


Alfred Weiss

Call 2006



Clerks

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

 Nicole Luna
 0113 203 1975

 Luke Heywood
 0113 203 1970

Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown (2012)

Memberships

- North Eastern Circuit
- Employment Lawyers Association
- Northern Circuit Chancery Bar Association
- Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association

Education

- Churchill College, Cambridge – BA History (First Class, 2003)
- Churchill College, Cambridge – Mphil History (2004)
- Graduate Diploma in Law – The College of Law (Distinction, 2005)
- Bar Vocational Course – The College of Law (Very Competent, 2006)
- Lord Denning Scholar, Lincoln's Inn

Commercial

Alfred is a sought after advocate and advisor for litigation, arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution. He has a broad depth of expertise across the various causes of action that feature in commercial and commercial chancery litigation, but particular specialisms include:

- Commercial contract disputes in all guises, including breach of warranty disputes, franchise disputes, and claims for rectification
- Commercial fraud in all guises, including bribes and secret commissions
- Company law, including claims against directors
- Economic torts
- Employment related and/or business protection disputes involving issues concerning database rights, restrictive covenants, breach of confidentiality, fiduciary duties
- Limitation
- Partnership disputes
- Professional negligence claims, particularly involving solicitors and counsel
- Restitution/unjust enrichment
- Shareholder disputes, in particular s.994 petitions
- Urgent injunctive relief, such as freezing injunctions, proprietary injunctions, and injunctions to enforce restrictive covenants and/or restrain misuse of confidential information

His practice involves particularly complex and high value matters in the High Court and Court of Appeal, either as sole trial Counsel, or as a senior Junior to Leading Counsel. He is familiar with matters where there is a cross-border element. A substantial part of Alfred's practice concerns shareholder disputes; Alfred recently appeared in a six week trial of a s.994 Petition.

His client base is both domestic and international. He has appeared in a number of national and international arbitrations, including under the ICC Rules and the LCIA.

As to arbitration experience, he has represented domestic clients in arbitrations under the LCIA Rules, and international clients under the LCIA and ICC Rules. He is, for example, currently instructed in an international arbitration involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy, where the value of the claim runs into many hundreds of millions of dollars; and was also trial Counsel (with Leading Counsel) in an international arbitration involving a client incorporated in East Africa, where a multi-million award was obtained for the client. Alfred has also acted in High Court challenges to arbitration awards.

As an illustration of Alfred's practice, the following are examples of matters he has recently been or is currently instructed in:

- **Commercial contract.**
 - o \$20m breach of contract claim against parties domiciled in the UAE and BVI. Obtained judgment for the claimant.
 - o 3 day High Court trial in claim concerning a contract allegedly entered into without authority. Obtained a highly favourable result at trial.
 - o £1.8m claim concerning a manufacturing contract, turning on complex issues of interpretation.
 - o Substantial earn out dispute involving complex interplay between a suite of contractual documents raising difficult issues of interpretation.

- **Commercial fraud.**
 - o Trial advocate successfully defending a firm of property agents accused of inducing an investor to purchase a property using fraudulent misrepresentations.
 - o Obtained a freezing injunction against three defendants to a claim concerning a Ponzi style forex trading scheme, and obtained Norwich Pharmacal relief against a third party; with tracing issues.
 - o Obtained a freezing injunction against the defendant to a claim for a transaction at an undervalue.

o International arbitration resulting in multi-million dollar award, concerning alleged fraudulent misrepresentations made to the client of a listed company (with Leading Counsel). Case settled immediately before start of a high court challenge to the award on grounds of jurisdiction (complex argument concerning rival arbitration clauses) and conduct of the arbitration hearing.

- **Business protection and urgent injunctive relief.**

o Successfully obtained injunctive relief to prevent breach of covenants contained in an asset sale agreement (with Leading Counsel).

o Obtained springboard injunctive relief to prevent misuse of confidential information and breach of restrictive covenants by former employee acting in conjunction with new employer (with Leading Counsel). Case settled before speedy trial.

o Responding to injunction seeking to enforce terms of a shareholders agreement.

- **Company law and shareholder disputes.**

o Appeared for the majority shareholders in a six week trial of a s.994 Petition (with Leading Counsel). Case involved numerous allegations and expert evidence,

and was extremely document heavy. Case settled after trial but before judgment.

o Acted for the majority shareholder in a long running and highly contentious s.994 petition involving a company involved in the fast fashion industry (a well-known brand).

o Currently instructed on behalf of a 50% shareholder in a just and equitable winding up petition brought on grounds of functional deadlock.

