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Luka Krsljanin



"Luka is a dynamo – a deadly combination of razor sharp intellect and a relentless work ethic. His advocacy is both clear and devastatingly effective."

— LEGAL 500, 2026

Year of call: **2013**
Degree: **MA (Cantab), BVC (Certificate of Honour)**

Luka is a commercial barrister specialising in international civil fraud/asset recovery, sports law and general commercial disputes in litigation and arbitration. He is ranked in the independent legal directories in each of these areas.

He has advocacy experience beyond his call. The Legal 500 describes him as "an excellent advocate... devastatingly effective"; and Chambers & Partners calls him "an extremely strong advocate, clearly a future star of the Bar." Alongside regularly appearing unled in the High Court (including in several trials), he has made submissions before the Court of Appeal, the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (the leading sport tribunal). He has an uncommon level of experience of cross-examination for his call, and has been singled out as a "master of cross examination" by the Legal 500.

As well as appearing at all levels of the English Courts, he has acted before many arbitral tribunals. He also has experience of offshore jurisdictions, having been called to the Cayman Islands bar (ad hoc), as well as having advised in BVI and Bermuda litigation.

Most of his cases involve allegations of serious fraud, corruption or similar wrongdoing. He recently appeared in a 8-week trial in Jafar v Abraaj Holdings & Ors, a Trial concerning allegations of fraud in the collapse of the Abraaj Group, which once held AUM of US$13.6 billion, said by the Economist to be the largest ever collapse of a private equity firm. He previously acted in a series of cases arising from the 1MDB corruption scandal, spanning the English, US and Malaysian Courts.

Some other recent and ongoing highlights of Luka's practice include:

- Appeared for the successful Respondent in the Court of Appeal in National Iranian Oil Company and Anor. v Crescent Gas Corporation [2025] EWCA Civ 1211, a case concerning enforcement of an arbitration award against assets alleged to have been transferred at an undervalue by a judgment debtor. A Supreme Court hearing is due in 2026.
- Acting in a multi-billion dollar PCA arbitration involving allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption [2025].

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- Appeared before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in an appeal of a decision concerning allegations of match-fixing in European Gymnastics Championships [2025], conducting cross examination and making submissions.
- Acting as sole counsel for the successful Claimant in a £60+ million arbitration claim under the LCIA Rules [2025].
- Acting for the successful applicant in obtaining and continuing worldwide freezing orders in a case analysing the proper approach to establishing 'risk of dissipation' (Canada Inc v Sovereign Holdings Ltd [2024] EWHC 2048 (Comm)).
- Advising on Financial Fair Play issues in top-flight football [2025].

EXPERIENCE

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

"A supremely confident advocate and a master of cross-examination"
— LEGAL 500, 2025

Luka is ranked as a leading Civil Fraud junior in the Legal 500 (tier 2): "Luka is a dynamo - a deadly combination of razor sharp intellect and a relentless work ethic. His advocacy is both clear and devastatingly effective." He is also ranked in Chambers & Partners, which says: "He is the type of advocate that inspires confidence....An excellent young barrister who is highly knowledgeable and calm under pressure...Luka is all in the detail. He is very practical, and happy to chip in and get his hands dirty."

Luka has advocacy experience beyond his year of call, having argued and conducted cross-examination in a number of contentious fraud hearings and trials, including before the High Court of England & Wales and the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

As well as having several years' trial experience, Luka is routinely instructed as Sole Counsel in urgent injunctive matters. Chambers & Partners (2026) observes that he has "notable expertise in conducting interim applications unled." He has experience of the following acting unled:

- Obtaining and continuing Worldwide Freezing Orders (on the applicant side); and discharging them (on the respondent side);
- Obtaining orders for attendance at Court for cross-examination on assets following breaches of asset disclosure orders; and then conducting cross-examination on oath;
- Obtaining and continuing Passport Surrender orders;
- Obtaining and opposing Norwich Pharmacal Orders
- Obtaining Imaging Orders;
- Conducting post-judgment cross-examination of judgment debtors regarding their worldwide assets.

