clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Tom Mountford



"Outstanding senior junior with an outstanding quality of work and advocacy."

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Year of call:	**2009**
Degree:	**BA (Hons) (Oxon.) First Class**
Languages:	**French (working knowledge), Chinese (Mandarin) (some knowledge), Italian (working knowledge)**

Tom is a leading senior junior in commercial litigation and arbitration, offshore litigation, civil fraud, insolvency, company and partnership, employment and sports law alongside his experience in the fields of competition law, international public law and human rights. Many of Tom's cases are at the intersection of two or more of these practice areas.

Tom has a particular breadth and depth of experience in heavy litigation involving issues of fraud, dishonesty and misfeasance from issues of the theft or misuse of confidential information to conspiracy and fraud. Tom frequently works in large teams and is highly experienced and rated in cross-jurisdictional work managing legal teams in a number of jurisdictions. He is called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands and has been instructed in litigation, inter alia, in the BVI, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Singapore.

Tom regularly leads and conducts first instance and appellate litigation (both led and unled) in the UK courts and arbitration (before institutional rule and ad hoc tribunals). He also acts before a range of tribunals and is experienced in conducting investigations, including highly sensitive internal investigations.

Having previously worked on secondment for a large US firm of solicitors in London, he understands what solicitors look for in junior counsel and is responsive, easy to work with and gives clear, strategic advice.

Tom has consistently been recognised as a leading junior in the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners directories in the fields of Commercial Litigation, Civil Fraud, Employment, Offshore Litigation, Group Litigation, Sport, Civil Liberties & Human Rights and International Human Rights. Recent comments include:

- "Outstanding senior junior with an outstanding quality of work and advocacy."- Chambers and Partners, 2026
- "Tom is hugely intelligent and analytical, plus he is a smooth and confident advocate."- Legal 500, 2025
- "All you could ask for from a junior; he's incredibly bright, keen, user-friendly and commercial." - Chambers and Partners, 2025
- "A persuasive advocate who gives clear, concise and pragmatic advice." - Legal 500, 2025

- "Tom is cool, calm and collected. He achieves that rare balance of impeccable commerciality, unimpeachable legal analysis and seductive advocacy" - Chambers and Partners, 2024
- "As good as it gets for a junior, doubtlessly a silk in the making." - Legal 500, 2024
- "Experienced beyond his years. He is excellent at everything he does. A silk in waiting." - Chambers and Partners, 2023
- "He is impressive even in the top echelons of the commercial Bar where he operates." - Legal 500, 2022
- "Tom is incredibly bright and nimble, and has a keen eye for the commercial realities of the case at hand. He is naturally legally astute but, more importantly, appreciates the commercial nuances at play and how this might impact overall strategy." - Legal 500, 2024

EXPERIENCE

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

A large part of Tom's practice concerns allegations of fraud and misfeasance, and urgent injunctive applications from search and computer imaging orders, to injunctions for delivery up and restraint of abuse of misappropriated confidential information, freezing orders and Norwich Pharmacal relief (amongst others).

Many of these cases are resolved at or prior to the interlocutory stage upon provision of suitable undertakings (and often therefore remain confidential), whilst others form part of broader commercial and insolvency related litigation, often with an international dimension.

Tom enjoys the pace and urgency of injunctive applications and the collaborative work that is required across the solicitor and counsel teams to bring such matters before the Court on an urgent basis.

"Tom is all over the detail and takes developments in the case in his stride."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Principal Investing Fund I Ltd & ors

Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, 2022-24

Acting for management shareholders in proceedings in the Cayman Islands resisting winding up petitions brought on just and equitable grounds against three investment fund companies, concerning allegations of serious misconduct (including misuse of assets, fraud and charging of unlawful fees) in relation to Cayman investment funds. The case has also involved various interlocutory applications including pending heavy applications for the discharge of provisional liquidators and Court-appointed receivers over shares in the funds. The litigation involves related proceedings in the BVI, England and LCIA arbitration. The six-week trial in the Cayman Islands was held in the Cayman Islands in summer of 2023 (with Michael Bloch KC, Tom Weisselberg KC, Andrew Trotter, Timothy Lau and Marlena Valles).

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Credit Suisse London Nominees and Chia Hsing Wang v Real Assets (RA) Global Opportunity Fund & Ors

BVI Commercial Court, 2021 - ongoing

Acting for a management shareholder resisting a winding up petition brought against an investment fund on just and equitable grounds. The petitioner alleges various forms of wrongdoing (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and misrepresentation) occurred in connection with a USD200 million investment. The case has also involved various interlocutory applications including pending heavy applications for the discharge of provisional liquidators and Court-appointed receivers over shares in the Fund. Led by Andrew Hunter QC, with Carmine Conte.

