

Alfred Weiss

Call 2006



Clerks' Details

• Ian Spencer
0113 203 1971

• Nicole Luna
0113 203 1975

• Luke Heywood
0113 203 1970

Appointments

• Junior Counsel to the Crown (2012)

Memberships

• North Eastern Circuit
• Employment Lawyers Association
• Northern Circuit Chancery Bar Association
• Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association.

Education

• Churchill College, Cambridge
– BA History (First Class, 2003)
• Churchill College, Cambridge
– Mphil History (2004)
• Graduate Diploma in Law
– The College of Law (Distinction, 2005)
• Bar Vocational Course – The College of Law
(Very Competent, 2006)
• Lord Denning Scholar, Lincoln's Inn

Commercial CV

Overview

Alfred is a sought after advocate and advisor for litigation, arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution. He has a broad depth of expertise across the various causes of action that feature in commercial litigation, but particular specialisms include:

- Commercial contract disputes in all guises, including breach of warranty disputes, franchise disputes, and claims for rectification
- Commercial fraud in all guises, including bribes and secret commissions
- Company law, including claims against directors
- Economic torts
- Employment related and/or business protection disputes involving issues concerning database rights, restrictive covenants, breach of confidentiality, fiduciary duties
- Limitation
- Partnership disputes
- Professional negligence claims, particularly involving solicitors, counsel, accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors, and financial advisors
- Restitution/unjust enrichment
- Shareholder disputes, in particular s.994 petitions
- Urgent injunctive relief, including proprietary injunctions and freezing injunctions

His practice involves particularly complex and high value matters, either as sole trial Counsel, or as a senior Junior to Leading Counsel. He is often instructed on appellate matters where he has not appeared at first instance, in order to assist with his particular expertise. He has appeared and/or is currently instructed in a number of national and international arbitrations, including under the ICC Rules and the LCIA,

and is familiar with matters where there is a cross-border element.

As an illustration of Alfred's practice, the following are examples of matters he has recently been or is currently instructed in:

- **Commercial contract.** Currently instructed in various commercial contract and franchise disputes, including one recently settled matter (£5m claim) involving the construction of an agreement for the transfer of various insurance policies.
- **Commercial fraud, bribes, business protection and urgent injunctive relief.** Acted for the claimant in a claim concerning the receipt of bribes by a senior employee, who was also alleged to have diverted business away from his employer to a shadow company under his control. Successfully obtained a freezing injunction before a s.9 Judge, following which the case settled.
- **Company law.** Instructed in various claims against directors brought by assignees of the claims, often involving mixed causes of action either for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of creditors' duty, and Insolvency Act claims.
- **Economic torts.** Instructed as sole Counsel defending a multi-million pound unlawful means conspiracy claim against numerous individuals.
- **Limitation.** Recently appeared in a complex application in the High Court and obtained permission to substitute a party outside of the primary limitation period. Recently addressed numerous limitation arguments raised in the context of an international arbitration in a multi-million dollar misrepresentation claim brought under the ICC Rules.
- **Partnership disputes.** Instructed with leading Counsel in an ongoing appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the application of interest under the Partnership Act.
- **Professional negligence.** Instructed as trial Counsel in a claim concerning the negligent drafting of a clause in a share purchase agreement.
- **Restrictive covenants.** Recently instructed to advise a company facing allegations of procuring a breach of contract as an employee it had engaged was in breach of his restrictive covenants. In a separate matter, instructed to pursue breaches of restrictive covenants by a former director and employee now trading in unlawful competition following a share sale.
- **Restitution.** Acting for a land agent bringing a claim for breach of contract and/or restitution arising from when development land in respect of which he had been retained was sold to a developer but the principal failed to pay the commission, alleging repudiatory breach. Argued that notwithstanding the allegation of repudiatory breach, there would in law be a restitutionary entitlement to payment. Case successfully settled at mediation.
- **Secret commissions.** Advised energy brokers facing claims alleging payment of unlawful commissions.
- **Shareholder disputes.** Currently instructed in numerous multi-million pound s.994 petitions, both as sole advocate (including against Leading Counsel), and as a team with Leading Counsel, ranging from disputes involving a dental practice; a fast fashion brand; an industrial manufacturer; a care agency provider; industrial maintenance provider; a business engaged in demolition, haulage and contracting.