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Cases

National Iranian Oil Company and Anor. v Crescent Gas Corporation Limited

[2025] EWCA Civ 1211

Luka acted for the successful Respondent (Crescent) in this important appeal to the Court of Appeal. The appeal judgment addresses important points of property, trust and insolvency law, and is the first authoritative determination of the question whether a document signed by an agent can constitute evidence of a declaration of trust for the purposes of section 53(1)(b) of the Law of Property Act 1925. It also considers whether a transfer giving effect to a non-s53(1)(b)-compliant purported declaration of trust can be considered a transaction at an undervalue within section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Permission to appeal to the Supreme Court has been granted and a hearing is expected in 2026.

Jafar v Abraaj Holding & Others

[2025] CIGC (FSD) 70 and 71

Luka acted for the Plaintiff (having been called to the Bar of the Cayman Islands), led by Lord Falconer, in this major civil fraud trial which ran for 8 weeks. Luka conducted cross-examination of witnesses and made closing submissions

This claim arises out of the notorious and widely-publicised collapse of the Abraaj Group, believed to be the largest ever collapse of a private equity investment platform (valued at over $13.6 billion) as a result of years' worth of alleged financial mismanagement and fraud, whilst the Group purported to act as a world leader in impact investing. The Plaintiff brings claims in deceit against certain Abraaj Group entities in respect of loans of over US$300 million procured by fraud in a belated attempt to rescue the business.

Judgment is awaited in 2025.

Segulah v Tripathi

[2025] EWHC 632 (Ch)

Acting (led by Adam Baradon KC) in a claim concern alleged fraudulent misrepresentations made in respect of the sale of shares in a specialist medical technology company.

Canada Inc v Sovereign Financial Holdings Ltd

[2024] EWHC 2048 (Comm)

Luka acted (unled) for the successful Applicant, both at a without notice hearing and return date, which secured worldwide freezing orders against two judgment debtor Respondents. The return date judgment includes a valuable analysis of what is required to establish a real risk of dissipation; how the test may be satisfied in the absence of evidence of specific dissipatory acts; and the role of adverse inferences in relation to the issue of risk of dissipation.

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Crescent Gas Corporation Ltd v National Iranian Oil Company & anor.

[2024] EWHC 835 (Comm)

Luka acted for the successful Claimant in this case concerning a claim based on a transaction defrauding a creditor under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A v B

[2024]

Luka acted as sole counsel for the Claimant in an investor fraud claim concerning the fraudulent sale of purported Bonds to foreign national investors. Luka acted unled for the claimant at ex parte and on-notice hearings securing freezing orders and asset disclosure orders; and also secured orders for damages in favour of the Claimant.

Old Park Capital Maestro Fund Ltd v Old Park Capital Ltd & others

[2023] EWHC 1886 (Ch)

Luka acted for the Claimant in this case concerning claims in deceit and for breaches of directors' duties, arising out of an investment fraud that resulted in the collapse of a Cayman Islands investment fund.

Maranello Rosso v Lohomij BV & Others

[2022] EWCA Civ 1667

Luka acted for a successful Respondent in this significant appeal to the Court of Appeal. This important judgment clarifies the proper approach to be taken by Courts in determining whether or not a Settlement Agreement was intended to release parties from claims in fraud, conspiracy and similar wrongdoing.

Harrington Trading Co Ltd & Ors. v Mehta & Ors

[2022] EWHC 1810 (Ch)

Luka acts (led by Andrew Hunter KC) in this civil fraud dispute in which a Worldwide Freezing Order of US$1 billion has been imposed.

CDW Limited v Bird & Anor.

[2021] EWHC 3665 (QB)

Luka acts for the Claimant, a leading IT company, in this deceit claim concerning a long-running fraud perpetrated by a former employee.

