



Alexander Halban

Call Date: 2009

Alexander acts in a wide range of civil and commercial matters, including in commercial, company, insolvency, property, professional negligence, personal injury and travel cases. He has wide experience of appearing in trials and applications in the High Court and county courts. He also undertakes public law and human rights work, including pro bono where appropriate.

Commercial and company law

Alexander appears in commercial, contractual, company and insolvency disputes in the High Court and county courts. He has been instructed in a number of High Court commercial and company law trials, led by Thomas Roe. These include cases concerning:

- the breach of a partnership agreement to operate an oil and gas pipeline contract for BP in Azerbaijan and Georgia, raising allegations of fraud and breach of trust (see *Barber and Jangra v Rasco and Rassouli*)
- the ownership of a series of a family companies, raising issues of trust breach of director's duties. He is also acting in this case in an ongoing appeal to the Court of Appeal
- a claim by liquidators against a director for alleged unlawful preference payments and breach of duty arising out of substantial PFI contracts

Public law and human rights

Alexander has a particular interest in public law and human rights. During pupillage and since taking tenancy in chambers, he assisted in a number of applications to the ECHR, including on the right to a fair trial from a high-profile libel case and a case concerning the right of access to the court for veterans allegedly injured in nuclear testing.

Before pupillage, he worked at the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), an NGO representing applicants from Russia at the European Court of Human Rights. He also worked as a research assistant to Professor Philip Leach on the third edition of his book, *Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights*. He continues to work on EHRAC cases pro bono, including recently on a case raising issues of the duty to investigate war crimes in international humanitarian and human rights law.

International and foreign law

Alexander has a strong interest in cases with an international element, particularly from Russia and the former Soviet Union. He speaks and reads Russian fluently and uses Russian in his practice, where possible.

Alexander has a good knowledge of conflicts of law, including the main EU instruments on jurisdiction and applicable law (the Brussels Regulation, the Rome I and II Regulations and the conventions which preceded them. He has co-authored, with Howard Stevens QC, a chapter on direct rights of action against insurers under EU private international law for forthcoming APIL Guide to Accidents Abroad.



Alexander has assisted with research, drafting and advice on constitutional, civil and criminal appeals to the Privy Council from a number of Caribbean jurisdictions.

Alexander has experience of other legal systems, having worked as a foreign law clerk to the President of the Supreme Court of Israel, Dorit Beinisch. In this role, he wrote memoranda on relevant English law to assist the Court with the comparative law sections of its judgments, including on constitutional, administrative, commercial and criminal law.

Lectures and Publications

Alexander contributes to chambers client bulletins and jointly edits the monthly chambers commercial law email update *The City Lawyer*. He regularly provides seminars to clients in his main areas of practice.

Recent articles include:

- 'Direct actions against insurers' (with Howard Stevens QC), for publication in the forthcoming *APIL Guide to Accidents Abroad*, ed. Sarah Crowther.
- 'A thing immediately good or a remote evil? Assignment of causes of action and security for costs' (with Richard Samuel), to be published in the forthcoming *Commercial Law* bulletin

Recent seminar topics include:

- 'Credit hire' (with Rowan Pennington-Benton), to a team of personal injury solicitors. (The hand-outs to the seminar are available for download [here](#)).
- 'Pitfalls in Costs Claims' (with Sara Ibrahim), to a team of personal injury solicitors. (The hand-outs to the seminar are available for download [here](#)).
- 'Injunctions and other interim remedies', to the Solicitors' Group commercial litigation conference, forthcoming, March 2013

Scholarships and Prizes

Queen Mother Scholarship (Middle Temple)

Alexander won second prize in *The Times Law Awards 2009* with an article entitled 'Should people in the public eye have a right to privacy?'

Qualifications

MA (Oxon) Modern History and Russian (First Class), St John's College, Oxford
Graduate Diploma in Law (Commendation), City Law School
Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding), City Law School

Languages

Russian (including study at the State University of St. Petersburg, Russia)

French