Chia Hsing Wang v Otaibi & Ors

[2021] EWHC 2896 (Ch)

Successfully defended a heavy pre-action disclosure application made by one individual and two corporate applicants for disclosure of broad categories of documents from their former financial advisors and private office service providers. The High Court dismissed the application in its entirety, finding that the jurisdictional threshold requirement that the documents sought would fall within the scope of standard disclosure if proceedings had started was not met and that the balance of convenience pointed firmly against granting the disclosure sought. The proceedings also involved a successful cross-application to strike out the pre-action disclosure application to the extent it contravened applicable arbitration agreements, leading those parts of the pre-action disclosure application to be abandoned. The High Court ordered the applicants to make a payment of £500,000 on account of costs. Led by Andrew Hunter QC.

The Ingenious Litigation

(ongoing)

Acting for over 100 individual claimants, bringing claims of fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy against investment companies and their controlling minds in respect of film investment schemes marketed as tax-efficient investments (and subject to litigation between HMRC and the Ingenious Group, recently in a decision of the Upper Tribunal). Led by Robert Anderson QC, with Andrew Trotter.

L v M

Represented a finance company in committal proceedings for contempt of court, for breach of a court order.

HMRC v A, B

Acting for HMRC, with Mark Vinall, in relation to two substantial cases of missing trader fraud.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

E v F

(High Court, Commercial Court)

Acted as junior counsel for the Claimants in a multi-million pound action in deceit and solicitors' negligence, settled out of court shortly before trial, with Andrew Hunter QC.

P v A Bank

(High Court, QBD)

Acted for the Claimant as sole counsel in successfully obtaining a Norwich Pharmacal Order requiring a bank to identify holders of bank accounts used fraudulently to divert payments from the Claimant company.

Barclay Pharmaceuticals Limited v Waypharm LP & Ors

[2012] EWHC 306 (Comm)

Acted for the Claimants, led by Barbara Dohmann QC, in an £8.7million damages claim in respect of the fraudulent operation of letters of credit in the pharmaceutical sector.

Bit torrent copyright infringement injunction applications

Assisting the British Recorded Music Industry in respect of applications for blocking injunctions against internet service providers under section 97A of the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 requiring them to block their subscribers' access to bit torrent websites facilitating the wrongful download of music, television programmes and films in breach of copyright.

SL v G & Ors

(High Court, QBD)

Acted as sole counsel for the claimant in a two week civil fraud trial, concerning allegations of a multi-headed conspiracy between the four defendants, and involving allegations of bribery and dishonest assistance in breach of trust (settled by consent during trial).

Baturina v Chistyakov

[2014] EWCA Civ 1134; (Ongoing Commercial Court proceedings)

Acting for the Claimant in a long-running dispute between two Russian business people concerning the operation of multimillion euro property investment in Morocco. Led by Andrew Green QC and Andrew George QC, Tom acted for the Claimant in her successful appeal to the Court of Appeal against the stay of the claim on forum non conveniens grounds and successful cross applications in the Commercial Court resisting summary judgment/strike out, obtaining permission to amend and resisting the bringing of a further stay application. Case continuing in the Commercial Court.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Arab v Ghandour & Ors

(Commercial Court, 2016)

Acting for a number of the Defendants in Commercial Court proceedings based on allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation, with Robert Howe QC.

Commercial

Tom has a depth of experience in heavy commercial litigation and arbitration , involving allegations of fraudulent wrongdoing, to contractual, insolvency, partnership and company related disputes, often with an international dimension. He regularly acts both as the leading advocate, and led, in commercial litigation and arbitration and in injunctive and interim applications. Tom is called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands (Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court) and has appeared before the BVI Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Tom has been involved in a range of commercial litigation and advisory work in the energy, insurance and re-insurance, pharmaceutical, sports and media sectors. These cases have involved applications, inter alia, for injunctive relief including search orders, Norwich Pharmacal orders, confidentiality orders and orders for specialist forensic interrogation of computer hardware.

He is experienced at managing and working with large teams, including interdisciplinary teams and those spanning different legal jurisdictions.

> *"Tom runs our cases and knows them inside out. He goes out of his way to add value."*
>
> — CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

Credit Suisse London Nominees Ltd v Principal Investing Fund I Ltd & ors

Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, 2022-24

Acting for management shareholders in proceedings in the Cayman Islands resisting winding up petitions brought on just and equitable grounds against three investment fund companies, concerning allegations of serious misconduct (including misuse of assets, fraud and charging of unlawful fees) in relation to Cayman investment funds. The case has also involved various interlocutory applications including pending heavy applications for the discharge of provisional liquidators and Court-appointed receivers over shares in the funds. The litigation involves related proceedings in the BVI, England and LCIA arbitration. The six-week trial in the Cayman Islands was held in the Cayman Islands in summer of 2023 (with Michael Bloch KC, Tom Weisselberg KC, Andrew Trotter, Timothy Lau and Marlena Valles).