At a without notice hearing, Luka successfully secured freezing injunctions and delivery-up orders (before Mr Justice Bourne). Subsequently, at two on notice hearings, Luka secured: (i) the continuation of all freezing orders to trial, (ii) robust disclosure orders requiring detailed asset disclosure, and (iii) rare orders requiring respondents to attend court to be cross-examined (before Deputy High Court Judges Webb and Williamson).

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Commercial

Luka is a leading specialist commercial junior with considerable expertise of significant, heavyweight litigation including a number of cases valued in excess of £1 billion.

He is ranked as a leading junior in commercial litigation in both the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners, which say (in their most recent editions):

"Luka's advocacy is persuasive and he never loses sight of the key issues." (Legal 500 2026)

"Luka is a very impressive junior who has put in a lot of work. He has done advocacy to a high standard.... He did a superb job. He was a real pleasure to work with and his drafting skill were excellent." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

He is routinely instructed to act as Sole Counsel, having regularly appeared unled in High Court trials since 2016.

He acts in both litigation and arbitration, with ample experience as an advocate (and team member) in multi-billion dollar disputes in the High Court (and appellate courts), offshore courts and an array of leading arbitral tribunals.

> *"An exceptionally sharp and insightful barrister. He is incredibly responsive, always quick to answer questions with clarity and precision."*
>
> — LEGAL 500, 2026

Cases

National Iranian Oil Company and Anor. v Crescent Gas Corporation Limited

[2025] EWCA Civ 1211

Luka acted for the successful Respondent (Crescent) in this important appeal to the Court of Appeal. The appeal judgment addresses important points of property, trust and insolvency law, and is the first authoritative determination of the question whether a document signed by an agent can constitute evidence of a declaration of trust for the purposes of section 53(1)(b) of the Law of Property Act 1925. It also considers whether a transfer giving effect to a non-s53(1)(b)-compliant purported declaration of trust can be considered a transaction at an undervalue within section 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Permission to appeal to the Supreme Court has been granted and a hearing is expected in 2026.

A v B

[2025] (LCIA Arbitration)

Acted (unled) for the successful Claimant in a £60+ million claim arising out of breaches of a venture agreement, involving questions of (i) whether certain terms amounted to conditions precedent, (ii) whether alleged conditions precedent had been discharged, and (iii) mitigation of losses.

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BM Brazil v Sibanye-Stillwater

[2024]

Acting for the Claimant sellers pursuing claims arising out of the termination of SPAs in respect of Brazilian mining assets, under which over US$1 billion was payable. A 5-week trial is listed for June 2024.

X v Y

[2024] (Arbitration)

Luka acts in an international commercial arbitration valued at several billion dollars, involving numerous applicable laws.

Crescent Gas Corporation Ltd v National Iranian Oil Company & anor.

[2024] EWHC 835 (Comm)

Luka acted for the successful Claimant in this case concerning a claim based on a transaction defrauding a creditor under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Adaptive Spectrum and Signal Alignment Inc v British Telecommunications plc

[2023] EWCA Civ 451

Luka represented the Appellant (led by James Segan KC) in this appeal concerning contractual construction and, in particular, (1) the characteristics which are to be attributed to the 'reasonable reader' construct employed by the Court when construing a contract; and (2) the circumstances in which business common sense is permissible as an aid to construction, and the proper approach to be taken when seeking to apply business common sense.

Maranello Rosso v Lohomij BV & Others

[2022] EWCA Civ 1667

Luka acted for a successful Respondent in this significant appeal to the Court of Appeal. This important judgment clarifies the proper approach to be taken by Courts in determining whether or not a Settlement Agreement was intended to release parties from claims in fraud, conspiracy and similar wrongdoing.

Deposit Guarantee Fund v Bank Frick & Co AG & Anor

[2022] EWHC 2221 (Ch)

Luka acted for the successful defendant/applicant (led by Andreas Gledhill QC) in this summary judgment application which concerns the scope of s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and in particular the subjective "purpose" that must be demonstrated on the part of a transferor in order for a claimant to claim relief.

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PetroSaudi Oil Services (Venezuela) Ltd v Clyde & Co

[2021] EWHC 444 (Ch)

Luka acted for the successful defendant, the international law firm which held c.$325 million in an escrow account, alleged to be connected with the major 1MDB corruption scandal, which had been frozen by an Arrest Warrant issued by the Californian District Court on application by the DOJ. The judgment gives valuable guidance on the circumstances in which the Court will make an order which might be contrary to foreign law or foreign sanctions. An appeal is being pursued.

Sport

Luka is a sought-after sports junior, with advocacy experience before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), FIFA Rule K, Premier League Rule X, the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation disciplinary commission, and various other Sports Resolution tribunals.

"He is the type of advocate that inspires confidence."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

The Legal 500 says, "Luka is calm under pressure, has an excellent rapport with experts and witnesses and a tremendous command of the case" (Tier 2; Legal 500, 2025). Chambers UK describes him as "a well-regarded practitioner with notable expertise in sports matters, particularly appearing in high-profile football-related disputes...an excellent junior." (Chambers & Partners, 2025). He is one of only 14 junior barristers recommended for Sports Law in the Lexology Index 2025 (formerly "Who's Who Legal").

He has been nominated for the Sport Law Junior Barrister of the Year award in the Legal 500's Bar Awards (2022).

He has acted in some of the most high profile football disputes in recent years, including Financial Fair Play disputes (2024-2025), the FIFA Agents Regulations challenges (2023), and the Newcastle United takeover case (2021). He has acted for many household names in football including FIFA, West Ham United FC, Chelsea FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC, Newcastle United FC, Brighton & Hove Albion FC, Leeds United FC, Fulham FC, Watford FC, Sheffield United FC, Swansea City AFC and Rennes (Stade Rennais) FC.

Alongside his football practice, he is regularly instructed in Formula One, boxing, tennis and horse-racing cases.

He deals with the whole range of Sports cases: commercial disputes; regulatory matters; disciplinary disputes; competition challenges; anti-doping; and even personal injury claims.

Cases

Agent v Premier League Club

[2025] (FA Rule K)

Acting for a Premier League Club (unled) in a dispute over alleged unpaid commissions, including on unconventional interim applications under Rule K

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Crystal Palace FC v. UEFA & others

CAS 2025/A/11604

Luka acted in this appeal to CAS concerning whether Crystal Palace should be permitted to compete in the UEFA Europa League, in the context of UEFA's multi-club ownership (MCO) rules.

Gymnastics Ethics Foundation v Trikomiti

[2025] (Court of Arbitration for Sport)

Luka acted for Ms. Trikomiti and European Gymnastics in proceedings brought by the GEF alleging judge manipulation. The case is currently before the Court of Arbitration for Sport and listed to be heard in late 2025.

Formula One Arbitration

[2025] (LCIA Arbitration)

Acting unled for the successful party in a high value dispute over breaches of a sponsorship agreement.

FFP Disputes

[2025]

Acting in disputes concerning alleged breaches of the Financial Fair Play / Profit & Sustainability Rules in the Premier League.

Advice on Rules and Regulations

Advising a sports governing body on changes to its rules and regulations.

Boxing Arbitration

[2024] (Sports Resolution Rules)

Luka acted for a well-known international boxer in a private arbitration concerning contractual promotion rights.

Agents v The FA & FIFA: FIFA Regulation of Intermediaries

[2023]

Luka acted for FIFA in a Rule K arbitration concerning football agents' case that The FA should not implement imminent new FIFA rules on the regulation of football intermediaries, on the basis that the regulations were said to be unlawful.

