

Alistair McGregor QC

Called 1974

Appointed Queen's Counsel 1997

Alistair began his career at the Bar in a mixed common law set where he practised mostly criminal law, becoming a Junior Treasury Counsel to the Inland Revenue. At the end of 1981 he was a co-founder of 11KBW where he has practised exclusively in civil law.

In the early days of his new Chambers he was instructed in a very large number of anti-piracy cases for the audio and video industries and became a specialist in Anton Piller and Mareva Injunctions and contempt of Court work, appearing in these fields in CBS United Kingdom Ltd -v- Lambert [1983] Ch 37; EMI Records Ltd -v- Spillane [1984] 1 WLR 967; Ashtani -v- Kashi [1987] QB 888; Distribution Automotive Italia SpA -v- Holford General Trading Co Ltd [1985] 1 WLR 1066; General Nutrition -v- Patni [1984] FSR 403; Harrington -v- North London Polytechnic [1984] 1 WLR 1293; and more recently in Davy International Ltd -v- Tazzyman [1997] 1 WLR 1256; and Microsoft Corporation -v- Backslash Distribution and Others [1999] TLR 186 HC (CLD). In 1991 he prepared jointly with James Goudie Q.C. the evidence submitted by the Bar Council Law Reform Committee to the Nicholls/Staughton Committee on Anton Piller Orders.

At the same time Alistair began building a practice in employment law, partnership law and business protection law, including breaches of fiduciary duty and other directors' duties. He is regarded as one of the leading practitioners in the fields of restraint of trade, trade secrets/confidential information and related economic torts, appearing at first instance in Office Angels -v- Rainer O'Connor [1991] IRLR 214, in Hanover Insurance Brokers -v- Schapiro [1994] IRLR 82 C.A. and at first instance and in the Court of Appeal in Symbian Ltd -v- Christensen [2001] IRLR 77. Other cases in which he has appeared are Bourns Inc -v- Raychem Corp [2000] FSR 841 (C.A); Admiral Management Services Ltd -v- Para Protect Europe Ltd [2002] 1 WLR 2722; Cantor Fitzgerald International -v- Callaghan & Others [1999] 2 All ER 411 (C.A) and Goodchild -v- Chadwick (2002). In 2003 he was specially admitted to the Hong Kong Bar to conduct Deacons' lengthy and successful action against White & Case [2004] HKLR for breaches of fiduciary duty and restrictive covenants.

Alistair has appeared for Citigroup in a whistleblowing claim, and in 2008 successfully appeared for UBS in the High Court in UBS Wealth Management v Vestra and Others [2008] EWHC 1974. The Bank lost a team of around 70 employees to a start up competitor. The bank alleged that the employees had been poached and succeeded in obtaining an interim injunction that prevented the new employer from dealing with any of the customers of the division of the bank from which the employees had been taken.

In 2008 he also acted in Siemens v Paul Wurth the first case in which a springboard injunction was granted to prevent a prospective employer from offering to employ or employing staff of the Claimant who had been approached as a result of the prospective employer inducing the Claimant's directors to act in breach of duty by assisting a competitor to identify employees to approach.

He acted in an advisory capacity to ICAP in 2006 in respect of breaches of fiduciary duty arising out of substantial poaching raids by a rival inter dealer in Hong Kong, New South Wales and Singapore. He has advised many firms of Solicitors, Accountants and Estate Agents in England in relation to their partnership disputes in particular breaches of fiduciary duty and restrictive covenants. He has also advised the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange, in respect of breaches of directors' duties, the Government of the Cayman Islands, the Malaysian Bar Council, and on cases in Bermuda, Singapore and Barbados. He has appeared in arbitration in England and in Hong Kong as well as advising on a number of International Arbitrations. He appeared for the Secretary of State in Peak Viewing (Interactive) Ltd -v- Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport [2002] STC 1226. He also specialises in Industrial Action Ballots, recently appearing for ASDA against the GMB in 2006 and for the Claimant in Willerby Holiday Homes Ltd -v- UCATT [2004] EWHC 2608.

Alistair is co-author of the chapter on Restraint of Trade and Confidential Information in Tolley's Employment Handbook and is an Advanced Advocacy Trainer for the Middle Temple. He is consistently recommended as a leading employment QC in Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500.