United World Holding Limited v The Network SA (Chancery Division, 2021-2023)

Acted for the owners of Sheffield United Football Club in a multi-million pound claim arising out of the failed takeover of the club by a US investor.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Credit Suisse London Nominees and Chia Hsing Wang v Real Assets (RA) Global Opportunity Fund & Ors

BVI Commercial Court, 2021 - ongoing

Acting for a management shareholder resisting a winding up petition brought against an investment fund on just and equitable grounds. The petitioner alleges various forms of wrongdoing (including conspiracy, breach of directors' duties and misrepresentation) occurred in connection with a USD200 million investment. The case has also involved various interlocutory applications including pending heavy applications for the discharge of provisional liquidators and Court-appointed receivers over shares in the Fund. Led by Andrew Hunter QC, with Carmine Conte.

Chia Hsing Wang v Otaibi & Ors

[2021] EWHC 2896 (Ch)

Successfully defended a heavy pre-action disclosure application made by one individual and two corporate applicants for disclosure of broad categories of documents from their former financial advisors and private office service providers. The High Court dismissed the application in its entirety, finding that the jurisdictional threshold requirement that the documents sought would fall within the scope of standard disclosure if proceedings had started was not met and that the balance of convenience pointed firmly against granting the disclosure sought. The proceedings also involved a successful cross-application to strike out the pre-action disclosure application to the extent it contravened applicable arbitration agreements, leading those parts of the pre-action disclosure application to be abandoned. The High Court ordered the applicants to make a payment of £500,000 on account of costs. Led by Andrew Hunter QC.

Fine Lady Bakeries v EDF & E.ON

[2020] EWHC 87

Acted for the successful Appellant, Fine Lady Bakeries in this appeal against orders for summary judgment in an electricity oversupply dispute and emphasised that a Court is required to bring its independent judgment to bear in determining a disputed issue or claim and cannot simply adopt a party's skeleton argument as containing the Court's reasoning.

The Ingenious Litigation

(ongoing)

Acting for over 100 individual claimants, bringing claims of fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy against investment companies and their controlling minds in respect of film investment schemes marketed as tax-efficient investments (and subject to litigation between HMRC and the Ingenious Group, recently in a decision of the Upper Tribunal). Led by Robert Anderson QC, with Andrew Trotter.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Re. Sheffield United Football Club: UTB LLC v Sheffield United Limited & Ors

[2019] EWHC 2322 (Ch)

A substantial High Court (Chancery Division, Fancourt J) judgment resolving a shareholder dispute between the co-owners of the Premier League football club, Sheffield United, following an expedited trial heard over 5 weeks in the summer of 2019.

The Court upheld the rights of HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Mosaad Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to obtain 100% control of the football club and has ordered Sheffield United Limited (the corporate vehicle of Kevin McCabe and the McCabe family) to specifically perform its obligation to transfer its 50% stake in the Club to Prince Abdullah's company, UTB LLC. The Court also dismissed the unfair prejudice petition brought by SUL under section 994 of the Companies Act 2006 and SUL's claims in conspiracy, including the serious allegations of bribery and fraudulent conduct made against Prince Abdullah and others. In reaching his judgment, Mr Justice Fancourt rejected SUL's claim that the parties were engaged in a quasi-partnership or that the investment agreement between them was subject to implied duties of good faith.

Click here to read the full judgment.

Tom acted for the successful parties: UTB LLC, Prince Abdullah and others

Company A v Company B

(2019)

Advising a Defendant company in respect of a claim exceeding $10 million by which the Defendant is alleged to owe commissions in respect of the securing of incentives.

PJ Caterers Limited and Nutritious Limited v Q21 Limited and Professor Sir Christopher Evans (Commercial Court)

(2018 – 2019)

Acting as sole counsel for the Defendants in respect of claims brought for sums allegedly payable under contracts for sale and guarantees in respect of the acquisition of several restaurants in a major restaurant franchise. Settled before trial.

Executive Aircraft Services v Azerbaijan Hava Yollari, High Court (Queen's Bench Division)

(unreported)

Acted as sole counsel for the Defendant in successfully setting aside default judgment in a claim against the defendant national airline of Azerbaijan for seven-figure alleged unpaid commissions on the purchase of commercial aircraft from Air Berlin.

Sports Invest v Stade Rennais

(High Court, QBD)

Acted for the Claimant football agency in multi-million euro claims of procuring breach of contract/poaching a senior employee against the French League One Football Club Stade Rennais F.C. LiLed by Paul Goulding KC.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Arab v Ghandour & Ors

(Commercial Court, 2016)

Acting for a number of the Defendants in Commercial Court proceedings based on allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation, with Robert Howe QC.

