

Lisa Linklater KC

Call 1995 | Silk 2022



Clerks

 Nicole Luna
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 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

 Nick Buckley
 0161 817 2757

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Appointments

- King's Counsel (2022)
- Vice-Chair of the Northern Business and Property Bar Association (2023)
- Advisory Board of the Centre for Business Law and Practice at the University of Leeds Law School (member)
- Editorial Advisory Board of the Company Lawyer journal (published by Sweet & Maxwell) (member since 2010)
- Accredited Mediator (CEDR)
- Attorney General's Regional Panel of Counsel (2000 – 2018)

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Northern Business and Property Bar Association (Vice-Chair)
- R3 fellow (association of business recovery professionals) (full member)
- Insolvency Lawyers' Association

Commercial Fraud

Introduction

Lisa Linklater KC is a leading silk with a well established reputation nationally for her expertise, advocacy, advice and strategic excellence in cases involving commercial fraud, particularly in the context of corporate insolvency, shareholder disputes and tax fraud. She is Vice-chair of the Northern Business and Property Bar Association.

Recommendations

Lisa is recommended as a Band 1 silk by both Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2025 and Legal 500 UK Bar 2025, which recognise the strength of Lisa's skills in three practice areas: Commercial Dispute Resolution, Chancery and Insolvency and restructuring. Testimonials are in the recommendations section opposite. They recognise Lisa's many skills and personal qualities that have cemented her reputation in heavyweight and high profile cases in silk. The current legal directories note: *"Lisa is very capable with complex commercial litigation and is able to cut through complicated matters quickly. She is a pleasure to work with and is also great with clients", "Lisa is technically excellent" and "a formidable opponent"*.

Expertise

Lisa's practice in this area is high value, high profile (including attracting media attention) and legally and/or factually complex. Her practice in this field includes:

- Asset recovery and tracing;
- Breach of trust;
- Breaches of directors' duties;
- Cross-border issues;
- Knowing receipt;
- Dishonest assistance;

- (full member)
- The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- North Eastern Circuit

Education

- MA Cantab (Law), University of Cambridge (Jesus College)
- Inns of Court School of Law, London
- The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

- Unlawful means conspiracy;
- Emergency interim relief (including freezing orders, interim injunctions and proprietary injunctions);
- Transactions at an undervalue and defrauding creditors;
- Claims that documents have been forged;
- Legal professional privilege and the iniquity exception;
- Piercing the corporate veil;
- Deceit;
- Bribery;
- Undue influence and duress;
- Account of profits and equitable compensation;
- Sham transactions and
- Cases involving parallel or potential criminal proceedings, including Serious Fraud Office investigations.

Lisa gained considerable experience of heavyweight matters involving fraud from a very early stage in her career, having been appointed as Junior Counsel to the Crown on the prestigious Attorney General's Regional Panel of Counsel (civil) for three consecutive terms (18 years) prior to taking silk, regularly advising and representing the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and HM Revenue and Customs.

Experience, Skills and Personal Qualities

Lisa brings 30 years of experience in advising and representing a diverse range of companies, individuals, banks and other lenders, office holders of insolvent companies, Government departments, local authorities and other public sector bodies in this field of practice. She has significant experience in claims (for both Claimants and Defendants) involving multiple causes of action or parties, cross-border issues or a variety of strategic options. Lisa is adept in cases involving forensic accounting, digital forensics and other expert evidence.

Lisa is sensitive to the particular pressures on clients and legal teams in this field of practice. She is valued for leading and fostering positive, cohesive and collaborative teams to effectively advance clients' cases. She regularly leads legal teams that include lawyers specialist in the law and practice of different legal jurisdictions (recent examples include Jersey, Isle of Man, Scotland, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia) or complementary fields of practice, including criminal law and procedure.

