



Robert Ward

Called: 2015

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Rob has developed a busy practice spanning the breadth of Chambers' practice areas including shipping, commercial disputes, international arbitration and aviation.

He has appeared as sole counsel in the High Court and County Court and as a junior in several high value matters.

Prior to joining Chambers, Rob was a judicial assistant to Lord Justice Longmore in the Court of Appeal and worked on a number of large commercial disputes such as **Banco Santander Totta SA v Companhia de Carris de Ferro de Lisboa SA** [2016] EWCA Civ 1267, in which the Court addressed the proper interpretation of Article 3 of the Rome Convention.

Rob has also completed a 3-month secondment at the Financial Conduct Authority in the Insurance and Pensions team of its in-house legal department.

Recent cases of note include:

- **The Stema Barge II** [2025] EWHC 73 (Admlty) (led by John Passmore KC) in which the Court considered the application of res judicata principles to claims made under the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims 1976.
- **Berytus Insurance & Reinsurance Company SAL v Golden Adventure Shipping SA** [2025] EWHC 664 (Comm) (led by Guy Blackwood KC) acting for the successful Claimant in resisting a challenge to the English Court's jurisdiction based on the proper interpretation of a non-exclusive jurisdiction clause.
- **Zephyrus Capital Aviation Partners 1D Limited v Fidelis Underwriting Limited** [2024] EWHC 734 (Comm) (led by Guy Blackwood KC and Tom Bird) acting for Defendant "All Risks" reinsurers contesting jurisdiction of the English Court in multi-billion dollar proceedings arising out of aviation insurance claims concerned with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- **Ukrainian Aircraft Operator Policy Claims (Jurisdiction Applications)** [2024] EWHC 1365 (Comm) (led by Chris Hancock KC) successfully challenging the jurisdiction of the English Court on the basis of exclusive jurisdiction clauses in favour of the courts of Ukraine.
- **Pan Ocean Co Ltd v Daelim Corp** [2023] EWHC 391 (Comm) (led by Michael Davey KC) successfully bringing an appeal under s69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 against the award of an LMAA Tribunal concerning off-hire for the failure of a vessel's cargo holds inspection.

Shipping

Shipping is one of Rob's core practice areas. He is regularly instructed on charterparty and bill of lading disputes in court proceedings and in arbitrations, particularly under LMAA Rules, and also has experience in relation to wet shipping matters such as collisions.

Examples include:

- **Pan Ocean Co Ltd v Daelim Corp** [2023] EWHC 391 (Comm) (led by Michael Davey KC) successfully bringing an appeal under s69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 against the award of an LMAA Tribunal concerning off-hire for the failure of a vessel's cargo holds inspection.
- **The Gravity Highway and The Maritime Maise** [2020] EWHC 1697 (Comm) (led by John Russell KC and Benjamin Coffey) resisting an application for strike out for alleged failure to provide further information in relation to a quantum claim arising out of a collision at sea.
- **Premier Marinas v The Double Venus and The Santorini** [2020] EWHC 2462 (Admlty) acting as sole counsel for the claimant marina in an admiralty in rem claim for unpaid berthing charges.

- Assisting John Kimbell KC in an application for a sale pendente lite
- Led by Michael Davey KC proceedings against a Harbour Authority for alleged negligent maintenance of a dry berth.
- Rob has advised on and drafted pleadings in a wide range of shipping matters including in relation to demurrage, deadfreight, bunker specification disputes, safe port warranties, cargo damage claims, off-hire claims and many others.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Rob has experience in commercial disputes in court and in arbitration. He has advised on and drafted pleadings in a number of contractual disputes and has assisted with a variety of procedural applications.

