

Giles Maynard-Connor KC

Call 1992 | Silk 2021



Clerks

 Nick Buckley
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 Ian Spencer
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Appointments

- QC (2021)
- Accredited Mediator
- Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel A) (2005 -2021)
- Government Legal Department Silks Panel

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- R3
- Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association
- Northern Chancery Bar Association

Education

- Lancaster University
- Inns of Court Law School

Insolvency

Giles is Head of the Insolvency team at Exchange Chambers. He is widely recognised as a robust, thorough advocate and an insolvency expert who has been consistently noted as a leader in his field.

Giles is the General Editor of Schaw Miller and Bailey on Personal Insolvency (6th Ed) and is highly regarded for his 'technical knowledge and commercial know-how' with a wealth of experience dealing with substantial insolvency litigation. Over the last 29 years he has appeared at all levels up to and including regular appearances in the Court of Appeal and even in the Supreme Court of the Seychelles and in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar.

He has a clear grasp of commercial issues and how best to overcome them. He works with his clients, favouring a team approach, particularly when faced with complex issues. With an in-depth understanding of the commercial world, he is adept at keeping his clients informed and aware of any issues that may arise at the earliest opportunity. Giles is a truly commercial litigator in terms of approach to his cases and his clients' interests and needs. He recognises the importance of achieving his clients' aims and objectives (whether at trial or through ADR) as quickly and as cost effectively as possible.

His practice has a particular emphasis on company and insolvency work (both contentious and non-contentious) including preference, misfeasance and other work for liquidators and other office holders including company administrations, corporate and individual voluntary arrangements and receivership problems, shareholder disputes, and individual bankruptcy work.

Before taking Silk, Giles was Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel A) and his work for the Secretary of State focused on contentious public interest winding up petitions, including the appointment of provisional liquidators and appropriate injunctive relief, and disqualification applications under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. In recent years Giles has successfully acted as the leading Counsel for the Secretary of State in what was then the largest public interest petition brought by Companies Investigations.

Giles has also appeared in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, where he successfully appealed against a decision of a liquidator of a foreign insurance company in order to confirm a substantial proof of debt based on a UK judgment; and has dealt with the high profile insolvency of the Redcar based steel business operated by SSI UK Ltd, now in liquidation and the actions and investigations of DBEIS following the collapse of BHS.

He has also represented over 300 claimants in a multi-million pound corporate fraud case in the Cayman Islands arising out of the CWM FX Ponzi scheme scandal.

Insolvency Cases

Ahmed and Others v Ingram and Others [2018] EWCA CIV 519

SSI UK Ltd v Hewden Stuart Ltd [2015] EWHC 2726 (Ch)

Secretary of State for Business Innovation & Skills v Pawson [2015] EWHC 2626 (Ch)

Overfinch Bespoke Vehicles Ltd (in Liquidation) v Freddie White as Liquidator of Lemma Europe Insurance Company Ltd [13/5/15] Gibraltar

Secretary of State v APW Asset Management Ltd [2015] All ER (D) 160 (Apr)

Secretary of State v Combined Maintenance Services Ltd (2015) LTL 7/1/15

Walker v. Turpin [1994] 1 WLR 196 (CA) (payments in);

Cloughton v. Charalambous [1998] BPIR 558 (bankruptcy – sale of land);

Davidson v Stanley [2005] BPIR 279;

Ultraframe v Fielding & Ors [2005] EWHC 1638 (Ch) (corporate fraud);

Meisels v Martin & Dawson [2005] EWHC 845 (ch) (creditors' proofs);

Northstar Systems Ltd & Ors v Fielding & Ors [2006] EWCA Civ 1660 (costs);

In The Matter of Brampton Manor (Leisure) Limited LTL 8/2/2006 (directors disqualification);

In the Matter of Lune Metal Products Ltd (in Administration)[2006] EWCA Civ 1720, 15/12/06 LTL.

Straker v Tudor Rose [2007] EWCA Civ 368 (Costs).

Recommendations

“Giles is very, very thorough, and his attention to detail is first rate.”

“Giles is technically excellent and one of the best advocates around.”

“Giles’s advice is super clear. He cuts through to the issue and is really good with clients as well. In hearings he is very good in court – very sharp, to the point and persuasive.”

“Giles is probably one of the best barristers in the Northern circuit for me. He is extremely thorough, and brilliant with clients.”

“Giles delivers great expertise and an exceptional commercial approach.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

‘Giles is at the top of his game. He is rightly viewed in the market as the KC of the moment, as he is a formidable advocate and passionate about every case he advocates.’

The Legal 500 2025

“Giles is excellent: very clear in his advice and strategic in his thinking.”

“Giles is effective”

“Giles is very clear in his advice and strategic in his thinking, and it is good to have him on board.”

“Absolutely superb across all elements of an instruction. Giles is totally focused on securing the best possible outcomes and everyone raises their game to meet his standards.”

“He is tactically very good and is able to read his way through difficult problems”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Giles is a heavyweight in the market. He is a clever, astute, and user-friendly commercial counsel, a team player, and he is a ferocious advocate with a winning mentality.’

