

**ADAM RUSSELL-KNEE**  
**Senior Associate, Commercial Litigation**  
**12 Years' PQE**



**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Nationality: British  
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**CAREER SYNOPSIS**

Attorney practising in commercial litigation; 12 years' PQE. Qualified as a solicitor of England and Wales in June 2010 and as a Cayman Islands attorney in April 2021. Highly motivated and ambitious. Considerable experience of substantial litigation and international arbitration. Advised on many aspects of dispute resolution from pre-action stage through to enforcement of judgments. Accustomed to working in high pressure, results-driven environments. Active business development.

**KEY SKILLS**

- Experienced in working both as part of a large team and in managing own cases.
- Drafted summonses and petitions in the Cayman Islands court on interlocutory matters and to commence new proceedings.
- Significant experience of preparing witness statements and expert evidence. Advised extensively on disclosure obligations, litigation strategy, jurisdiction, and on discrete points of law.
- Conducted without prejudice negotiations, conducted settlement meetings and mediations, often as sole legal representative. Advised extensively on settlement options.
- Prior experience in England of drafting applications for further information, specific disclosure, summary judgment and judgment in default.
- Regularly supervises junior fee earners, particularly in relation to preparing for hearings and on disclosure exercises.
- Currently developing network of key referrers of work, both in the Cayman Islands and abroad. Written articles for the Law Society Gazette and various trade magazines.

**EMPLOYMENT AT STUARTS WALKER HERSANT HUMPHRIES (SWHH): APRIL 2021 – PRESENT**

SWHH's Litigation and Insolvency team acts on a variety of commercial disputes acting for investment funds, directors and insolvency practitioners. The department is also regularly instructed by international law firms to provide advice on Cayman Islands law. Examples of my work include:

- Acting for a former company director and associated entities accused of deliberate breach of directors' duties, knowing receipt, dishonest and assistance and conspiracy to injure. The case settled shortly before a four-week trial:
  - Advised on potential limitation arguments in respect of amended claims.
  - Prepared instructions to Counsel to settle Amended Defence.
  - Liaised extensively with the clients' insurers and advised on coverage issues.
  - Assisted in dealing with specific disclosure requests and disclosure in respect of amended claims.
  - Extensive work on witness statements and on reports by experts in two fields.
  - Advised on strategy and settlement options.
  - Assisted in preparation for hearing in Court of Appeal regarding the award of security for costs.

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- Advising a former director of a Cayman Islands company in official liquidation on his potential liability under Cayman Islands law in respect of claims brought by a creditor of the company.
- Providing detailed advice on the interpretation of a Cayman Islands legislation that had been pleaded in legal proceedings in Guernsey.

**EMPLOYMENT AT BYRNE AND PARTNERS LLP: SEPTEMBER 2014 – MARCH 2021**

Byrne and Partners (now PCB Byrne) specialises in disputes involving civil fraud and white-collar crime and is particularly highly rated in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 in these areas. It is also highly rated for commercial litigation. My experience has included:

- Part of a large team defending a wealthy businessman against an African state in respect of allegations of fraud, bribery, abuse of a public position and making secret profits worth approximately US\$130 million. My involvement included:
  - Drafting inter-partes correspondence and liaising with team members and Counsel about issues arising from the correspondence.
  - Conduct of applications for security for costs, including a successful application for post-judgment security, which was the subject of an article I co-authored for the Law Society Gazette.
  - Considerable work on successful application to discharge a worldwide freezing order and subsequent work to discharge the freezing order in the DIFC, Singapore and the BVI.
  - Responsible for the preparation of evidence to support a claim under the cross-undertaking in damages.
  - Conduct of three topic areas in the substantive proceedings. This involved being responsible for disclosure and witness evidence in relation to these topic areas.
- LCIA arbitration proceedings for an African construction company against a State:
  - Had significant input in the preparation of the evidence for an ex-parte application for a worldwide freezing injunction over the State's assets for US\$39 million. Co-ordinated service of the freezing order on the State, various banks and related companies in four jurisdictions.
  - Responsibility for disclosure, including preparing keyword searches and supervised junior team members in first and second level review.
  - Proofed witnesses and drafted witness statements.
  - Had responsibility for preparation of foreign law expert evidence, including interviewing and vetting potential experts, preparing instructions and commenting on and amending draft reports.
  - Responsible for costs estimates to client.
- Acting for a hedge fund in a Commercial Court claim against a major investment bank in a US\$12 million Commercial Court claim:
  - Reviewed initial papers and advised on potential causes of action, areas for further investigation and quantum of claim.
  - Conducted substantial document review exercise of approximately 3,000 documents for initial merits advice. Assisted in drafting that advice.
  - Proofed witnesses for preparation of pleadings.
  - Coordinated preparation of case management documents.
  - Responsibility for disclosure searches, disclosure reports and oversaw first and second level review.
  - Assisted in vetting potential experts and drafted instructions to experts.

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- Drafted the position paper for the mediation and attended the (successful) mediation.
- Acting for an English commodities trader in a US\$20 million dispute with their insurer:
  - Reviewed papers and assisted partner in preparing initial advice and drafting Letter before Action.
  - Prepared instructions to counsel and provided input on pre-action correspondence, pleadings, witness evidence and expert evidence.
  - Advised on settlement options, drafted mediation position paper and attended mediation with client and leading counsel.

**EMPLOYMENT AT CLARKSLEGAL LLP: JUNE 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Dispute Resolution department at Clarkslegal is one of only two LDR departments in the Thames Valley to be rated as Band One in Chambers and the Legal 500. My role was divided between assisting the partners on larger cases running my own cases where it was more cost effective to have a junior fee earner with day-to-day conduct of the matter. My work included:

- **High Court Commercial Litigation** - Solicitor supporting Partner on a multi-million dollar cross-border dispute, following alleged repudiation of a ten-year exclusive distribution agreement for a new pharmaceutical product.
- **High Court Litigation and Interim Injunction** - Solicitor supporting Partner on team moves litigation involving successful application in High Court for interim and final injunctions, springboard relief, orders for delivery up and damages.
- **International Arbitration** - Solicitor supporting Partner on multi-million Euro commercial agency dispute that was subject to ad hoc arbitration proceedings.

**TRAINING CONTRACT AT BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP: MARCH 2007 – MARCH 2009**

Seats in the licensing (liquor, betting and gaming) department, corporate finance, commercial litigation and real estate departments.

**EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

**Queen Mary University: 2009-10**

- LLM in Comparative Dispute Resolution and International Arbitration with modules in International Arbitration, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws – (Merit – 67% average with distinctions in ADR and dissertation);
- Represented Queen Mary University at the ICC's 5<sup>th</sup> International Negotiation and Mediation Competition held in February 2010;
- Arbitration Award Writing exam – Distinction (86%).

**College of Law, Guildford: 2004-2006**

- Legal Practice Course (Pass) (Distinctions in three modules);
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law (Pass).

**University of Nottingham: 2001-2004**

- BA in History (2:1).

**OTHER INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Member of RISA in the Cayman Islands;
- Enjoys golf, sea swimming, pickleball, traveling and cooking.

**NOVEMBER 2022**