Examples include:

- **MAD Atelier International BV v Axel Manes** [2021] EWHC 3335: led by Stewart Chirnside and Jasbir Dhillon KC on behalf of the successful claimant in a four week civil fraud trial in the context of a joint venture agreement to develop an international restaurant brand. Sir Michael Burton GBE handed down judgment for the claimant in the sum of EUR 11,383,359.
- Working with Tom Bird on an ICC arbitration, defending a multi-million dollar claim for alleged wrongful termination of a pharmaceutical distributorship agreement.
- **Pinnacle International Freight Limited v K D & Jay Limited** [2021] Leicester County Court, acting as sole counsel for the claimant in a one-day trial for the recovery of demurrage fees incurred by a freight forwarder.
- **Walker Morris LLP v (1) Paul Dyson (2) James Wilson** [2020] Leeds County Court, acting as sole counsel in a one-day trial for the recovery of unpaid solicitors' fees.
- Acting as sole counsel in an ICC arbitration defending a pharmaceutical company under a supply agreement.
- Drafting submissions (alongside Natalie Moore) on the jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal under a settlement agreement. Assisting Henry Ellis on an application for an anti-suit injunction to restrain proceedings in Nigeria in breach of an arbitration clause.
- Acting in defence of a motor-home retailer in a £90,000 claim for rejection of goods.
- Acting and advising on a large range of procedural matters such as applications to set aside default judgments; applications for pre-action disclosure; European Enforcement Orders; charging orders; and issues relating to legal privilege.
- Rob has advised on and drafted pleadings in a wide range of commercial matters such as in relation to contracts for the provision of security services, IT services, recruitment agency contracts and claims arising out of the CMR Convention.

Insurance

Rob is currently acting for certain "All Risks" reinsurer Defendants in multi-billion dollar Operator Policy Claims arising out of the alleged loss of aircraft due to the Russia-Ukraine war. He has acted in two jurisdiction challenges in these proceedings: **Zephyrus Capital Aviation Partners 1D Limited v Fidelis Underwriting Limited** [2024] EWHC 734 (Comm) (led by Guy Blackwood KC and Tom Bird) and **Ukrainian Aircraft Operator Policy Claims (Jurisdiction Applications)** [2024] EWHC 1365 (Comm) (led by Chris Hancock KC).

He is also currently instructed in relation to several marine insurance disputes, led by Guy Blackwood KC.

Aviation & Travel

Rob has experience representing airlines in relation to claims under the Montreal Convention.

He has also acted in the County Court for a package holiday provider defending a claim under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

Rob is currently instructed (led by Guy Blackwood KC and Tom Bird) by reinsurers under aviation operator reinsurance policies in respect of claims by aircraft lessors arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Commodities & International Trade

Rob is developing his practice in this area of Chambers' work. He has drafted submissions in multiple GAFTA arbitrations.

He acted in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration (led by Paul Toms) concerning alleged repudiatory breaches of an international sale agreement for gasoil and gasoline.

Insolvency

Rob has appeared in a number of insolvency matters including bankruptcy petitions; contested winding-up applications; applications for the rectification of the register under the Companies Act; and has successfully resisted an application to set aside a statutory demand.

Gaming Law

Rob is developing a practice in a range of gaming disputes. He has acted in the defence of a number of online gambling operators, in which issues relating to the companies' regulatory obligations and their terms and conditions of use have arisen.

Rob has drafted defences in cases where fraudulent ID has been used to register accounts with gambling operators and claims where it has been alleged that gambling operators have failed in their regulatory duties to protect consumers from pathological behaviour.

Academic

Bar Professional Training Course: University of Law (2014-15)

Postgraduate: Trinity College, Oxford – BCL (2013-14)

Undergraduate: Worcester College, Oxford – BA in Jurisprudence (2010-13)

Awards

Undergraduate Scholar at Worcester College

Michael and Judith Beloff Scholarship

Fitzgerald Award, Middle Temple

Chancery Prize, University of Law

Publications

Bills of Sale, Dear IP, Issue No 69, September 2015 (co-written with Fan Yang)

Bills of Sale, Law Commission Report No 369