He is completely unflappable and deals with the most difficult points with poise and equanimity."*

*"Rory gets to the crux of a matter and identifies the issues that need to be addressed. His advocacy and cross examination for a witness are very impressive."*

*"His advice is invaluable in multi-faceted and complex cases. I find him extremely approachable and excellent at what he does."*

*"Rory is a natural advocate, measured, meticulous and ruthless. A brilliant cross examiner and super strong on the academic side of fraud. Particularly good at the fraud/insolvency cross over. He is often used on the tough cases because he can get results."*

*"An incredibly effective opponent with an impressive legal mind, who deals with the most difficult points smoothly."*

Rory has commercial-chancery practice focusing on litigation in South Square's core practice areas: insolvency and restructuring; commercial dispute resolution; and contentious trusts. His practice has a heavy emphasis on trials and appeals in civil fraud actions, in particular cross-border investment fraud, and asset recovery (including the full gamut of injunctive relief applications). As well as advising and representing clients in litigation at all levels in England and Wales, he has advised and represented clients in the courts of the DIFC and has also advised and assisted in substantial Bermuda, Jersey, and Hong Kong proceedings and arbitrations. For several years prior to taking silk, Rory commonly led counsel teams.

Rory regularly acts for clients across the following industry sectors: commodities, fashion, aviation, oil and gas, reinsurance, football, motor-racing, utilities, sustainable energy, banking, investment markets, and financial services.

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## INSOLVENCY & COMPANY

- **Grosvenor Property Developers Limited (in liquidation) v Portner Law Limited** [2026] EWHC (Ch) Solicitor dishonestly assisting in fraudulent breach of trust – dispute about quantum – defendant solicitor’s firm arguing Joint Liquidators, having recovered c. £10m into the estate from previous litigation, would double recover if defendant ordered to pay in respect of the £2.4m channelled through defendant firm’s client account.
- **Grosvenor Property Developers Limited (in liquidation) v Portner Law Limited** [2025] EWHC 2362 (Ch) Partner of defendant law firm found after four-day High Court trial to have dishonestly assisted in fraudulent misappropriation of £2.4m of the Claimant company’s money.
- Sole counsel for RSM administrators in their opposition to £47m fraud and sale at undervalue claim by company director/shareholder in respect of the sale of substantial estate in Scotland. Claim struck out with costs on the indemnity basis: **Re Killean Estate Limited** [2024] EWHC 3054 (Ch)
- Represented claimant (with co-counsel Tom St Quintin) in UK Supreme Court in two appeals heard over two days in case concerning rules of attribution (company directors), accessory liability in tort and in equity, accounts of profits: **Lifestyle v Ahmed** [2024] UKSC 17.
- Advised and represented claimant applicants in harassment action in High Court of Justice (KBD) for interim and permanent injunctive relief against former bankrupt. Respondent alleged to have made hundreds of telephone calls daily to RSM UK (leading audit, tax and consulting adviser) and its staff making threats of serious physical violence, including crucifixion, breaking legs, and driving his car into RSM UK offices. (**Punt & RSM UK Management v Ruocco** [2023] EWHC 2530 (KBD))
- Advised and represented Luxembourg lender in respect of purported billionaire’s application to set aside a statutory demand made on a personal guarantee of £25m in respect of borrowing of >£100m. Application dismissed. Bankruptcy Order (**Re Robert Lee Jack Bull** (2023)) ([bloomberg.com/news/...](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/...); [thetimes.co.uk/article/...](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/...))
- Applications to challenge construction company CVA; five day High Court trial (ChD); allegations of unfair prejudice to creditors, material irregularity in or relating to meeting, failures of nominee in relation to valuation of votes; insufficient information in CVA Proposal and unworkability of CVA: **Newlon Housing Trust and Peabody Construction Limited v Mizen Design/Build Limited & Brian Burke & otrs** [2023] EWHC 127 (Ch) (affirmed on appeal [2023] EWHC 973 (Ch))
- ChD; Insolvency; Trial of Annulment application; cross-examination; burden of proof on annulment application; Bankruptcy petitions; Centre of main interests; Creditors; Liquidated sums; Locus standi; Service; Subrogation; Unjust enrichment (**Dusoruth (A Bankrupt), Re** [2022] EWHC 2346 (Ch)).
- ChD; Trial; Bankrupt’s estate; Beneficial interests; Consideration; Insolvency; Maintenance agreements; Separation agreements; Transactions at an undervalue (**Jackson v Song** [2021] EWHC 1636 (Ch)).
- Chancery Division; Advertisements; Contract terms; Coronavirus; Guarantees; Interpretation; Share purchases; Winding-up petitions; Liquidated Debts (**PGH Investments Ltd, Re** [2021]