Alliance Flooring Distribution v Brintons Carpets Limited

(Commercial Court, 2016)

Acting for the Claimant in a contractual claim for repudiatory breach of a distribution agreement. Successfully obtained an unless order requiring better particulars of a counterclaim to rectification, following service of an RFI, which counterclaim was ultimately struck out for non-compliance with the unless order, with Robert Anderson QC.

Allers v Anno 11 GmbH & Ors

(On appeal to the Court of Appeal)

Acting for Respondent to a Part 8 claim concerned the proper construction of the Articles of Association of a limited company, with Andreas Gledhill QC.

Baturina v Chistyakov

[2014] EWCA Civ 1134; (Ongoing Commercial Court proceedings)

Acting for the Claimant in a long-running dispute between two Russian business people concerning the operation of multimillion euro property investment in Morocco. Led by Andrew Green QC and Andrew George QC, Tom acted for the Claimant in her successful appeal to the Court of Appeal against the stay of the claim on forum non conveniens grounds and successful cross applications in the Commercial Court resisting summary judgment/strike out, obtaining permission to amend and resisting the bringing of a further stay application. Case continuing in the Commercial Court.

SL v G & Ors

(High Court, QBD)

Acted as sole counsel for the claimant in a two week civil fraud trial, concerning allegations of a multi-headed conspiracy between the four defendants, and involving allegations of bribery and dishonest assistance in breach of trust (settled by consent during trial).

CIMGC & Ors v Mwana Africa Ltd & Ors

(High Court, Chancery, (Companies Court))

Acted for the respondent to an unfair prejudice petition, with Andreas Gledhill QC.

P v R

Acted for the Claimant in two linked LCIA arbitrations in a high-value multi-jurisdictional dispute arising in the hospitality industry, involving related civil and criminal proceedings in other jurisdictions.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Barclay Pharmaceuticals Limited v Waypharm LP & Ors

[2012] EWHC 306 (Comm)

Acted for the Claimants, led by Barbara Dohmann QC, in an £8.7million damages claim in respect of the fraudulent operation of letters of credit in the pharmaceutical sector.

P v A Bank

(High Court, QBD)

Acted for the Claimant as sole counsel in successfully obtaining a Norwich Pharmacal Order requiring a bank to identify holders of bank accounts used fraudulently to divert payments from the Claimant company.

Schubert Technical Services Limited v Barnes t/a Deacon Finishes

Acted as for the third party asset finance house in the trial of a product quality dispute in the Technology and Construction Court.

Ecotricity v Anr

Acted for Ecotricity as sole counsel in an I.T. dispute brought in the Technology and Construction Court, settled before trial.

E v F

(High Court, Commercial Court)

Acted as junior counsel for the Claimants in a multi-million pound action in deceit and solicitors' negligence, settled out of court shortly before trial, with Andrew Hunter QC.

HMRC v A, B

Acting for HMRC, with Mark Vinall, in relation to two substantial cases of missing trader fraud.

Martinez v Camelot UK Lotteries Limited

Acted as sole counsel for the Respondent, successfully resisting the Claimant's application for Norwich Pharmacal relief against Camelot in support of an action in fraud. The case involved consideration of the interplay between the statutory and licence obligations on Camelot as the operator of the National Lottery and the Court's discretionary powers to grant Norwich Pharmacal relief.

Lombard North Central Plc v Hussain

Successfully acted for the Claimant as sole counsel in a three day trial relating to a claim and counterclaim in conversion and for monies owed under two hire-purchase agreements, involving issues relating to the Consumer Credit Act 1973.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

L v M
Represented a finance company in committal proceedings for contempt of court, for breach of a court order.

Arbitration

Tom has a substantial arbitration practice, with an even balance of arbitration and Court-based litigation. Tom conducts arbitrations under LCIA, ICC, HKIAC and other institutional rules as well as ad hoc arbitrations and is adept at adapting his legal style as between litigation and arbitration and in light of the forum, applicable procedural arbitral rules and Tribunal.

Tom's arbitral practice spans commercial, insolvency-related and company law, employment, partnership and sports disputes (including at the Court of Arbitration for Sport).

He acts as sole counsel and as junior counsel before all arbitral tribunals.

Cases

F v The Football Association
Tom acted as sole counsel for the F.A. successfully obtaining a stay of civil proceedings brought against the F.A. in favour of Rule K arbitration.

P v R
Acted for the Claimant in two linked LCIA arbitrations in a high-value multi-jurisdictional dispute arising in the hospitality industry, involving related civil and criminal proceedings in other jurisdictions.

A club v A sport's governing body
Successfully acted as sole counsel for a sport's governing body in an arbitral challenge brought by a league club to the application of a points deduction for fielding an ineligible player which had the effect of relegating the club.