Recent Experience and Highlights

Recent highlights of Lisa's practice in silk in commercial fraud include:

- Acting in the High Court in London for Defendant to very high profile, factually and legally complex alleged claim of £12m by company administrators. The claim is for alleged dishonest

assistance and knowing receipt of breach of trust and alleged breaches of directors' duties, relating to a share sale by the Defendant of his shares in the company. Lisa has collaborated closely with Jersey lawyers in respect of a freezing order obtained in the Royal Court of Jersey (2023 –).

- Acting in respect of very substantial property portfolio in claim involving allegations of sham within a family business (2023 –).
- Successfully acted for Petitioner in unfair prejudice petition under s994 of the Companies Act 2006 involving allegations of tax evasion in respect of a company in the hospitality sector in London (2021 onwards, case settled before trial listed in 2023).
- Successfully deflected threatened removal as a director of a company of client who was accused of tax evasion, securing important strategic success in bitter dispute between family members of a business in the leisure sector. Lisa acted in parallel with other silks in different fields of specialism (2022).
- Acting in claim for specific performance of shareholders' agreement, requiring shares to be transferred for nil consideration, including responding to claim that a shareholders' agreement has been forged (2022 – 2023)

Lisa's experience in commercial fraud before taking silk (all in the High Court) includes:

- Securing a favourable settlement for the defendants to a £5m misfeasance and transaction defrauding creditors claim, brought by the liquidators of an offshore partnership that had moved onshore (2018 – 2021).
- Acting in a shareholder dispute involving a company in the energy sector and the alleged misappropriation of over £2m by a director (2021).
- Successfully obtaining the withdrawal of an appeal against an assessment of over £1m in a complex MTIC tax fraud involving precedent legal issues and in which the fraud had taken place in Poland and Hungary (2016 – 2021).
- Successfully resisting an application to remove a trustee, alleged to have misappropriated trust funds, in the context of a factually and legally complex property dispute within a family spanning 40 years in respect of a property portfolio valued at c. £4m and alleged partnership, in which she led other Counsel (2020).
- Successfully obtaining settlement for Defendants to serious claims of knowing assistance, knowing receipt and related tracing claims, brought by a company registered in Gibraltar, acting by its liquidators, where the claims and costs were in excess of £1m (2017).
- Successfully defending injunctive relief proceedings brought by a major manufacturer of bed products that had purchased a portfolio of properties from administrators in a "fire sale" and obtaining favourable settlement of claim before trial. The claim centred on allegations of civil fraud and was related to the first modern slavery prosecution in England (2016).

- Successfully representing the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in winding up numerous companies in the public interest, including companies that had:
 - Acted as the trustee of pension funds of over £4m and yet could not clearly explain the application of those funds (2018).
 - Defrauded members of the public who had understood that the companies would engage in trading in binary options on their behalf (2017).
 - Falsely promised investors in the United Kingdom lucrative returns on alleged gold mining operations. The companies were registered in South and Central America (2015).
 - Successfully representing the Official Receiver in both the Crown Court and the High Court in connection with civil proceedings arising from a criminal investigation into the storage and sale of non-duty paid goods and associated money laundering activity (2015).

Further Expertise and Personal Qualities

Lisa is very widely published in her areas of specialism, as set out in the publications section above. She is regularly invited to chair or speak on topical legal developments in commercial fraud and related practice areas. In 2023 Lisa was chair of a prestigious panel of international experts at the 40th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime and in 2024 she chaired at the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Security Conference in Manchester.

Recommendations

Directories

Chambers and Partners UK Bar Guide 2025

Band 1 Leading Silk in Commercial Dispute Resolution

“Lisa is great at building rapport with clients. She’s absolutely great in helping steer a matter to a successful conclusion and she’s not afraid of taking the plunge when you have to be decisive.”

“Lisa is extremely good at unfair prejudice and shareholder disputes.”

“Lisa has got such an eye for detail and she is always challenging us on aspects of the case we might not have thought of. She really raises the game of everyone working with her.”

Band 1 Leading Silk in Chancery

“Lisa is very capable with complex commercial litigation and is able to cut through complicated matters quickly. She is a pleasure to work with and is also great with clients.”