EWHC 533 (Ch))

- Committal for contempt; Directors' liabilities; Disclosure orders; False statements; Insolvency proceedings; Penal notices. Advised and represented the joint liquidators in four-day trial of satellite contempt proceedings (before HHJ Johns QC sitting as a single judge of the High Court (ChD)) arising out of the liquidation of a defrauded property development company, the court found Sanjiv Varma in contempt of court by making false statements, failing to disclose assets and failing to comply with court orders. His false statements intentionally and materially interfered with the course of justice and he had intentionally made it more difficult for the liquidators to obtain judgment for and to recover £millions paid to him (**Atkinson v Varma** [2020] EWHC 1868 (Ch)).
- Attribution; Compound interest; De facto directors; Debarring orders; Knowing receipt; Liquidation; Misappropriation; Shadow directors. Acted for the claimant liquidators in their claim against a de facto director and his UAE company. He was found after a three-day hearing in the High Court (ChD) to have misappropriated investors' money from the company in liquidation both directly and via another company he controlled. The de facto director and his company were liable to pay equitable compensation and compound interest on the money misappropriated in flagrant breach of fiduciary duty (**Re Grosvenor Property Developers Limited (in liquidation)** [2020] EWHC 1114 (Ch)).
- Adjournment; Committal for contempt; Disclosure; Dissolved companies; Failure to attend; Freezing orders; Ill health; Restoration, Retrospective validation of acts of dissolved Company s1032 Companies Act. Acted for the claimant liquidators in trial in the High Court (Mann J (ChD)) in satellite contempt proceedings arising out of the breach of an asset disclosure order in a freezing order (**Yuzu Hair and Beauty Ltd (In Liquidation) v Selvathiraviam** [2020] EWHC 1209 (Ch)).
- Acted for liquidators and former director of dissolved company - restored for fraud proceedings against former accountant - High Court committal trial (conducted remotely) - freezing injunction - breach of asset disclosure order - contumacious, deliberate and long-standing breach - 18 months imprisonment imposed - COVID-19 proofed court for sentencing (**Yuzu v Selvathiraviam** [2020] EWHC 1539 (Ch) and [2020] EWHC 1694 (Ch) (appeal by the contemnor dismissed with costs in the Court of Appeal))
- Represented the Defendant director in a three day trial in the High Court (ChD) of proceedings brought by the Secretary of State to disqualify him as a director for causing or allowing non-payment of taxes owed by the Company (**Ixoyc Anesis (2014) Ltd, Re, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy v Zannetou** [2019] BCC 404).
- Alleged fraud on business by accountant - freezing injunction - committal application - first ever case in which a freezing injunction and passport orders were granted to a non-entity, i.e. a prospective claimant with no legal personality by virtue of being a dissolved company (**Yuzu v Selvathiraviam** [2019] EWHC 772 (Ch) [2019] 2 B.C.L.C. 693).
- Advised and represented defendant in a £6m claim by liquidator on loan/charge which was compromised for £75,000 (inc. costs) after a part-heard trial (**C. Walden Finance v Saunders** (2019) unreported).
- Advising and representing foreign officeholders in respect of massive insolvency of captive Venezuelan insurance company - assets/claims in England and Wales worth hundreds of £billions -recognition application under the CBIR in respect of winding up in Supreme Court of

Bermuda (**Re PDV Insurance Company Ltd** (2019) unreported).