An Agent v A Club

[2023] (Rule K Arbitration)

Luka acted for a leading football club in a claim concerning alleged breaches of an agency contract, proceeding under FA Rule K

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Fulham FC v Jones

[2022] EWHC 1108 (QB)

Luka acted for Fulham FC, the successful appellant, in this leading case on civil injury claims in the sports context. Luka succeeded in persuading the appeal court to overturn a judgment that had found Fulham liable for a reckless tackle, and the judgment confirmed that the threshold for civil liability in the sporting context is set at a very high level. Fulham succeeded on all four of its grounds of appeal.

After the Defendant's successful appeal, the claim was discontinued.

The FA v Brighton & Hove Albion FC

[2022]

Luka acts for Brighton, the well-known Premier League Football Club, which was charged by the FA with alleged breaches of the FA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries; a significant case dealing with the changing landscape for Intermediaries dealings (led by Nick de Marco QC).

A Player v A Club

[2022] (EFL arbitration)

Luka acted for a well-known football club in an arbitration claim brought by a former player - a high-profile, international football player - for alleged unpaid wages and contingency fees following termination of the employment contract.

Newcastle United FC v The FA Premier League

[2021] (EPL arbitration)

Luka acted for the leading Premier League Football Club in a major arbitration under Section X of the Premier League Rules, concerning the proposed sale of the Club to a Consortium involving the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia. Led by Shaheed Fatima QC and Nick de Marco QC.

Stade Rennais F.C. v Sports Invest Ltd

[2020] (Queen's Bench Division)

Luka acted for the French Ligue One Football Club Stade Rennais, owned and controlled by the well-known Pinault family, the owners of such world-famous companies as Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and Balenciaga. Stade Rennais are alleged to have induced a breach of contract by ‘poaching’ a high-profile agent/manager from Sports Invest, an English-based football agency, to serve as their Director of Football. Complex disclosure issues are concerned, in particular with regard to the limits of privilege under French Law.

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Sheffield United Ltd v. UTB LLC & Ors

[2019] EWHC 2322 (Ch)

Luka acted for Sheffield United Ltd in this major dispute concerning the ownership of the Club as between two 50% co-owners: Mr Kevin McCabe and Saudi Prince Abdullah. The case involved allegations of deceit, conspiracy and bribery and corruption. The case led to a landmark judgment on the Disclosure Pilot in the Business & Property Courts from the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Vos ([2019] EWHC 914 (Ch)). The substantive trial of the case, which lasted for 6 weeks, also led to a significant judgment from Fancourt J on matters including: implied terms, obligations of good faith, unfair prejudice, and conspiracy ([2019] EWHC 2322 (Ch)).

WH Holding Ltd v E20 Stadium LLP

[2018] EWCA Civ 2652

Luka acted on behalf of the successful Appellant in this landmark Court of Appeal case on the limits of litigation privilege. The appeal came in the context of a claim brought by the owners of West Ham Football Club against the leasehold owner of the London Stadium (the former Olympic Stadium). West Ham alleged that E20, the Stadium owners, were unlawfully preventing West Ham from accessing certain seats in the Stadium, and therefore depriving West Ham of substantial ticketing revenue. The claim involved allegations that E20 has failed to act in good faith. The case involved numerous significant judgments including that of the Court of Appeal noted above. In particular, a judgment of Snowden J on the redaction of commercially sensitive documents ([2018] EWHC 2578 (Ch)) and a judgment on applications for third party disclosure ([2018] EWHC 2971 (Ch)).

West Ham v E20 Stadium LLP

2016-18

Luka acted on behalf of the owners and operators of West Ham United, in their claim against the leasehold owner of the London Stadium (the former Olympic Stadium). West Ham alleged that E20, the Stadium owners, were unlawfully preventing West Ham from accessing certain seats in the Stadium, and therefore depriving West Ham of substantial ticketing revenue. The claim involved allegations that E20 has failed to act in good faith, and so invokes complex consideration of good faith issues. Prior to its settlement at trial, the case involved numerous complex case management issues, and interim applications which led to valuable High Court Judgments on the redaction of commercially sensitive documents ([2018] EWHC 2578 (Ch)) and applications for third party disclosure ([2018] EWHC 2971 (Ch)).