Employment

Tom has a significant employment practice, much of which is at the intersection of employment and commercial law (including injunctive applications from springboard injunctions, to restraints of misappropriation of confidential information, search and computer imaging orders and restrictive covenants and team moves work) as well as broader experience of a wide variety of employment-related litigation and advisory work in the High Court, employment tribunals and in arbitration.

"Tom is hugely intelligent and analytical, plus he is a smooth and confident advocate."

— LEGAL 500, 2026

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

In recent times, Tom has acted in a range of tribunal cases including whistleblowing, race and disability discrimination, victimisation, unfair and wrongful dismissal and unlawful deductions from wages.

He also deals with issues at the intersection of employment, commercial and company and partnership law, including share and incentive disputes, partnership disputes and commercial disputes with employment dimensions.

Tom is a contributing author to Employee Competition: Covenants, Confidentiality and Garden Leave.

Cases

Hinds v British Board of Control

Case No 1601972/2021 (Reading Employment Tribunal, 2024)

Acted for the successful Respondent in a one-week trial of allegations of direct race discrimination and victimisation, contrary to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 concerning 'qualifications bodies' under sections 53-54 in Part V (Work) of the Act. In a reserved judgment, the Employment Tribunal dismissed all the Claimant's claims and found that the Respondent had taken the decisions challenged for justifiable, non-discriminatory reasons.

Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd v Passi

[2021] EWHC 3642

The High Court ordered delivery up of confidential and privileged documents retained by the former Global General Counsel of Nissan and his instructed lawyers following the termination of his employment. The judgment raises important issues relating to the law of privilege.

Sports Invest v Stade Rennais

(High Court, QBD)

Acted for the Claimant football agency in multi-million euro claims of procuring breach of contract/poaching a senior employee against the French League One Football Club Stade Rennais F.C. LiLed by Paul Goulding KC.

D & C v Royal Bank of Scotland

Acted for the Claimants in a 6 day employment tribunal hearing of their claim for unfair dismissal against the Respondent bank in respect of gross misconduct dismissals relating to participation in investment schemes, involving connected criminal proceedings.

Q (Mediation in Chinese)

Tom was instructed as the independent legal advisor of a Chinese employee of a branch office in London, in respect of a without prejudice mediation between the employee and her employer concerning health and performance issues. Tom used his Chinese language skills in advising the employee and arriving at a mediated settlement. The case involved sensitive issues of mental health.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

F v G
Acting for the Claimant in respect of threatened proceedings concerning pension loss.

B v C Limited
Successfully acted for the Claimant in a 5 day employment tribunal hearing for direct discrimination on the basis of perception of disability and unfair dismissal, involving issues of mental health. Remedy settled by consent.

A v Broadwood Residential Ltd
Successfully acted for the Claimant in her claims of unfair and wrongful dismissal in respect of her dismissal for purported gross misconduct by the Respondent private operator of a school for children with special behavioural and emotional needs in respect of the use of a physical restraint on a student in the context of a violent incident within the classroom.

Baker v Cherry Menlove Limited
Successfully represented the Claimant in a claim for unlawful deduction from wages in the context of a start-up joint venture.

A v B (and others)
Acted for the first respondent in a constructive dismissal claim brought in the Employment Tribunals, in circumstances where connected proceedings involved allegations of theft, falsification of documents to the Court and sexual harassment.

Sport

Tom has an unusual breadth and depth of experience in all areas of sports law and he is rated for sports law in the leading independent directories Chambers UK and Legal 500. He has extensive experience of a broad range of sporting disputes, including civil and commercial litigation concerning Club/Club, Club/Player and Club/Agent commercial disputes, sports regulation, competition law in sport, the vicarious liability of sporting bodies, anti-doping, ethics and disciplinary proceedings before sports governing bodies and anti-doping panels and safeguarding issues. He also has significant experience conducting investigations. In recent years he has acted in cases in Formula 1, football, rugby, cricket, canoeing, rowing, squash, sailing and athletics.

Recent highlights include acting for HRH Prince Abdullah bin Mosaad bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in the shareholder and associated disputes before the English High Court (Business and Property Courts) over the Premier League football club Sheffield United, acting in a large Premier League Managers' Arbitration Tribunal dispute, acting for the International Canoe Federation before the Court of Arbitration for Sport and working on a range of sports ethics cases, including disciplinary cases against the leadership of Athletics Kenya, in his capacity as Legal Secretary to the Ethics Board of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

> ***"Tom can cover a wide range of sporting issues, but his background in employment and discrimination law makes him particularly knowledgeable and able in these areas in a sporting context."***
>
> — CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Tom acts as an independent reviewer of case to answer determinations made by UK Anti-Doping in respect of a range of potential anti-doping violations by athletes in different sports.