- Cross-border fraud in respect of £6.5m of investor money - committal application - application by defendant to discharge order restraining departure from UK - principles according to which alleged fraudster (domiciled in the UAE) restrained from leaving jurisdiction for months pending committal app. for breach of disclosure orders and false statements on oath. (**Re. Grosvenor Property Developers** [2019] EWHC 2466 (Ch)).
- Cross-border fraud in respect of £6.5m of investor money - Banker's Books orders - freezing injunction - application to cross-examine respondent - principles according to which court will order cross-examination on asset disclosure affidavit (**Re. Grosvenor Property Developers** [2019] EWHC 2054 (Ch)).
- Represented the petitioner in contested winding up petition in the Chancery Division of the High Court in respect of a petition debt of c £.1.5 million arising out of the breach of a personal guarantee given by a company in the context of a loan for a renewable energy project (**Bioconstruct v Northrn**, unreported, Case No. 3014 of 2017).
- Represented the Respondent to an application under s236 Insolvency Act 1986 in his application for costs of and incidental to representation at the private examination at which he was questioned in relation to an alleged cross-border fraud of US\$9.2 billion (**Re. Saad Investments Company, Akers v Hayley**, [2016] Lexis Citation 69; [2017] B.P.I.R. 1700).
- Advised and represented the appellants (at first instance and on first and second appeals) in a case arising out of a £14 million pound construction project. The case will be the leading authority on the definition of a liquidated debt for the purposes of the Insolvency Act 1986. (Led by Peter Shaw QC in the Court of Appeal) (**Doherty v Fannigan** [2016] B.P.I.R. 1377; **Fannigan v Doherty** [2017] B.P.I.R. 980).
- In the Chancery Division of the High Court, appeared for the liquidator respondents to an application by solicitors for costs of compliance with orders obtained by the liquidators for production of documents relating to an alleged international fraud of an estimated £500,000,000. The judgment seeks to reconcile conflicting High Court authorities on whether there is jurisdiction to award such costs and if so in what circumstances they will be awarded (**Re. Harvest Finance Ltd (No. 2)** [2014] EWHC 4237 (Ch); [2014] All ER (D) 216 (Dec)).
- Appeared for the liquidators in the Chancery Division of the High Court in their application against solicitors and their firm for disclosure of privileged documents. The Court, after considering the authorities and ordering disclosure, set out the appropriate test to be adopted where liquidators seek disclosure of confidential documents in the context of a large-scale, international fraud investigation (**Re. Harvest Finance Limited (No. 1)** [2013] BPIR 1020).
- Advised a trustee in bankruptcy of a company director in respect of a proof of debt in excess of £250 million submitted by a finance house and based on an issued but unlitigated antecedent claim against the bankrupt in, inter alia, deceit, fraud and conspiracy arising out of an alleged scheme involving multiple fictitious finance contracts.
- Appeared for the Defendant in the trial in the Chancery Division of the High Court of an application for a declaration a transaction was made with the intention of defrauding creditors. A pro bono costs award was made in favour of the Access to Justice Foundation in the sum of £7,500 (**Bibby ACF Limited v Agate** [2013] BPIR 685, ChD).
- Acted for the solicitors where the questions arose a) whether a defective statutory demand for unpaid solicitor's fees, being based on an unliquidated sum, could be cured by a later admission

prior to the bankruptcy petition by the debtor that said sum was due and owing, and b) whether a debtor having admitted the debt was estopped from arguing that the demand was defective as against the petitioner who had relied to its detriment on his admission (**Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP v Frohlich** [2012] BPIR 169).

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## COMMERCIAL LITIGATION AND CIVIL FRAUD

