

Alex Sciannaca

Partner
London

Biography

Alex Sciannaca has extensive experience of litigating complex and high value commercial disputes on a wide range of issues and for a variety of clients. As a Partner in our Financial Services Litigation team, he has advised major commercial institutions and ultra-high net-worth individuals in proceedings in the UK and abroad, both as claimant and defendant. He has particular experience of contractual and shareholder disputes, fraud, asset-tracing and recovery, and mis-selling claims and is known for his intelligent and practical application of the law to solve his clients' problems and help achieve their goals. Alex has a comprehensive knowledge of the interlocutory weapons available to the English courts, in particular freezing injunctions, search orders and third party disclosure orders.

He has an in-depth understanding of international contractual disputes including those arising out of the CIS, particularly Russia and Ukraine, and has developed a network of contacts in offshore jurisdictions such as Cyprus, BVI and Cayman to assist with the cross-border elements that are typical of those claims. Most notably, Alex advised BTA Bank of Kazakhstan in relation to its ground-breaking and successful US\$6bn claims against its rogue former chairman, Mukhtar Ablyazov, which included victory in the Supreme Court regarding the scope of the English freezing order regime. Alex also advises banks and other financial institutions in relation to their contentious regulatory matters and consumer claims.



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Languages

English

Practices

Litigation Services
Commercial Litigation
Banking and Finance Litigation
Insolvency Litigation

Industries

Financial Institutions

Areas of focus

Consumer Finance Litigation

He has many years of experience in dealing with disputes arising out of the financial markets and has a deep understanding of the challenges that currently face his clients' businesses.

Representative experience

Representing a Russian energy group in relation to a complex shareholder dispute involving assets in Ukraine and Russia.

Acting for BTA Bank in relation to a U.S.\$6bn fraud claim against its former chairman, Mukhtar Ablyazov, and his associates.

Advising a Swiss biotech company on a dispute with a clinical research organisation under an English law contract.

Acting for an international commodities trading house in relation to a loan default and subsequent enforcement in multiple jurisdictions including Brazil and the Cayman Islands.

Advising a major bank in relation to a review of its submissions to various financial benchmarks.

Acting for a European media company in relation to a joint venture dispute.

Advising a major bank in relation to a claim for mis-selling of an interest rate swap and related loan facility.

Advising a major international bank on potential regulatory and mis-selling issues in relation to the sale of Lehman-backed structured products.

Advising a regulated firm in relation to an FSA enforced review of its sales of sub-prime mortgages.

Acting for a life assurance company in relation to a claim against its Manager for negligent calculations made in connection with its with-profits fund.

Advising a life assurance company on a group action brought in the High Court by over 400 of its with-profits annuity policyholders.

Education and admissions

Education

B.A., University of Bristol

Acting on a claim against professional advisers for losses arising out of negligent advice given regarding changes to the status of its pension fund.

Acting for a major media group in relation to a dispute over payments under a Sale and Purchase Agreement, including advice on the resulting Umpire process and related jurisdiction issues.

Awards and rankings

- Commerical and Corporate Litigation: Tier 4, *Chambers UK*, 2018
- Litigation: Tier 6, *Chambers UK*, 2018
- Banking litigation: Tier 1, *Legal 500*, 2017
- Commercial litigation: Tier 1, *Legal 500*, 2017
- Litigation Team of the Year, *The Lawyer Awards*, 2013

Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells secures important victory for the London Metal Exchange
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - COVID-19: a checklist for dealing with contractual default and renegotiation
- Insights and Analysis
 - Settlement offers under Part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules