

Jonathan Worboys

Call: 2010

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Jonathan is recognised as a leading junior, with a practice spanning all areas of public, commercial and international law. He is regularly instructed in high-profile and significant cases, often at the intersection of private, public and international areas of law. Jonathan has a particular focus on disputes with an international dimension. He has been nominated for 'International Law Junior of the year' previously at the Legal 500 Bar Awards.

Jonathan's clients are wide-ranging and include States (seven different States in the last eight years), UK Government departments (e.g. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Department for Business and Trade, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), businesses and multinational corporations, high-net worth individuals, NGOs, civil society groups and international organizations (multinational development banks and specialised agencies of international organizations). Jonathan appears as sole counsel and as part of a team before domestic and international courts and tribunals.



***Highly sought after
practitioner***

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan has experience acting in cases before a variety of courts and tribunals, including: all levels of the English courts (High Court; Court of Appeal; Supreme Court); the courts of British Overseas Territories; specialist domestic tribunals (Special Immigration Appeals Commission, Investigatory Powers Tribunal); international arbitration tribunals; the International Court of Justice; the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; the European Court of Human Rights; the International Criminal Court; internationalised tribunals such as the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. He also has experience working on cases before UN Special Procedures (UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; UN Special Rapporteurs; UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances) and the UN Human Rights Council (e.g. during Universal Periodic Reviews). He appears in a range of public, commercial and international law cases, including commercial judicial reviews, jurisdiction challenges and inter-State disputes.

Recent examples of Jonathan's practice include:

- *R (C3) v State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs* (Syria consular assistance and repatriation; applicability of Article 6 ECHR to consular decisions; acting for the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs);
- *R (Al-Haq) v Secretary of State for Business and Trade* (exports in the Gaza conflict, the Lawyer Top 20 Cases 2025; acting for the Secretary of State for Business and Trade);
- *R (FTDIHL Holdings Limited) v Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* (divestment under the National Security and Investment Act 2021);
- *Ferguson and others v United Kingdom* (same sex marriage rights in Bermuda; acting for the UK before the European Court of Human Rights);
- *Viegas and others v Cutrale* and *Fundao Group Litigation* (competition group action; anti-suit injunctions in the context of group litigation);
- *Chagos Archipelago* (acting for the UK and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs in litigation and negotiations concerning the Chagos Archipelago, from 2015-present);
- *Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam* (acting for the Government of Sudan in respect of its dispute with the Government of Ethiopia relating to the GERD dam).

Jonathan commenced practice at the Bar in 2015. Prior to this, he worked as a consultant in international law and in the arbitration team at WilmerHale, London. He was also a Visiting Lecturer at King's College London. In 2024, Jonathan was appointed as Constitutional Counsel to the Overseas Territories Department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, to advise the Secretary of State on disallowance procedures in the British Overseas Territories. He is on the Attorney General's B panel of civil and public international law counsel. He is also a Senior Legal Adviser at the Public International Law & Policy Group in Washington DC.

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Jonathan has a wide-ranging commercial practice with an emphasis on cases at the intersection of public, commercial and international law. He has particular expertise in private international law (jurisdiction challenges / service out of the jurisdiction and foreign law). Jonathan additionally has experience in cases concerning anti-suit injunctions and injunctive relief.

R (FTDIHL Holdings Limited) v Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

junior counsel for the defendant in a judicial review under the National Security and Investment Act 2021 (led by Sir James Eadie KC, David Blundell KC, Richard O'Brien KC and with Karl Laird);

Município de Mariana v BHP (the Fundo Group Litigation) (Commercial Court)

junior counsel for the Municipality claimants in their application for an antisuit injunction to prevent BHP and others funding a claim in Brazil's Supreme Court relating to issues before the English Court in the Fundao Group Litigation;

Viegas and others v Cutrale and others (Commercial Court)

junior counsel for the claimants in a case alleging breaches of competition law following an orange juice cartel in Brazil (led by James Flynn KC, with David Went and Juliet Wells);

R (L1T FM Holdings and LetterOne Core Investments) v Secretary of State in the Cabinet Office

junior counsel for the defendant in a judicial review under the National Security and Investment Act 2021 (led by Rory Philips KC and Georgina Woolf, with Karl Laird and Emmanuel Sheppard);

Silvnik and others v Martin Dinning and others (High Court of Anguilla)

junior counsel for the 8th Defendant (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) in respect of a claim for alleged losses arising out of the Anguillan banking crisis. Case raised allegations of civil fraud, procuring breach of contract, breaches of statutory duty and breaches of the Anguilla Constitution and / or European Convention on Human Rights; and the Anguilla Crown Proceedings Act (led by Daniel Saoul KC, with Camilla Cockerill);

Transnational foreign torts

acting for a party in a case concerning alleged transnational environment torts and parent company liability (questions of jurisdiction and foreign law);

Jani v Garrido (High Court of Justice, KBD)

sole counsel for the defendant in an application to set aside service of the Claim Form and Particulars of Claim out of the jurisdiction in respect of a case concerning Spanish inheritance;

Dana UK Axle Ltd v Freudenberg Sealing Technologies GmbH & Co (Commercial Court)

junior counsel for the claimant in a claim for £7m+ in respect of a defective product relating to the automotive industry;

Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act 1975: (High Court of Justice, KBD)

acting for a respondent healthcare provider in resisting an application for disclosure under the Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act 1975, for use in US class action proceedings;

Palram v LG Chem Limited (Commercial Court)

junior counsel for a defendant in an application to set aside service of the Claim Form and Particulars of Claim out of the jurisdiction in respect of a fire arising from the supply of allegedly defective chemicals (common law rules, parallel proceedings, complex questions as to the applicable law)(led by Toby Riley-Smith KC);

Volkswagen NOx Emissions Group Litigation

junior counsel to Volkswagen.

CIG v Comin (Commercial Circuit Court)

acting for the Defendant in relation to an alleged unlawful means conspiracy case in the reinsurance sector.

Lord Westbury and Others v Buka (Commercial Circuit Court)

junior counsel for the claimants in a shareholder dispute
regarding a luxury hotel in Madagascar;

Achievements

Appointments

Attorney General B Panel of Counsel

Attorney General C Panel of Public International Law Counsel

Constitutional Counsel to the Overseas Territories Department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Senior Legal Adviser, Public International Law & Policy Group.

Education

- Bachelor of Civil Law, University of Oxford (2011).
- Bachelor of Laws, King's College London (First Class Honours) (2009) (Russian Law prize).

Publications

Book Chapters

- *The Interpretation and Application of Peace Agreements*, International Law and Peace Settlements (Cambridge University Press) (forthcoming).
- *Elections and Electoral Law*, Handbook on Post-Conflict State Building (Edward Elgar Publishing) (forthcoming).

Law Journal

- *Decision Pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute on the Authorisation of an Investigation into the Situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan* (29(2) ILM, 280 – 301 (2020)).
- *Reflections on a Potential Peace Treaty for the Korean Peninsula* YJIL Forum (August 2018) (co-authored).
- *Belhaj v. Straw* (Eng. Wales Ct. App.) (54(6) ILM, 1069 – 1114 (2015)).
- *Report on the Protection of Civilians in the Non-International Armed Conflict in Iraq: UNHRC Res S-22/1; UNSCRs 2170 and 2178* (54(2) ILM 306 – 346 (2015)).
- Book Review: *Customary International Law in Times of Fundamental Change* (25 (2) KLJ (2014)).

- *Preventing Mass Atrocity Crimes: The Responsibility to Protect and the Syria Crisis*, 45 (1 and 2) CWRJIL (2012) (co-authored)).

Policy Articles and Op-Eds

- *The Legal Case for Using Force to Prevent a Government from Employing Chemical Weapons to Commit Mass Atrocities*, The Atlantic Council, Sept. 2012 (co-authored).
- *Chemical Red Lines on Syria*, Foreign Policy, Dec. 2012 (co-authored).
- *Preventing Atrocity Crimes*, The Atlantic Council, Sept. 2012 (co-authored).



Clear and pragmatic

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS



Thoroughly modern lawyer

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