- Rory Brown acted as sole trial counsel for a group of four defendants in the action brought by Kuwaiti government organisation, the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS). PIFSS alleges that between 1995 and 2015 its former Director General received allegedly secret commissions worth c. US\$1 billion (plus interest). The trial in which the court received expert evidence and submissions on Kuwaiti, Swiss, and English law took up 133 court days between March 2025 and March 2026. PIFSS' claim was robustly defended by various groups of defendants. Rory was instructed by a team of solicitors at LK Law LLP. Judgment is reserved.
- **EJW Builders Limited & anr v Marshall & Otrs** [2025] EWHC 2765 (Ch) After a two-day trial, HHJ Matthews (sitting as a High Court Judge) dismisses Claimants' claim that a hotel redevelopment project was governed by an oral partnership/joint venture agreement, finding that, as the defendants, contended, it was governed by a signed written JCT intermediate works contract.
- **EJW Builders Limited v Marshall & Otrs** [2025] EWHC 2898 (Ch). Following the dismissal of the claim by the claimants (a construction company and its director) after a two-day trial (see [2025] EWHC 2765 (Ch)), pro bono costs order in sum of £117,000 made in favour of Access to Justice Foundation. HHJ Matthews (sitting as a High Court Judge) considered the continued relevance in 2026, in view of the changes in the legal services market and technological developments, of principles laid down in *Truscott v Truscott* [1998] 1 WLR 132, CA (also known as *Wraith v Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd*) in respect of the reasonableness of instructing "non-local" solicitors.
- Represented claimant (with co-counsel Tom St Quintin) in UK Supreme Court in two appeals heard over two days in case concerning rules of attribution (company directors), accessory liability in tort and in equity, accounts of profits: **Lifestyle v Ahmed** [2024] UKSC 17.
- Advised and represented Trustee in Bankruptcy of a bankrupt. Bankrupt arrested due to a port alert at Gatwick airport. Trial of contempt application based on alleged breaches of undertakings to provide information about assets. Bankrupt found to be in deliberate, contumacious breach. Bankrupt sentenced to 18 months in prison for his contempt. (**Armstrong v Carter** (2023), judgment published on judiciary website. [See judgment here](#))
- Advised and represented Luxembourg lender in respect of purported billionaire's application to set aside a statutory demand made on a personal guarantee of £25m in respect of borrowing of >£100m. Application dismissed. Bankruptcy Order (**Re Robert Lee Jack Bull** (2023)) ([bloomberg.com/news/...](#); [thetimes.co.uk/article/...](#))
- Loan contracts for ship salvage; whether claim compromised; whether consideration for

compromise; assignment, validity of; whether consideration required for equitable assignment; whether debtor may challenge assignment; collateral agreement; whether triable issues (***The Empress of Britain***, ***Frishmann v Vaxeal Holdings*** [2023] EWHC 2698)

- High Court of Justice, Commercial Court (KBD); contempt; breach of asset disclosure order; application to discharge sentence imposed *in absentia*; scope of r. 81.10 CPR; issue estoppel (***Jaldhi Mid-East v Al Ghurair & Anr*** [2023] 1 WLR 4509)
- Court of Appeal; Commercial contracts; Direct marketing; Enforcement; Independent contractors; Non-competition covenants; Restraint of trade; Restrictive covenants; Undertakings; (***Credico Marketing Ltd v Lambert*** [2022] EWCA Civ 864).
- QBD; Commercial contracts; Direct marketing; Enforcement; Independent contractors; Non-competition covenants; Restraint of trade; Restrictive covenants; Undertakings; Costs order to be made following decision of Court of Appeal significantly altering determination of who had succeeded at trial and the appropriateness of a costs order being made prior to a quantum hearing (***Credico Marketing Ltd v Lambert*** [2022] EWHC 2114).
- Chancery Division; Consent orders; Costs; Delay; Stay of proceedings; Striking out (***Catalyst Investment Group Ltd v Lewinsohn*** [2022] EWHC 522 (Ch))
- Anti-suit injunction; English proceedings; Utah proceedings; res judicata; estoppel by conduct; merger; exclusive jurisdiction clauses; linked contracts (***Bucher-Haefner v Lewinsohn*** [2022] EWHC 2080 (Ch))
- Appeal: Chancery Division; Restitution; Change of position; Good faith; Knowing receipt; Knowledge; Unjust enrichment; existence and scope of requirement to pursue litigation to reverse disenrichment (***Atkinson v Varma*** [2021] EWHC 2027 (Ch)).
- Instructed by Brandsmiths, advised and represented Sir Mohammed Muktar Jama Farah CBE in a private commercial matter.
- Cross-border fraud; misappropriation of company money; contempt of court; contumacious breach of freezing orders; false statements in evidence; fabrications; lying to the court on oath; proceeding in contemnor's absence. Leading Andrew Shipley also of 9 Stone Buildings represented Joint Liquidators in their application to commit Sanjiv Varma to prison for his contempts of court, Varma was sentenced to prison for 21 months (***Atkinson v Varma*** [2021] EWHC 592 (Ch)).
- Committal; Requirement of Intent; Disclosure Obligations; False Statements; Breach of Freezing Orders. Leading Andrew Shipley represented Joint Liquidators on contemnor's appeal to the Court of Appeal. The appeal was unanimously dismissed and indemnity costs ordered (***Varma v Atkinson*** [2020] EWCA Civ 1602, [2021] 2 W.L.R. 536)
- Contempt of court; False statements; Fresh evidence; Intention; Mental Element for Contempt; Knowledge; Misappropriation; Procedural irregularity. In a case determined by the Court of Appeal to be of public interest and legal significance, (with Andrew Shipley also of 9 Stone Buildings) advised and represented the respondent joint liquidators in appeal by defendant to the Court of Appeal against judgment finding him in multiple contempts of court (including breaches of freezing and asset disclosure orders and making false statements on oath about the fate of misappropriated company money) (***Atkinson v Varma*** [2020] EWCA Civ 1602).
- Advised and represented claimant in 7 day High Court trial – action on multi-million pound loan made by deed – biogas plant development – whether defendants estopped by convention from challenging validity of deed – defendants' witnesses breached judge's direction not to discuss