Tom regularly gives talks on topics of current interest in the field of sports law. He is a contributor to the Blackstone Chambers Sports Law Blog.

Cases

Hinds v British Board of Control

Case No 1601972/2021 (Reading Employment Tribunal, 2024)

Acted for the successful Respondent in a one-week trial of allegations of direct race discrimination and victimisation, contrary to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 concerning 'qualifications bodies' under sections 53-54 in Part V (Work) of the Act. In a reserved judgment, the Employment Tribunal dismissed all the Claimant's claims and found that the Respondent had taken the decisions challenged for justifiable, non-discriminatory reasons.

United World Holding Limited v The Network SA (Chancery Division, 2021-2023)

Acted for the owners of Sheffield United Football Club in a multi-million pound claim arising out of the failed takeover of the club by a US investor.

Golf: Poulter & Ors v PGA European Tour

S.L.R. 2022, 4, SLR135-SLR137; SR/165/2022

Acted for professional golf players who had signed to participate in the LIV Golf series in a challenge to disciplinary action taken against them by the PGA European Tour under the DP World Tour's "Conflicting Tournament" rules. By their appeals, the players challenged the enforceability of those rules under UK competition and restraint of trade law. In July 2022, a Sport Resolutions Panel suspended the imposition of sanctions until the players' de novo appeals could be heard. A hearing took place in February 2023 and a decision was delivered in April 2023. With James Segan KC and David Lowe.

In the matter of Ahmad Al Kamali and the IAAF Code of Ethics

(2020)

An independent Panel of the IAAF Ethics Board partially upheld charges against the President of the UAE Athletics Federation and former World Athletics (previously IAAF) Council member, Ahmad Al Kamali. The Panel imposed a sanction upon Mr Al Kamali of a ban from the sport for 6 months, fined him €5,000 and ordered him to pay €15,000 in costs. Tom acted as Legal Secretary to the Panel of the IAAF Ethics Board.

International Surfing Association v International Canoe Federation

CAS 2018/O/5830

Tom acted for the International Canoe Federation before the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The Court issued an award in relation to the governance of the sport of Stand-Up Paddleboard. The Panel unanimously rejected the International Surfing Association's claim to an exclusive right to govern the sport at world level.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

South Shields Football Club 1888 Limited v The Football Association Limited

Acted for South Shields FC in their legal challenge to The FA's decision to end the 2019/20 football season in Steps 3-7 of the English football National League System without promotion or relegation on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Re. Sheffield United Football Club: UTB LLC v Sheffield United Limited & Ors

[2019] EWHC 2322 (Ch)

A substantial High Court (Chancery Division, Fancourt J) judgment resolving a shareholder dispute between the co-owners of the Premier League football club, Sheffield United, following an expedited trial heard over 5 weeks in the summer of 2019.

The Court upheld the rights of HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Mosaad Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to obtain 100% control of the football club and has ordered Sheffield United Limited (the corporate vehicle of Kevin McCabe and the McCabe family) to specifically perform its obligation to transfer its 50% stake in the Club to Prince Abdullah's company, UTB LLC. The Court also dismissed the unfair prejudice petition brought by SUL under section 994 of the Companies Act 2006 and SUL's claims in conspiracy, including the serious allegations of bribery and fraudulent conduct made against Prince Abdullah and others. In reaching his judgment, Mr Justice Fancourt rejected SUL's claim that the parties were engaged in a quasi-partnership or that the investment agreement between them was subject to implied duties of good faith.

Click here to read the full judgment.

Tom acted for the successful parties: UTB LLC, Prince Abdullah and others

McIntosh v RFU

(RFU Appeal Panel)

Acting as sole counsel for the RFU in an anti-doping dispute concerning issues of the entitlement of NADOs and governing bodies to process personal data in connection with the detection of doping violations.

Inter Milan v Sunderland AFC

(On appeal to CAS from the FIFA Players' Status Committee)

Acting for Sunderland in a dispute as to the status of the player Ricardo Alvarez and the commercial rights as between Inter Milan and Sunderland under a loan agreement, led by Ian Mill QC.

Bryan v Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique

Acted for the international governing body for gymnastics in successfully striking out a personal injury claim brought against it on the basis that no relevant duty of care existed between the competitor and the FIG.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Football Association v Nicolas Anelka

Acted for Nicolas Anelka, led by Pushpinder Saini QC, in his two-day disciplinary hearing before an FA Regulatory Commission in respect of his use of the Quenelle gesture during a Premiership Match. This high profile case involved questions of expert evidence and consideration of the correct approach to the F.A.'s revised regulations concerning aggravated misconduct connected to ethnic origin, race, religion or belief.

E v F

Acting for a Chinese football club in a financial dispute with its former player.