“Lisa is very good on unfair prejudice petitions and shareholder disputes. She has got such an eye for detail, always challenging us on aspects of the case and raising the game of everyone around her.”

“She’s built up a national reputation in this area. Lisa isn’t fazed by the complexity or the value of matters. Her input is vital, she’s always considered.

Band 1 Leading Silk in Insolvency

“Lisa Linklater is an excellent barrister. She is very experienced and very well thought of. A formidable opponent.”

“Lisa is technically excellent. She always gives thoughtful and considered advice.”

Legal 500 UK Bar Guide 2025

Tier 1 Leading Silk in Company and Insolvency

‘Lisa is pragmatic, intelligent, and always calm and considered. She is able to provide commercial solutions to problems.’

Tier 1 Leading Silk in Commercial Dispute Resolution

‘Lisa is a tremendous barrister, who exudes a quiet but authoritative command of the details of the case. She is tenacious in battle.’

Chambers and Partners 2024 recommends Lisa as a Tier 1 silk in each of the practice areas of Commercial Dispute Resolution, Restructuring/Insolvency and Chancery and highlights her expertise and experience in shareholder disputes, insolvency litigation and directors’ duties.

Chambers and Partners 2024 (Chancery/Commercial Dispute Resolution/Restructuring/Insolvency – Tier 1)

“Lisa is top class, extremely knowledgeable and incredibly hard-working.”

“Lisa is very strong technically; she fights the clients’ corner, leaves no stone unturned and knows the law inside out. Her written work is excellent.”

“Lisa is personable, has a collaborative approach and is very technical.”

The Legal 500 2024 (Company and Insolvency/ Commercial Litigation – Tier 1)

‘Lisa is very thorough and is always well prepared. A proactive silk.’

‘Lisa’s knowledge of shareholder disputes and the law on unfair prejudice is outstanding. A strategically astute silk.’

Chambers and Partners 2023 (Commercial Dispute Resolution, Restructuring/Insolvency and Chancery)

“Lisa is scrupulous. She is hands-on in getting to know the client’s business.”

“Lisa is technically superb.”

“Very thorough and decisive.”

The Legal 500 2023 (Company and Insolvency)

‘Lisa is very responsive and incredibly academic – she researches her cases inside out. She gives clear, concise advice.’

The Legal 500 2022 (Tier 1 Company and Insolvency)

“Lisa is meticulous, very, very sharp, and has a wealth of knowledge. Always well prepared and an excellent advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2022 (Band 1 Commercial Dispute Resolution)

“Lisa Linklater has been excellent – she is very good with clients, and very measured and meticulous in her approach.”

“Lisa has been really collaborative and attentive.”

Chambers and Partners 2022 (Restructuring/Insolvency)

“Lisa is a highly academic and organised advocate who knows her cases inside out. She is always a pleasure to deal with and to instruct.”

Chambers and Partners 2021 (Chancery)

"You have to do your homework when you are against her."

"Her knowledge and expertise is first-rate."

Chambers and Partners 2021 (Restructuring/Insolvency)

"She has a very good eye for detail."

"Experienced and has the confidence of the court."

"She's good under pressure, diligent and very calm on her feet."

Chambers and Partners 2021 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She is very technically astute and I can see why she is well respected in the region for this sort of work."

"A very thorough and insightful analyst on the key issues."

The Legal 500 2021 (Tier 1 Company and Insolvency)

"Lisa is very academic and always researches her cases fully. She is always well prepared and her written submissions are always excellent demonstrating her knowledge of cases. Lisa is a great advocate and is very persuasive."

Chambers and Partners 2020 (Chancery)

"She is unflappable, extremely well prepared and an excellent advocate who is as strong on her feet as she is on paper."

"She is a very astute barrister with excellent commercial acumen. Her judgement is always spot-on and she is decisive in even the most complicated scenarios."

Chambers and Partners 2020 (Restructuring/Insolvency)

"She is brilliant technically, great on her feet and her written work is really good."