evidence – effect of contamination on weight to be attached to evidence (**Bioconstruct v Stevenson Renewables Ltd & anr** [2020] EWHC 0007 (QB)).

- Consent orders; Default judgments; Offer and acceptance; Signatures. Advised and represented the claimant in application before Mann J in the High Court (ChD) for judgment in case of fraud by accountant on its corporate principal. Court refusing to enter judgment based on alleged compromise because of absence of mirror between offer and acceptance but entering judgment based on findings of fraudulent breach of fiduciary duty (**Yuzu Hair and Beauty Ltd (In Liquidation) v Selvathiraviam** [2020] 10 WLUK 355).
- Defences; Delay; Extensions of time; Fraud; Liquidation; Litigants in person; Relief from sanctions; Unless orders. Advised and represented claimant liquidators on application in High Court (ChD) for relief from sanction debarring defendant from filing a defence. Court refused application. No good reason had been given for the applicant's failure to file a defence or his persistent failure to comply with court orders (**Re Grosvenor Property Developers (in liquidation)** [2019] EWHC 3915 (Ch)).
- Amendments; Deceit; Particulars of claim; Statements of case. Advised and represented the claimant in its application before Ellenbogen J in the High Court (QBD) to amend its pleading after trial of an action on an alleged guarantee based on case of deceit arising out of defendant's evidence in cross-examination at trial (**Bioconstruct v Stevenson Renewables Ltd & anr** [2020] EWHC 2390 (QB)).
- Multi-million pound cross-border dispute arising out of administration of collapse of mining companies in Sierra Leone; difficult very late application to adjourn a trial (within 10 days of commencement of trial) (**African Minerals Limited (In Administration) & otrs v Tio Trading Limited & otrs** (2019), QBD, Unreported)
- Led by Jeff Chapman QC, advising and representing a commercial agent utilities intermediary in its claim in the High Court against a utilities company and its directors for c. £25 million for unlawful termination of an agency agreement and breach of confidence involving the theft of a database (**GDM v Economy Energy & otrs** [2019] EWHC 507 (Ch), [2019] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 191).
- Represented appellant in Court of Appeal in case concerning test for certainty of contractual clauses **Openwork v Forte** [2018] EWCA Civ 783.
- Advising a commercial agent in his defence of a claim brought against him in the Hong Kong High Court in breach of fiduciary duty (secret profits) in relation to F1 and other motor-racing sponsorship agreements (**Craft Bamboo Holdings v Coleman & Mayfield Sports Management** HCA 2665/2017).
- Advised and represented applicant/defendant in contested application to set aside a default judgment obtained in CFI, DIFC – trial going to the same issues ongoing in the Royal Court of Jersey at the time the judgment was entered – applicant was unaware of claim and application for judgment – Jersey proceedings resolved in applicant's favour – res judicata (**Al Tamimi v Jorum Ltd & First Grade Ltd** [2017] CFI 028/2016 ([View decision](#))).
- Advised and represented the UAE-based Defendant Director/Shareholder and two Jersey Companies in proceedings in London, as well as actions in Jersey and the DIFC in relation to disputes, *inter alia*, about the true beneficial ownership in the Companies and whether or not the Claimant had made loans of several millions of pounds to the Companies. The proceedings involved multiple interlocutory applications including for freezing injunctions and an anti-suit

