

Oliver Jones

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Outline

Oliver specialises in all aspects of commercial law, public and constitutional law, international law (including issues of State and diplomatic immunity) and sports law.

After graduating with the University Medal from the University of Sydney in 2006, Oliver spent almost 10 years at the Bar in London with Brick Court Chambers. There, he was recognised as a leading junior across a range of areas of expertise, and was consistently recommended by the leading directories.

Oliver relocated back to Sydney in 2019 but remains a Door Tenant of Brick Court Chambers in London and is also qualified to advise on questions of English law.

Selected directory listings

Oliver has been recognised as a leading junior, across a range of practice areas, by Who's Who Legal, Chambers & Partners (UK and Global) and Legal 500.

Some examples are below:

- "Oliver Jones is a well-recognised junior in the banking sphere who is highlighted by sources as "excellent at international litigation"". (Who's Who Legal - UK Bar: Banking & Finance 2019)
- "He's hard-working, highly intelligent and very easy to work with." (Chambers & Partners UK & Global 2019)
- "Outstanding, commercial, and goes above and beyond to help." (Legal 500 2018-19)
- "Has the intellect of a QC combined with the efficiency of a junior, and he's all over the materials... Ferociously hard-working and a man with tremendous analytical ability who is great to have on the team." (Chambers & Partners 2018)
- "A clever and hardworking junior, and an original thinker... Outstanding in his writing and one to watch for the future." (Legal 500 2017)
- "A rising star and also an excellent team player." (Legal 500 2016)

- In 2016, Oliver was ranked as one of the top ten commercial juniors at the UK Bar under eight years' call (Legal 500 2016)

Areas of expertise and selected cases at the London Bar

Commercial law:

- *HP and Autonomy v Michael Lynch and Sushovan Hussain* (2017, High Court): junior counsel (led by Richard Lissack QC and Simon Salzedo QC) for Sushovan Hussain. Mr Hussain is the former CFO of Autonomy, and is a defendant to a claim by HP that it overpaid in its acquisition of that company by US\$5 billion as a result of fraud and accounting irregularities overseen by Mr Hussain and the CEO, Michael Lynch.
- *Single Buoy Moorings v Zurich Insurance & Ors* (2017, High Court): junior counsel (led by Roger Masefield QC) for the Seventh Defendant insurer in a claim by SBM worth approximately US\$1 billion for the loss of an off-shore production platform in the North Sea.
- *Slater & Gordon v Watchstone* (2017, High Court): junior counsel (led by Simon Salzedo QC) in a £637 million claim by Slater & Gordon in relation to the acquisition of a personal injury litigation firm, Quindell Legal Services from Watchstone.
- *Begum v Hossain* [2015] EWCA Civ 717: counsel (unled) for a party to a share purchase agreement relating to the proper scope of an expert determination.
- *Deutsche Bank AG v Sebastian Holdings Inc* [2014] EWHC 2073 (Comm): led by David Railton QC, Tom Plewman QC and Simon Birt QC in a multi-billion dollar Commercial Court claim concerning foreign exchange and equities trading arising from the GFC.
- *Mutual Holdings (Bermuda) Limited & Ors v Diane Hendricks & Ors* [2013] UKPC 13 (Privy Council): instructed (led by Mark Howard QC) for the Appellants in an appeal against a finding that the renewal of a Bermudan reinsurance scheme had been procured by fraud.
- *Anar & Atrill v Dresdner Kleinwort & Commerzbank* [2013] EWCA Civ 394: instructed for the Defendant banks (led by Tom Linden QC and Martin Chamberlain QC) in a claim by bankers in relation to bonuses allegedly promised to them at the height of the credit crunch.

Administrative & public law:

- *Re Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018*: advising the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office on various aspects of (what became) the *Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018*, including in relation to the imposition of control orders and other restrictions on individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism.

