



Joseph Gourgey

Called: 2021

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Joseph has developed a busy practice across a number of Chambers' core areas including shipping, commodities and commercial disputes. He has regular experience as sole and junior counsel in both the Commercial Court and in arbitration. Joseph is ranked as a "Rising Star" in Shipping by Legal 500.

Recent case highlights include:

- Acting as sole counsel in the Commercial Court to successfully challenge an arbitral award under section 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (**Ducat Maritime Ltd v Lavender Shipmanagement Inc** [2022] EWHC 766 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel (with Simon Rainey KC and Natalie Moore) for the Claimant indemnity insurers in obtaining a final anti-suit injunction restraining proceedings brought in Sri Lanka by parties seeking to sue the insurer direct in respect of the actions of its insured (**The London Steam-Ship Owners' Mutual Insurance Association Ltd v Trico Maritime & Others** [2024] EWHC 884 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel in a two-week arbitration (led by John Russell KC) in a charterparty dispute arising out of the detention of a vessel in foreign waters; followed by a section 69 appeal in the Commercial Court regarding the scope of the Article IV.2(a) Hague Rules defence (**Mercuria Energy Trading Pte v Raphael Cotoner Investments Ltd** [2023] EWHC 2978 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by John Kimbell KC) in the Commercial Court in a \$14.4m aircraft lease agreement, concerning matters of breach of contract and unjust enrichment (**Olympic Council of Asia v Novans Jets LLP** [2022] EWHC 88 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gaurav Sharma) to successfully obtain summary judgment for the sale of 350,000 carbon credits (**Pact Capital AG v The Hut.com Ltd** [2023] 12 WLUK 116).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gemma Morgan) for the insurer in a two-week Commercial Court trial concerning refund guarantees under shipbuilding contracts worth €36.8m (**Havila v Abarca** [2022] EWHC 3196 (Comm)).
- Acting as counsel for the Charterers under four shipbuilding contracts and related bareboat charterparties in a \$90m two-week arbitration. Joseph gained experience cross-examining factual and expert witnesses.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gaurav Sharma) for the Claimant in a section 68 Arbitration Act 1996 challenge in a dispute concerning alleged sham sale and purchase agreements (**BPY v MXV** [2023] EWHC 82 (Comm)).
- Acting as sole counsel for disponent owners in a 5 day LMAA hearing concerning an unsafe berth.

What the directories say

- "Careful, diligent, with good judgement. Joseph is able to step into the breach to take over the lead in a complex multi-dispute case with no advance warning." (Legal 500, 2025)

Aviation

- Acting as junior counsel (led by John Kimbell KC) in the Commercial Court in a \$14.4m aircraft lease agreement, concerning matters of breach of contract and unjust enrichment (**Olympic Council of Asia v Novans Jets LLP** [2022] EWHC 88 (Comm)).
- Advising and drafting pleadings concerning claims arising out of the carriage of goods by air.
- Advising and drafting pleadings in personal injury claims brought under the Montreal Convention.

Commodities & International Trade

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gaurav Sharma) to successfully obtain summary judgment for the sale of 350,000 carbon credits (**Pact Capital AG v The Hut.com Ltd** [2023] 12 WLUK 116).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Ben Gardner) in an RSA Arbitration dispute concerning the sale of 1.1m tonnes of white refined sugar (settled on favourable terms shortly before the hearing).
- Regularly instructed in disputes arising out of oil and sugar sale contracts.
- Advising and drafting pleadings as sole counsel concerning claims arising out of the carriage of goods by air.
- Acting as junior counsel to successfully resist an appeal to a GAFTA Award pursuant to section 69 Arbitration Act 1996 concerning the Tribunal's assessment of damages.
- Acting as sole counsel in LCIA proceedings to successfully challenge the Tribunal's jurisdiction to a claim for USD 300,000 under a sugar contract..
- Regularly advising and drafting pleadings as sole and junior counsel in disputes concerning damage to cargo carried by sea.

International Arbitration

- Regularly instructed as sole and junior counsel to act in challenges and appeals to arbitration awards under sections 68 and 69 Arbitration Act 1996 (including **Ducat Maritime Ltd v Lavender Shipmanagement Inc** [2022] EWHC 766 (Comm)) as sole counsel; **BPY v MXV** [2023] EWHC 82 (Comm) and **Mercuria Energy Trading Pte v Raphael Cotoner Investments Ltd** [2023] EWHC 2978 (Comm) as junior counsel.
- Acting as sole counsel in LCIA proceedings to successfully challenge the Tribunal's jurisdiction to a claim for USD 300,000 under a sugar contract.
- Assisting with the successfully dismissing an arbitration challenge HKIAC terms in the High Court of Hong Kong.

Shipping

- Acting as sole counsel in the Commercial Court to successfully challenge an arbitral award arising out of a charterparty dispute under section 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (**Ducat Maritime Ltd v Lavender Shipmanagement Inc** [2022] EWHC 766 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel (with Simon Rainey KC and Natalie Moore) for the Claimant indemnity insurers in obtaining a final anti-suit injunction restraining proceedings brought in Sri Lanka by parties seeking to sue the insurer direct in respect of the actions of its insured (**The London Steam-Ship Owners' Mutual Insurance Association Ltd v Trico Maritime & Others** [2024] EWHC 884 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel in a two-week arbitration (led by John Russell KC) in a charterparty dispute arising out of the detention of a vessel in foreign waters; followed by a section 69 appeal in the Commercial Court regarding the scope of the Article IV.2(a) Hague Rules defence (**Mercuria Energy Trading Pte v Raphael Cotoner Investments Ltd** [2023] EWHC 2978 (Comm))
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gemma Morgan) for the insurer in a two-week Commercial Court trial concerning refund guarantees under shipbuilding contracts worth €36.8m (**Havila v Abarca** [2022] EWHC 3196 (Comm)).
- Acting as counsel for the Charterers under four shipbuilding contracts and related bareboat charterparties in a \$90m two-week arbitration. Joseph gained experience cross-examining factual and expert witnesses.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by John Kimbell KC) in a 5-day arbitration arising out of the alleged unseaworthiness of a vessel on delivery (settled on day 4 of the arbitration).
- Acting as junior counsel (with Simon Rainey KC and Peter Stevenson) in LMAA proceedings for the owners of a ro-ro vessel in a claim for USD 50m arising out of a fire on board the vessel during loading operations (settled before trial).
- X-Press Pearl Litigation: Acting as junior counsel for the owners of the X-Press Pearl in the limitation proceedings arising out of a fire on board the Vessel in May 2021.
- **MAERSK HONAM Litigation** (Ongoing): Instructed as junior counsel (led by Robert Thomas KC) in a dispute arising out of a containership fire on board the Maersk Honam in March 2018. This litigation includes a Limitation Action in the Admiralty court and a related LCIA Arbitration.
- Acting as sole counsel in a 5-day LMAA arbitration for the disponent owners in an unsafe berth claim worth approx. USD 8m.
- Drafting pleadings as sole counsel in a \$42 million demurrage claim
- Regularly instructed as sole counsel in LMAA proceedings including disputes concerning off-hire, unseaworthiness, safe ports, underperformance and cargo damage.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Gaurav Sharma) for the Claimant in a section 68 Arbitration Act 1996 challenge in a dispute concerning alleged sham sale and purchase agreements (**BPY v MXV** [2023] EWHC 82 (Comm)).
- Advised and drafted pleadings in a claim brought against directors of a housing company for breach of fiduciary duty
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Jeremy Richmond KC) in a claim for the delivery up of goods from a warehouse.
- Regularly Instructed as sole and junior counsel in claims concerning the Sale of Goods Act 1979.

Academic

2019-2020 – City University, London – Bar Professional Training Course: Outstanding

2018-2019 – Worcester College, Oxford – Bachelor in Civil Law (BCL) (Commercial Remedies; Restitution of Unjust Enrichment; Conflict of Laws; Principles of Civil Procedure)

2015-2018 – St Hilda's College, Oxford University

BA (Hons) in Jurisprudence: First Class (12th/213 in year)

1st Year Law Moderations: Distinction

Awards

Buchanan Prize (BPTC)

Lord Denning Scholarship (Lincolns Inn)

Reynolds Scholarship (BCL)

St Hilda's Law Network Prize (FHS in Jurisprudence)

Allen Scholarship (1st Year Law Moderations)