injunction to restrain foreign proceedings (see e.g. *Al Tamimi v Al Chaama & Otrs* [2017] JRC 033).

- Led by John Wardell QC advised and represented the appellant pharmaceutical company in its appeal to the Court of Appeal against the decision of Andrew Hochhauser QC (sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge) that the Court did not have jurisdiction to entertain a claim that the Defendants had unlawfully interfered with (alternatively conspired to injure) the appellant's business selling a probiotic food product (*Actial Farmaceutica LDA v De Simone* [2016] CLC 1020).
- Represented the applicant property developer in his application in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice to set aside a statutory demand presented in respect of an instalment payment of £2 million said to be due under a contract for the sale of shares in a corporate property development vehicle (*Doherty v Fannigan* [2016] EWHC 2098 (Ch)).
- Representing Saverio Moschillo, an Italian fashion mogul, in the context of his dispute with the English Fashion Designer John Richmond and related companies over the trademarks to the name John Richmond. The English proceedings are brought by Moschillo against liquidators of Akkurate Ltd in relation to their sale at secret auction of the Richmond trademarks worth £2.5 million.
- Represented Johnson Matthey PLC, a UK FTSE 100 chemical-engineering company, in the successful settlement of its £250,000 contractual claim against a Polish manufacturing company for unpaid sums in respect of obsolete parts in the context of an international car-manufacturing supply chain.
- Represented the Respondent, a banker who is a witness in respect of an alleged international fraud of an estimated US\$9.2 billion perpetrated against the Ahmad Hamad Algosaihi and Brothers Company, in a contested application for private examination in the High Court (*Akers v Hayley* [2015] EWHC 2447 (Ch)).
- Represented a large Cayman fund in proceedings in the Chancery Division of the High Court in its claim for payment of \$3,000,000 under a contract for shares (*Mittal v RP Explorer Fund* [2014] BPIR 1537 ChD).
- Represented estate agents at trial and in their appeal to the Court of Appeal - cancellation rights; consumer contracts; enforcement; statutory interpretation; applicability of regulations (*Gibbs Gillespie (A Partnership) v Sturch* [2014] EWCA Civ 392, [2014] ECC 31) ([View decision](#))
- In June 2014, represented Massimo Cellino's Leeds United FC in the Chancery Division of the High Court in respect of the winding up petition presented against it by Sport Capital Ltd in respect of an alleged debt of c. £1,000,000. (See [ITV - Leeds United winding up petition dismissed](#))
- In April 2014, acted for a Panamanian company - owned by a member of the Saudi Arabian Royal family - seeking the recovery of £16,000,000 held on trust by receivers, pending resolution of a claim by a third party (law firm) seeking to be declared a preferred creditor.
- In July 2011, represented for the prominent designer, Gnyuki Torimaru, in his contractual claim against an agent engaged to sell his valuable archive of dresses and sketches.
- Appeared (led by Treasury Counsel) in the Court of Appeal on the question of whether, notwithstanding the statutory invalidity of a wagering contract, a person entrusting money to an agent to bet on the horses might recover that money in a restitutionary action when the agent

misappropriates the money for his own purposes (*Close v Wilson* [2011] L.L.R. 453).