- *Work v Gray* [2017] EWCA Civ 270: junior counsel (led by Maya Lester QC) for Ms Gray, in an appeal concerning the appropriate split of assets following Ms Gray’s divorce from Mr Work, and whether the doctrine of “special contribution” was discriminatory, contrary to Article 14 ECHR (when read with the right to property in Article 1 of Protocol 1) and should therefore be abolished.
- *R (on the application of Drax Power Ltd) v HM Treasury* [2016] EWCA Civ 1030 (Court of Appeal) and [2016] EWHC 228 (Admin) (Jay J): junior counsel (led by James Eadie QC) for Her Majesty’s Treasury, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs and the Department of Energy and Climate Change in a judicial review challenge to the decision of the Government to remove the Renewable Source Electricity Exemption to the Climate Change Levy in 2015.
- *Paulley v FirstGroup* [2017] UKSC 4; [2017] 1 WLR 423: junior counsel (led by Martin Chamberlain QC) for FirstGroup in a discrimination challenge by Mr Paulley to the wheelchair use policy on its buses under the Equality Act.
- *R (on the application of Lee-Hirons) v Secretary of State for Justice* [2016] UKSC 46; [2016] 3 WLR 590: junior counsel (led by Martin Chamberlain QC) for the Secretary of State for Justice in a claim by a mentally ill person for declarations and damages for unlawful detention.
- *Groupe Eurotunnel SA v Competition Commission* [2015] UKSC 75; [2016] 2 All ER 631: junior counsel (led by Marie Demetriou QC) in a challenge to the Commission’s decision that the acquisition by Eurotunnel of various assets from the liquidation of SeaFrance, which had operated Channel ferry services, constituted a “merger” and thus could be subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction.
- *Watts v Stewart & Ors* [2016] EWCA Civ 1247; [2017] 2 WLR 1107: counsel (unled) for the Secretary of State in relation to a claim for a declaration of incompatibility in respect of the exclusion of residents of almshouses from security of tenure on the basis that the exclusion was a breach of Article 14 ECHR.
- *Southward Housing Co-operative Ltd v Walker* [2015] EWHC 1615 (Ch): counsel (unled) for the Secretary of State in relation to a claim for a declaration of incompatibility in respect of the exclusion of residents of housing co-operatives from security of tenure, which was said to be a breach of Articles 8 and 14 ECHR.

Public international law:

- *The Law Debenture Trust Corporation plc v Ukraine, represented by the Minister of Finance acting upon the instructions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine* [2017] EWHC 655 (Comm) (first instance, Blair J) and [2018] EWCA Civ 2026; [2019] 2 WLR 655 (Court of Appeal): junior counsel (led by Mark Howard QC) in a US\$3 billion claim by the Trustee of certain Eurobond notes against the State of Ukraine. The Notes that are the subject of the claim are held by

the Russian Federation. Ukraine claims, amongst other things, that the Notes were beyond the authority of the Minister of Finance, procured by illegal threats by the Russian Federation to violate Ukraine's territorial integrity and impose trade sanctions and that it is entitled to refuse to pay the Notes pursuant to the international law principle of countermeasures. An appeal to the Supreme Court is due to be heard in late 2019.

- *Botas Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (Appellants) v Tepe Inşaat Sanayii AŞ* [2018] UKPC 31: junior counsel (led by Zachary Douglas QC) in a Privy Council appeal concerning the nexus between a State and assets owned by a State-owned corporation necessary to engage the State's immunity from execution, and the proper interpretation of the Privy Council's previous decision in *La Générale des Carrières et des Mines v F.G. Hemisphere Associates LLC* [2012] UKPC 27.
- *Belhaj v Straw* [2017] UKSC 3; [2017] A.C. 964: junior counsel (led by Martin Chamberlain QC) for JUSTICE, REDRESS, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists in a Supreme Court appeal concerning a claim relating to Mr Belhaj's alleged unlawful rendition to Libya, and torture, by US agents. The appeal considered the application of the principles of non-justiciability, act of State and State immunity in light of the alleged involvement of US, UK and other State security services.
- *Assuranceforeningen Gard Gjensidig v The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund* [2014] EWHC 3369 (Comm): appeared for the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (led by Jonathan Hirst QC), an international organisation headquartered in London, in a challenge to the jurisdiction of the English courts over the Fund on the basis of international organisation immunity.
- *R (Noor Khan) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs* [2014] EWCA Civ 24: junior counsel (led by Martin Chamberlain QC) for a family member of a victim of US drone strikes in Pakistan in a challenge to the legality of reported GCHQ involvement in those attacks. The claim raised issues of non-justiciability, act of State and State immunity.
- *Mid-East Sales v Pakistan* [2014] EWHC 1457 (Comm): appeared for Mid-East Sales (led by Hugo Page QC) in a claim relating to Pakistan's responsibility for debts arising from its nuclear weapons development programme, and whether Pakistan was entitled to invoke State immunity in respect of the claim.
- *SerVaas Incorporated v Rafidain Bank & Republic of Iraq & Ors* [2012] UKSC 40: appeared (led by Mark Howard QC) for the Republic of Iraq at all levels to resist an attempt by SerVaas to enforce a judgment of the Paris Commercial Court against Iraqi assets on the basis that those assets were immune from execution pursuant to the State Immunity Act 1978.