- **Economic torts.**

o Instructed in a multi-million dollar international arbitration involving allegations of unlawful means conspiracy.

o Defending a multi-million pound unlawful means conspiracy claim brought by a bank against numerous individuals.

o Acting in various cases involving allegations of misuse of confidential information by former employees and directors as part of an unlawful means conspiracy with new employers.

- **Partnership disputes.**

o Farming partnership dispute. Appeared in High Court and in appeal to Court of Appeal concerning the application of interest under the Partnership Act (with Leading Counsel).

o Instructed in ongoing dissolution action concerning a family partnership.

- **Professional negligence.**

o Acting for the claimant in a claim against his corporate solicitors who were involved in the allegedly negligent drafting of, and failed to provide him with (allegedly) adequate advice in respect of an asset sale agreement. Obtained a favourable outcome by way of a negotiated settlement after proceedings were issued.

o Acting for the claimant in a claim against his conveyancing solicitors concerning a failure to make appropriate enquiries when a portfolio of commercial property was purchased. Case faced significant limitation issues but obtained a successful settlement following a strike out/summary judgment application that was successfully resisted.

Recommendations

“Alfred is very well liked by solicitors because he is responsive and very client-friendly. He is the go-to for commercial litigation.”

“Alfred is a real team player and speaks the client’s language. He can cut through the tricky issues while being practical and commercial.”

“Clients have complete confidence in Alfred. He explains the law in an easy-to-understand manner.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“His approach and delivery is always clinical, clear and to the point. A quick thinker.”

“Alfred provides practical, pragmatic and commercial advice and is excellent at cross-examination. Clients like him.”

The Legal 500 2025

“Alfred is good on his feet and is a good cross-examiner. He gets to the issues at the heart of the dispute.”

“Alfred is very calm, collected and cool under pressure.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“An advocate who remains composed and unflappable under fire. He is extremely sharp, builds warm rapport with clients and is well respected by the bench.”

“He is a robust and incisive advocate, an excellent communicator, approachable, and has deep understanding of the law. He asks the right question at the right time.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Very clever and a strong advocate. He knows where all the pieces fall into place.”

“Alfred is affable, confident with clients and a really good team player.”

“He has a really good pragmatic approach.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“His advocacy is very compelling. He carefully analyses a situation and communicates in a clear and concise manner.”

The Legal 500 2023

“He’s an extremely dependable barrister, a safe pair of hands and good with clients.”

“He’s a good all-rounder: good with clients, professional, but particularly, he is very bright.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“His cross-examination is excellent – he cut the claimant’s case off at the knees. He is also very reassuring with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“He is very friendly and approachable and is excellent with clients. He is an incredibly skilled advocate who can make his point succinctly but forcefully.” “His written opinions are superb and he is a very capable legal mind with very good subject knowledge.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“Concise, intelligent and good at cross-examination. He is also able to strike a rapport with clients and explain principles and processes in a straightforward, non-legalistic manner.” “His cross-examination is excellent and he is also very reassuring with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“Alfred is a very clear and concise barrister. Some Barristers will often tell you what you want to hear but Alfie does not do that. I have obtained written advice from him on commercial litigation matters which is exceptional.”

“Alfred is a good tactician and is well liked by the judiciary, who listen to him with attention. A very bright junior.”

The Legal 500, 2022

“Alfred is thorough, with an excellent attention to detail. He has an impressive courtroom presence and excellent advocacy skills. He is likeable and easy to work with. Clients really like him and I have had nothing but positive reports on him from them.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Very good in front of clients and in court.” “Can turn around even the most unlikely of cases.”

The Legal 500, 2020

“He has an excellent bedside manner with clients.” “He has amazing attention to detail.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“A highly knowledgeable barrister with a strong courtroom presence.”

The Legal 500, 2017

“I have instructed Alfie on a number of challenging professional negligence cases mostly involving Solicitors.

He demonstrates an incisive mind, able to identify areas of breach of duty and separate out issues of causation.

His style and approach is excellent and above all, he remains pragmatic and realistic, attributes which I believe are essential in this type of work.”

Andrew Greenwood, Director and Solicitor, Emsleys Solicitors

“Over the last few years I have instructed Alfie Weiss on numerous occasions. He has demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the law and provided an efficient service with soundly drafted paperwork. He has proved to be a combative advocate. I was particularly impressed with his recent assistance on a complex Multi-Track professional negligence case on which he was retained to assist the claimant”.

Nick Luty, Partner, Amstrong Luty Solicitors

Publications

The Blacklists Regulations, in *The Local Government Lawyer*, 6th April 2010

Beyond the Bar

Alfred spends his spare time with his wife and three young children, as well watching his football team as often as he can, and walking his dog.