Frank Warren Promotions Limited & Anr v Anthony Bellew, Eddie Hearn & Ors

High Court (QB)

Acted as sole counsel for the First Defendant in an action for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, successfully obtaining an order for security for costs against the Claimant.

Warren v British Boxing Board of Control Ltd

(High Court, QBD, May 2014)

Acted as sole counsel for the BBBofC successfully defending the Board against a claim by the promoter Frank Warren that the Board had acted in breach of contract in its conduct of a purse bid competition for the promotion of the British Middleweight Championship.

Doncaster Rover Belles LFC v The Football Association

Acted for the F.A., led by Adam Lewis QC, in its successful defence of an appeal by DRB LFC to an Independent Appeals Panel against the outcome of a tendering and selection process run by the F.A. for a two-tier Women's Super League for elite women's football in England. The case involved the application of developments in civil case law on the circumstances when silence and continued participation in a process constitute a waiver of the right to object to the composition of a decision-making panel.

A club v A sport's governing body

Successfully acted as sole counsel for a sport's governing body in an arbitral challenge brought by a league club to the application of a points deduction for fielding an ineligible player which had the effect of relegating the club.

F v The Football Association

Tom acted as sole counsel for the F.A. successfully obtaining a stay of civil proceedings brought against the F.A. in favour of Rule K arbitration.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

W v UKAD

Acted for an athlete in a sanctions hearing before the National Anti-Doping Panel in respect of the athlete's positive test for a prohibited stimulant. The case involves interesting issues of the correct approach to sanctioning framework in respect of supplement use.

ICC Cricket World Cup 2015

Advised Cricket Ireland and the Associate Members of the Cricket World Cup on the legal implications of the ICC's decision to limit participation in the 2015 Cricket World Cup to the ten full members of ICC. Following representations to the ICC Executive Board, the ICC reversed its decision and decided that the 2015 World Cup should be a 14 team competition. Led by Lord Pannick QC.

Pontypool RFC v Welsh Rugby Union

[2012] EWHC 1919 (QB)

Junior Counsel for the WRU, successfully defending the Union in an expedited three-day trial before Jack J, concerning claims brought against it by Pontypool RFC for breach of non-statutory duty and breach of contract in relation to the reorganization of the Welsh Premier Division. Successfully resisted further subsequent applications by Pontypool for declarations and an issue based costs award. Led by Adam Lewis QC.

Havant Hockey Club & Anr v English Hockey League Committee

(2012)

Successfully represented Havant in an appeal before the English Hockey Appeal Panel in relation to a finding that Havant had breached the Men's English Hockey League Regulations and the subsequent imposition of a points deduction and financial penalty.

Federation Luxembourgeoise de Boxe & Ors v British Boxing Board of Control

High Court (Ch), (2012)

Acted as Junior Counsel for the British Boxing Board of Control defending claims brought against the Board by the FLB and a number of licence holders that the BBBC's intention to bring disciplinary proceedings in respect of the Hayes/Chisora fight constitute a breach of European and/or domestic competition law. Led by Adam Lewis QC.

Bamford v Hertfordshire Football Association

(2012)

Acted for Herts F.A. successfully resisting a claim that the association should be held vicariously liable for an alleged assault on a spectator by a match official.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Gregory v The Football Association

(2012)

Acted for the F.A. successfully obtaining summary judgment dismissing a claim brought against it by a spectator on the basis that the F.A. owed him a duty of care as a travelling home spectator in relation to a breakdown of crowd control at the 2007 Champions League Final in Athens.

R (Tottenham Hotspur FC) and Leyton Orient FC v Newham Council, OPLC, Mayor of London, and Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport

(High Court)

With Adam Lewis QC and Tom Richards, Tom assisted Leyton Orient in its judicial review applications in relation to Newham's loan to its joint venture vehicle with West Ham FC to allow it to bid for the Olympic Stadium, the OPLC's decision to recommend that bid, and the Mayor's and Secretary of State's decision to accept that bid (public procurement and competition law).

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Tom undertakes a range of human rights work, both litigation and advisory and is currently involved in first instance and appellate human rights challenges before the UK Courts, international and transnational Courts, including in Africa and Asia.

He has published on the legal position and status of LGBT people in China and his research has been cited in Country of Origin Information in the UK, France and Canada.