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## TRUST PROCEEDINGS AND PRIVATE CLIENT LITIGATION

- Contempt trial; deliberate breaches by trustees of orders to provide inventory and account of estates; indemnity costs orders (*Hughes v Morgan & Chidlow* [2024] EWHC 2132 (Ch)). [See judgment here.](#)
- Contested application for relief from sanction; breach of unless order; probate proceedings; failure to serve claim form within prescribed period; loss of right to propound will; solicitor carelessness (*Phipps v Goulbourne* [2024] EWHC 130 (Ch)).
- Advised beneficiary based in Oman in respect of removal of UK protector of Jersey Trust with multimillion pound portfolio of London property in circumstances in which there were concerns of breaches of fiduciary duty and mismanagement. Protector stepped down by consent (2021).
- Advising the Jersey trustees and trust companies of a multiple million pound portfolio of property in the UK in respect of a multi-million pound dispute with a managing agent and in respect of from whom the trustees can take instructions in circumstances in which the beneficiary of the trust is a nation state which is undergoing regime change (2022).
- Advising and representing the claimant in her Inheritance Act Claim launched in ChD of the HCt by cohabitant long-term partner of Felix Grovit (Dcd). Felix Grovit was in the *Sunday Times* Rich List for 2017 with a net worth of £480 million, having built up a business in money exchanges. There is a dispute about domicile and eligibility set down for a four-day trial in 2021. The estate is complicated because the Deceased's wealth was held behind trusts and companies and it is asserted it is insolvent (*Rate v Grovit* (2019-2020-) settled out of court).
- Advising and representing the representative and widow of executor/beneficiary of estate of Deceased who is one of 15 defendants to the claim brought in the ChD of the High Court of Justice. The claim is that the personal representatives including the Deceased defendant misapplied the estate of the Deceased (who died in 2015) by distributing the estate omitting to distribute part of it to the claimant (*Allerton v Cole & otrs* (2020-) settled out of court).
- Instructed in a dispute between two members of a middle eastern Royal Family (via various corporate and trust vehicles) in respect of the aborted charter of a superyacht. Instructed through trustees of the yacht-owning company (ultimately owned by high-ranking member of the Royal Family) to advise on international recovery strategy in relation to arbitral award of c. £900k (2020-).
- Heavily contested proprietary estoppel claim and contested probate dispute over a Cheshire Farm (which includes an airstrip) worth over £10 million, brought by eldest son of the Deceased (the farmer); advised and represented the widow and executrices (the widow and a district judge); mediation; injunctive relief applications; committal applications (*Scott v Scott* [2019] EWHC (ChD), unreported).
- Advised two princesses of a prominent Middle Eastern Royal Family in respect of charging order obtained (they said wrongfully) on two of their collection of properties in Kensington. The charging order had been obtained in telecommunications litigation with one of the princesses' husbands. It was imperative for the family to remove the charge and do so without reputational

damage.

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## DIRECTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Across the two major directories, Rory is ranked in Civil Fraud; Insolvency; Commercial Chancery; Traditional Chancery; and Private Client: Trusts and Probate.

He is consistently rated as a 'leading junior' in the Legal 500. Client and peer feedback includes:

- *"Rory has the advocacy skills of a silk. He is completely unflappable and deals with the most difficult points with poise and equanimity."*
- *"Rory gets to the crux of a matter and identifies the issues that need to be addressed. His advocacy and cross examination for a witness are very impressive."*
- *"Rory provides strategic and practical advice. He has excellent drafting and cross-examination skills."*
- *"Rory is a natural advocate, measured, meticulous and ruthless. A brilliant cross examiner and super strong on the academic side of fraud. Particularly good at the fraud/insolvency cross over. He is often used on the tough cases because he can get results."*
- *"Rory is a tenacious barrister who commands respect from clients and peers. He is very bright and carries excellent advocacy skills."*
- *"Rory is an excellent cross-examiner and a persuasive advocate with the rare gift of coupling those skills with the ability to deal with clients and solicitors on the level."*
- *"Is uniformly excellent across the board with client, in conference, on paper and on his feet in court. He exudes calm, is always well prepared and unlike many advocates he never falters."*
- *"Responsive, very knowledgeable and always gives pragmatic advice. Has an exceptionally sharp understanding of both the practical and legal aspects of running a fraud case - a true pleasure to work with."*
- *"Extremely measured in his delivery."*

Chambers and Partners also consistently ranks Rory as a 'leading barrister' in its Guide to the London Bar and in its High Net Worth Guide. The guides include the following commentary and feedback from clients and peers.