The Legal 500 2024

“Giles Maynard-Connor is very good to work with.”

“Giles is a team player. His advocacy is excellent.”

“He is a very clear communicator.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

‘Excellent advocate with a great ability to get to the essential aspects of any case. Very good with clients, very commercial and extremely thorough in preparation.’

‘Giles is a heavyweight in the market. He is a clever, astute and user-friendly commercial counsel. A team player, he is a ferocious advocate with a winning mentality.’

The Legal 500 2023

“Giles is a superb advocate; he is really tenacious and is highly rated.” “He is very well prepared and good in court.”

“He’s tenacious and thorough.”

“He’s very strategic and a good advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“Giles is first class. One of the names solicitors have on speed dial for significant disputes.”

“Excellent advocate with a great ability to get to the essential aspects of any case. Very good with clients, very commercial and extremely thorough in preparation.”

The Legal 500 2022

“He is excellent with clients, and solicitors really rate his service levels.” “He is a very good advocate – aggressive when he needs to be and very confident when he speaks in court.” “Very detailed and thorough.”

“He’s always a great opponent because you know you’re going to be meeting the strongest case that can be met.” “Giles provides enthusiastic input and takes on a prominent team role – he is happy to roll his sleeves up.”

“He is thorough in his preparation, an excellent strategist, and an effortless advocate who is good at thinking on his feet.” “He is great with clients and rolls his sleeves up and gets stuck in.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“Giles is an exceptional advocate. I have now seen him on his feet numerous times and his advocacy is as good as any I have seen from any of the top silks at any of the leading sets. Giles tells you how it is. His advice is straight and to the point. He does not sit on the fence”

“Technically very able; clear and persuasive advocate; proactive, responsive and team focused. Drives cases forward and reads judges well.”

The Legal 500 2021

“He is tenacious and a very good cross-examiner.” “He is notable for his assertive courtroom presence and is always ready to take on cases that require those sorts of skills.”

“He has got a very good head for the commercial perspective on a case.” “He is very fair, concentrates on the issues and is very easy to deal with.”

“An excellent advocate who is very good at dealing with clients and gives strong commercial advice.” “He gives a very honest assessment of the case and he is not afraid to make the right judgement call.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“Pugnacious, great with clients and very hard working.”

The Legal 500 2020

“A master tactician.”

The Legal 500 2018/19

“I have worked with Giles for a number of years, and he is my first choice barrister for complex disputes. My clients always warm to him as he displays exceptional attention to detail and superb commercial awareness. On his feet, Giles is an extremely proficient advocate; and he is a great team player. I have no doubt that he will prove to be a great QC.”

Marc Yaffe Head of Commercial Litigation, JMW Solicitors LLP

“A fantastic advocate. Extremely bright and able to grasp the facts of the case quickly even when technically demanding. Tenacious. Commercially astute. Easy to work with and always impresses the client / business.”

Darren Hill, Head of Claims and Debt Recovery, United Utilities Legal Service

“I have known and used Giles over the last 10 years on a variety of high value and/or complex commercial disputes, including professional negligence, breach of contract and tort cases, and actions involving fraud. He has an insatiable appetite for work and will leave no stone unturned in his desire to do the best job possible for a client. At the same time, he is very much a team player and adopts a pragmatic, commercial approach to the matter at hand and never loses sight of the client’s stated goal.”

Steve Morris, Commercial Litigation Partner, JMW Solicitors LLP

“Highly experienced, good with clients and an excellent advocate.”

“Hard-working and tenacious.”

“He has a tenacious and enthusiastic approach to litigation and always impresses the client. He is very much a details man when it comes to preparation and is a pleasure to work with.”

“He is excellent with clients, manages expectations and is always prepared. He’s a skilled advocate and a good team player.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He’s exceptionally diligent, exhaustive in his preparation and an impressive trial advocate who receives high praise from clients.”

“He’s an excellent advocate, particularly when dissection of an opponent’s argument is required.”

“Ability is a prerequisite, but I have never known a harder-working and more responsive barrister who goes beyond what you expect.”

“He does not stand any nonsense and is extremely tenacious.”

“An excellent senior junior, he is exceptionally diligent and exhaustive in his preparations as well as an impressive trial advocate who receives high praise from clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“He is technically brilliant, aggressive when he needs be, and very commercially minded.”

“Time and time again, he achieves results beyond the clients’ expectations.”

“Technically brilliant, aggressive when he needs to be and commercially minded.”

“He provides well-considered, practical advice and is good with clients.”

“He is not only a technically strong barrister, but a commercial and tenacious advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“He is a robust, commercial advocate.” “He inspires a lot of confidence through his focus on the case at hand – you know he’s on top of absolutely everything.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“Very good on his feet and with clients alike.”
The Legal 500 2017

“A fantastic advocate, who is commercially astute and easy to work with.”
The Legal 500 2016

“In addition to his obvious technical ability, he has great commercial awareness.”
The Legal 500 2015

“Strong in company, insolvency and professional negligence matters.”
The Legal 500 2014

Beyond the Bar

Outside work Giles is a family man but in his spare time he enjoys running, F1, football and Rugby Union.