"Tom Mountford is truly excellent."
— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

R (Elan-Cane) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (Administrative Court)

[2018] EWHC 1530 (Admin)

Tom acted for Christie Elan-Cane in a claim challenging the legality of the UK Government's policy refusing to issue non-gender-specific "X" passports to UK nationals. The Administrative Court dismissed the claim that the Government presently has a positive obligation under Article 8 to provide such 'X' passports (and the other grounds of challenge), however, the Court recognised that the Claimant's Article 8 rights were engaged and that the Claimant's right to respect for private life includes a right to respect for the Claimant's identification as non-gendered. This is the first time the UK courts have recognised that the right to respect for an individual's private life guaranteed by Article 8 ECHR includes the right to respect for the gender identity of non-gendered, intersex, trans and non-binary people identifying as neither, or not exclusively, male or female. The Court also ruled that it is necessary for the Government to consider the extent to which other identities both within and beyond the binary concept of gender are to be recognised, and if so on what basis.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Tan Eng Hong v Attorney General of Singapore

[2014] SGCA 53

Tom worked as part of a team of UK and Singapore based lawyers, challenging before the Singapore Court of Appeal the criminalization of consensual same sex sexual conduct between adult men under s 377A of the Singapore Penal Code as incompatible with the Singaporean Constitution.

H.C. v Turkey

Application Number 6428/12

Acted as Junior Counsel for the applicant in a challenge to the criminalization of homosexuality in Northern Cyprus, before the European Court of Human Rights for breach of, inter alia, the rights to private and family life and against degrading treatment. As a result of the claim, the Northern Cyprus Parliament repealed the criminalization (the last criminalization of consensual same sex sexual conduct in Europe) and the Court was dismissed by consent. Led by Nigel Pleming QC.

Student disciplinary procedure advice

Acted as sole counsel advising a major University on the conformity of its student disciplinary procedures with Article 6 ECHR and principles of natural justice and on potential options for reform.

A Charity

Advised a large charity on whether any of it functions constitute functions of a public nature for the purposes of the HRA 1998, with Dinah Rose QC.

Competition

Tom is knowledgeable and experienced in competition law, having previously worked part-time for the Competition Commission on merger inquiries and market investigations before coming to the Bar and having undertaken a range of competition law work in practice, with a particular focus on competition law disputes arising in the sports sector.

Cases

Golf: Poulter & Ors v PGA European Tour

S.L.R. 2022, 4, SLR135-SLR137; SR/165/2022

Acted for professional golf players who had signed to participate in the LIV Golf series in a challenge to disciplinary action taken against them by the PGA European Tour under the DP World Tour's "Conflicting Tournament" rules. By their appeals, the players challenged the enforceability of those rules under UK competition and restraint of trade law. In July 2022, a Sport Resolutions Panel suspended the imposition of sanctions until the players' de novo appeals could be heard. A hearing took place in February 2023 and a decision was delivered in April 2023. With James Segan KC and David Lowe.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

C v D

Advising a company in the telecommunications and media sector in respect of potential claims for refusal to supply and/or abuse of a dominant position contrary to Chapter II of the Competition Act 1998, with Pushpinder Saini QC.

R (UKPNS) v The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

[2014] EWHC 3678 (Admin)

Acted as junior counsel for the Defendant, led by Javan Herberg QC, in this case which concerned the proper construction of domestic implementing regulations in respect of obligations flowing from a European Directive, under Marleasing interpretative principles.

A Union

Acted as sole counsel advising a trade union on whether certain practices give rise to liability in respect of the cartel offence under section 188 Enterprise Act 2002 or as a price-fixing agreement contrary to Article 101 TFEU/Chapter I Competition Act 1998 prohibition.

Littaur v SWE & Anr

High Court (Ch)

Acted as sole counsel for the First Defendant in an action for declaratory relief that the First Defendant had breached European and/or domestic competition law in its application of international rules on the exhibiting and grading of stamps. Tom successfully obtained an order that the proceedings be stayed and struck out unless the Claimant showed that the relevant international governing body had been properly joined to the claim or that fresh proceedings had been brought against the international governing body and an application to consolidate the proceedings made.

Apollo Property Services v The Office of Fair Trading

Appeal against the fine imposed by the OFT following the OFT's findings of a cartel in the construction industry. (Assisting Tom de la Mare QC).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

BA (Hons) (Oxon.) First Class; Diploma in Chinese (Mandarin) (Peking University, Beijing), Diploma in Law (City, London)

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Prizes & Scholarships

- Phoenicia Scholarship (Bar European Group, 2010)
- Inner Temple Internship Award (Inner Temple 2009)
- Princess Royal Scholarship (Inner Temple, 2008)
- Inner Temple Major Exhibition (Inner Temple, 2007)
- College Prize (Wadham College, Oxford University 2006 for Final Honours School results

Tom received a scholarship from Inner Temple in 2009 and bilateral grant funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to conduct research in Beijing on the legal status and position of LGBT people in China. His research has been published in English and Chinese, including by the ILGHRC.

Other relevant experience

Tom worked in political affairs for the European Commission's Delegation to China, in Beijing in 2007. He was involved in human rights, domestic and foreign policy monitoring and project work.

VAT registration number: 995402003

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board