"Gets to the heart of the details and is very thorough. She really fights her client's corner and is dogged and robust in her approach."

The Legal 500 2020 (Tier 1 Company and Insolvency)

"Very highly-regarded both as a lawyer and as an advocate."

Chambers and Partners 2019

"She is knowledgeable, persuasive in court and excellent on complex legal problems."

"She is thorough, methodical and an excellent all-rounder."

The Legal 500 2018/19

"Imperturbable and impressive in court; a force to be reckoned with."

Testimonials

"It was a pleasure to work with Lisa, whose hard work 24/7, excellent advocacy and expertise throughout was an invaluable factor in achieving this outcome." Excello Law (2023)

"Lisa Linklater KC was incredible during all meetings and teams calls. Her vast amount of knowledge and confidence in the strength of our case was very reassuring. Her opening speech showed that she knew the case in depth and she knew exactly how to deliver her points firmly and in a strong and confident manner. Lisa was worth every single penny. She absolutely commanded the mediation and her confidence and knowledge were second to none." Mrs C (client in shareholder dispute)(2023)

"Lisa provided a great service and her insight into the case was very helpful. Her communication was always prompt." Mr B (client in shareholder dispute)(2023)

"I have retained Lisa on a number of complicated shareholder disputes. She is sharp, focussed and decisive and is able to navigate the most challenging legal and factual issues with aplomb. Lisa prepares thoroughly for hearings, ensuring all bases are covered, and her presentation of a case to court is both measured and highly effective."

Adam Maher, Partner, Head of Commercial Litigation, Myerson LLP (2022)

"Your strategy was perfect and delivered exactly the result the client was looking for" Joshua Briggs, Head of Dispute Resolution, Wilkin Chapman LLP (2022)

"Lisa is very much a team player. She is very diligent, unflappable and measured in her submissions" Stuart Frith, Partner – Restructuring and Insolvency, Stephenson Harwood LLP (2019)

"Your clarity of thinking and leadership was much appreciated" Insolvency Practitioner Client, 2019

“Thank you for your focussed and effective advocacy” Government lawyer, 2018

“I could not have asked for a better legal team than [solicitor’s firm] and Lisa Linklater” client following mediation, 2017

“This was a fantastic result” Managing director and commercial dispute resolution solicitor, 2016

“Your expert presentation of the case to the court was exceptional” Partner and head of Commercial Dispute Resolution Department following trial in 2016

Publications

Member of the editorial advisory board of “The Company Lawyer” (Sweet & Maxwell).

Restructuring Plans and HMRC: Recent Developments (R3 press, policy and research update, November 2023).

Shareholder Disputes: Unfair Prejudice Petitions and The Art of Share Valuation (Solicitors Journal, 2022) 165(9), 25 – 27.

“Directors’ Duties in Times of Change” (R3’s Recovery Newsletter, April 2022).

“Virgin Active and New Look: A new dawn for the rescue culture?” (Sweet & Maxwell’s Insolvency Intelligence 2021, 34(3), 55 – 57).

“Legal Professional Privilege: Breach of a Company Director’s Duties and the Iniquity Exception in Practice” (Feature article, LexisNexis Corporate Rescue & Insolvency Journal, December 2020, 13(6), 194 – 195).

“Changing Times: Aspects of Creditor Enforcement in Administration and the New Moratorium” (Sweet & Maxwell’s Insolvency Intelligence 2020, 33(3), 96 – 98).

“Furlough and Administration: When is a Contract of Employment ‘Adopted’?” (R3’s Recovery, Autumn 2020).

Co-author of “Rider, Alexander, Linklater & Bazley: Market Abuse and Insider Dealing” (2nd ed, Tottel Publishing).

Member of the editorial board of “The Company Lawyer” (Sweet & Maxwell) from 2001 – 2007, regularly contributing editorials on company, finance and insolvency topics.

Beyond the Bar

Music, golf, swimming and theatre. Lisa is fluent (conversational) in French and German.