Recommendations

“Alfred is good on his feet and is a good cross-examiner. He gets to the issues at the heart of the dispute.”

“Alfred is very calm, collected and cool under pressure.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“An advocate who remains composed and unflappable under fire. He is extremely sharp, builds warm rapport with clients and is well respected by the bench.”

“He is a robust and incisive advocate, an excellent communicator, approachable, and has deep understanding of the law. He asks the right question at the right time.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Very clever and a strong advocate. He knows where all the pieces fall into place.”

“Alfred is affable, confident with clients and a really good team player.”

“He has a really good pragmatic approach.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“His advocacy is very compelling. He carefully analyses a situation and communicates in a clear and concise manner.”

The Legal 500 2023

“He’s an extremely dependable barrister, a safe pair of hands and good with clients.”

“He’s a good all-rounder: good with clients, professional, but particularly, he is very bright.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“His cross-examination is excellent – he cut the claimant’s case off at the knees. He is also very reassuring with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“He is very friendly and approachable and is excellent with clients. He is an incredibly skilled advocate who can make his point succinctly but forcefully.”

“His written opinions are superb and he is a very capable legal mind with very good subject knowledge.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“Concise, intelligent and good at cross-examination. He is also able to strike a rapport with clients and explain principles and processes in a straightforward, non-legalistic

manner.”

“His cross-examination is excellent and he is also very reassuring with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“Alfred is a very clear and concise barrister. Some Barristers will often tell you what you want to hear but Alfie does not do that. I have obtained written advice from him on commercial litigation matters which is exceptional.”

“He has an excellent courtroom presence and an ability to quickly focus on and understand the issues of the case, however complex.”

“Alfred is a good tactician and is well liked by the judiciary, who listen to him with attention. A very bright junior.”

The Legal 500, 2022

“Alfred is a very clear and concise barrister. Some Barristers will often tell you what you want to hear but Alfie does not do that. I have obtained written advice from him on commercial litigation matters which is exceptional.”

“Alfred is thorough, with an excellent attention to detail. He has an impressive courtroom presence and excellent advocacy skills. He is likeable and easy to work with. Clients really like him and I have had nothing but positive reports on him from them.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Very good in front of clients and in court.” “Can turn around even the most unlikely of cases.”

The Legal 500, 2020

“He has an excellent bedside manner with clients.” “He has amazing attention to detail.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“A highly knowledgeable barrister with a strong courtroom presence.”

The Legal 500, 2017

Cases

Examples of previous cases:

- Acting for the company defending a claim brought by a former director for c.£850,000 of unpaid bonus, that also raised issues concerning good leaver/bad leaver status and an associated dispute over shares.
- Acting for 5 former employees in the financial services industry who set up in competition and faced allegations of breach of restrictive covenants and unlawful means conspiracy. Against Leading Counsel.
- Acting for the applicant in combined proprietary and Mareva injunction concerning monies paid to a property broker and fraudulently retained.
- Acting for a football club to obtain an injunction to restrain presentation of a winding up petition brought by investor/shareholders.
- Acting for party claiming a declaration as to beneficial ownership of shares and an injunction excluding respondent from involvement in affairs of the company.
- Acting (as led junior) for the claimants in international arbitration concerning a development project in East Africa.
- Acting (as lead Counsel) for the defendants to claim for breach of restrictive covenants, fiduciary duty, breach of confidentiality, and conspiracy arising out of alleged unlawful use of former employer's confidential information.
- *IDMH Ltd v Barnes* [2021] acted on behalf of the applicant seeking urgent injunctive relief requiring that the respondent assign to the applicant control over an internet domain name.
- *MV Promotions v The Telegraph Media Group Ltd (1) and HMRC (2)* [2020] EWHC 1357 (Ch). Represented a former international cricketer, and now cricket commentator, in a claim for rectification involving difficult legal issues concerning the court's equitable discretion in a claim for rectification.
- *Re H v H* [2020]. Represented, as led Junior, the respondents in the trial of an unfair prejudice petition listed for 20 days. Case settled during the course of the trial.

Beyond the Bar

Alfred spends his spare time with his wife and three young children, as well watching his football team as often as he can, and walking his dog.