Sports law:

- *R (on the application of Gibraltar Betting & Gaming Association Ltd) v Revenue and Customs Commissioners* [2016] STC 151: junior counsel (led by Kieron Beal QC) for HMRC in relation to a challenge to an Act of Parliament imposing betting duty on providers of betting services operating from Gibraltar on the basis that this violated Article 56 TFEU, the freedom to provide services.
- *R (Gibraltar Betting & Gaming Association Ltd) v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport* [2014] EWHC 3236 (Admin): instructed for the Secretary of State (led by Kieron Beal QC) in a challenge to new licensing provisions in relation to remote betting operators.
- *R (British Horseracing Authority) v Horseracing Levy Board* [2013] EWCA Civ 487: acted (led by David Anderson QC) for Betfair (the Interested Party) (a challenge to the Board's decision to impose horseracing levy on customers of betting exchanges). The case considered the meaning of “bookmaker” in the relevant legislation.
- *R (Tottenham Hotspur Plc) v Olympic Park Legacy Company, the Mayor of London & Others* (Administrative Court): appeared (led by Martin Chamberlain QC) for the Mayor of London in relation to the challenge to the decision to award the lease of the Olympic Stadium to West Ham football club.

Education

2008-2009: Bar Vocational Course, City Law School, London, (1st in year, Outstanding).

2007-2008: Bachelor of Civil Law (Distinction), University of Oxford.

2001-2006: Bachelor of Laws (University Medal, Honours), University of Sydney.

2001-2004: Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Sydney.

Scholarships and Prizes

Lord Scarman Scholarship (City Law School).

Oxford University Press Prize for Advocacy and Civil Procedure (City Law School).

Student of the Year, Ede & Ravenscroft Wig and Gown Prize (Lincoln's Inn).

Lord Mansfield Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn).

Eastham Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn).

Buchanan Prize (Lincoln's Inn).

Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn).

Clarendon Scholarship (Oxford University).

Peter Cameron Sydney-Oxford Scholarship (Sydney University).

University Medal and prizes for 1st place in Contract Law, Advanced Contract Law, Equity and Trusts, Company Law and Legal Ethics (Sydney University).

Publications

Oliver Jones, "The Cliff Edge: Transitional Arrangements for Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments Post-Brexit", *Journal of International Banking and Financial Law* (April 2017).

Oliver Jones, "The return of the anti-suit injunction post-Brexit?", *CDR Magazine* (December 2016).

Oliver R Jones and Robert McCorquodale, "Sovereign Immunity from Enforcement of Debts", *Journal of International Banking and Financial Law*, 2012.

Oliver R Jones and Chido Dunn, "Supreme Court of Zimbabwe: Commercial Farmers Union et al v Minister of Laws & Rural Resettlement et al - Introductory Note" (2011) 50 *International Legal Materials* 653.

Oliver R Jones and Chido Dunn, "Legal Documents Relating to Land Reform in Zimbabwe" (2010) 49 *International Legal Materials* 1380.

Contributor to *Contract Law: Cases and Materials* (BPP Law School, 2010).

Oliver R Jones and Chido Dunn, "Consent, Forced Renegotiation and Expropriation in International Law" (2010) 26(3) *Arbitration International* 391.

Oliver R Jones, "State Responsibility for the Actions of Private Military Firms" (2009) 24 *Connecticut Journal of International Law* 239.

Oliver Jones "Australian constitutional guarantee of acquisition on just terms" [2009] 2 *Bulletin of International Legal Developments* 4.