- *"His attention to detail is superb while his advocacy skills are also very strong."*
- *"He is a real star - very intelligent, very focused and very determined."*
- *"Rory has very impressive advocacy skills including fantastic cross-examination."*
- *"A very able advocate, who is always well prepared."*
- *"An incredibly effective opponent with an impressive legal mind, who deals with the most difficult points smoothly."*
- *"Very concise and clear thinking - he really cuts through the mess of a case and gets to the heart of it. A man with a strong personality, you really feel his charisma in court and in conference."*
- *"Rory has the advocacy skills of a silk. He is completely unflappable and deals with the most*

*difficult points with poise and equanimity."*

- *"Rory Brown is my barrister of choice, and is able to grasp and articulate the most complex of issues with relative ease."*
- *"Rory is experienced, very approachable and will roll his sleeves up."*
- *"Rory is proactive, commercial and good with clients. He is able to turn his hand to complex international matters."*
- *"A delightful opponent: he's a fierce advocate but a very nice person to work with and against."*
- *"A fantastic barrister, he's quick, personable and very proactive."*
- *"He is a force to be reckoned with, and his knowledge of the law is phenomenal."*
- *"His brain is the size of a planet, and his ability to remain calm when the rest of us are panicking is very impressive."*
- *"Extremely good at advancing his client interests"*
- *"A noted junior who is well versed in a wide range of insolvency disputes. He comes highly recommended for his handling of insolvencies arising from large-scale frauds and multi-jurisdictional matters."*
- *"Highly sought after for chancery matters with some cross-border or offshore aspect, and noted for his expertise in conflict of laws. He is recognised for his calm and practical approach and his dedication to his cases."*
- *"He is super commercial and very articulate in court. He gets the judge on his side very quickly."*
- *"He is extremely calm, a quality which rubs off on the clients - he's a great man to have in any room. He gives no-nonsense advice."*
- *"He is super commercial - he gets the point very quickly and is very articulate in court. He goes above and beyond."*
- *"He always provides very sound commercial advice and is technically excellent. He has a very good way with clients and instructing solicitors."*
- *"He is acknowledged for his ability to handle complex multiparty trust disputes."*
- *"His advice is invaluable in multi-faceted and complex cases. I find him extremely approachable and excellent at what he does."*
- *"He can deal with difficult and bullish clients very well."*
- *"He is exceptionally good."*
- *"He has a quick turnaround time."*
- *"He has a sound commercial mindset which clients appreciate."*
- *"He adopts a forceful approach when needed, but, equally, can be extremely diplomatic when the situation calls for it."*

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## **QUALIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

### **Education/Scholarship**

- Brown, *Fighting Monsters: British-American War-making and Law-making* (2011, Hart Publishing)

- 2009 - PhD (European University Institute) - Philosophy of Law and War
- 2008 - Founding Editor-in-Chief: *European Journal of Legal Studies* (<https://sites.eui.eu/european-journal-of-legal-studies>)
- 2006 - MRes (European University Institute, Italy) - European, Comparative and International Law
- 2004 - Mae (Cantab.) (Double First Class Hons.) - Law (including year at Regensburg University, Germany)

### **Prizes**

- 2007 - Visiting Scholarship (Columbia Law School, NYC)
- 2006 - Fully funded PhD Award, European University Institute
- 2004 - Foundational Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge
- 2004 - Russell Vick Prize
- 2003 - Major Inner Temple Award
- 2002 - Erasmus Scholarship

### **Memberships**

- Inner Temple Advocacy Trainer
- International Committee of the Bar Council
- British Italian Lawyers Association
- British German Jurists Association
- Inner Temple
- Bar Pro Bono Panel
- Chancery Bar Association
- Hawks Club
- Glanville Williams Society

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## **REGULATORY INFORMATION**

Rory Brown is an independent self-employed barrister registered with the Bar Standards Board of England (ref. no 56112); whose practice is governed by the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales which code can be found at [www.barstandardsboard.org.uk](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk); has full professional liability insurance provided by the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund Limited (ref BM 2930/060) (details of the world-wide cover are provided at [www.barmutual.co.uk](http://www.barmutual.co.uk)); is registered for VAT (reg. no. 998 9348 23).

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