Offshore

Luka is ranked as a Leading Junior in the Legal 500 (English Bar Offshore) for Commercial Disputes:

"Luka is an exceptional talent. Not only is he very nice but his responsiveness, written work and advocacy are excellent."

Luka has acted in a range of commercial disputes in different offshore jurisdictions, including the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda. Most of his experience arises in the civil fraud and enforcement contexts.

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He is one of few English junior barristers recently to have been called to the Bar of the Cayman Islands (ad hoc, 2022). He recently acted in a major trial before the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands - Jafar v Abraaj Holdings & ors - which ran from November 2023 to January 2024, in which he conducted cross-examination of witnesses and made closing submissions. He is well versed in dealing with issues under Cayman procedural law.

Restructuring & Insolvency

Luka is developing a specialist niche dealing with contentious insolvency disputes, often arising in connection with fraud claims. He has acted in one of the recent leading cases concerning s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and is often instructed to provide discrete advice and representation on s.423 claims. He is ranked in the Legal 500 for Insolvency, where he is described as "an intelligent barrister with a good grip of the law and a nice positive style. He works well in a team and produces clear advice."

> ***"An intelligent barrister with a good grip of the law and a nice and positive style"***
>
> — LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

Crescent Gas Corporation Ltd v National Iranian Oil Company & anor.

[2024] EWHC 835 (Comm)

Luka acted for the successful Claimant in this case concerning a claim based on a transaction defrauding a creditor under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Jafar v Abraaj Holding & Others

[2025] CIGC (FSD) 70 and 71

Luka acted for the Plaintiff (having been called to the Bar of the Cayman Islands), led by Lord Falconer, in this major civil fraud trial which ran for 8 weeks. Luka conducted cross-examination of witnesses and made closing submissions

This claim arises out of the notorious and widely-publicised collapse of the Abraaj Group, believed to be the largest ever collapse of a private equity investment platform (valued at over $13.6 billion) as a result of years' worth of alleged financial mismanagement and fraud, whilst the Group purported to act as a world leader in impact investing. The Plaintiff brings claims in deceit against certain Abraaj Group entities in respect of loans of over US$300 million procured by fraud in a belated attempt to rescue the business.

Judgment is awaited in 2025.

Deposit Guarantee Fund v Bank Frick & Co AG & Anor

[2022] EWHC 2221 (Ch)

Luka acted for the successful defendant/applicant (led by Andreas Gledhill QC) in this summary judgment application which concerns the scope of s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and in particular the subjective "purpose" that must be demonstrated on the part of a transferor in order for a claimant to claim relief.

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Re: Old Park Capital Maestro Fund

[2023]

Luka represented the Claimant, a Liquidator of an insolvent Cayman Islands investment fund, in a Chancery Division trial before Richards J (May 2023) concerning claims of fraud and breaches of duty made against the founders and managers of the investment fund. Judgment is awaited.

International Arbitration

Luka is ranked as a leading junior in the Legal 500 for International Arbitration: "An excellent advocate and accomplished strategic thinker. Provides a calm and thoughtful presence and a gravitas that belies his call. A great team player."

He has appeared in a wide range of arbitral tribunals, in different jurisdictions, including ad hoc and emergency/expedited arbitrations; as well as before the leading arbitration venues. Among others:

- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

MA (Cantab) - ranked 3rd highest in his graduating year at Cambridge

BVC (Certificate of Honour)

Judicial Assistant to Judge Christopher Vajda QC, the UK's Judge to the Court of Justice of the European Union (2014)

VAT registration number: 778770565

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board