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+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Tom Richards KC

"Tom Richards is very good and effective."
– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026



Year of call:	**2006**
Appointed to silk:	**2023**
Degree:	**Classics & English, BA Hons (Oxon); Diploma in Law (City)**
Languages:	**French (working knowledge)**

Tom took silk in March 2023. He has a broad practice across Chambers' core areas of work. He is an experienced trial and appellate advocate, having argued cases before a wide range of courts and tribunals, including the Commercial Court, Competition Appeal Tribunal and Privy Council.

Tom is recognised in the latest editions of both the leading legal directories, Chambers UK and Legal 500, for his expertise in Administrative, Human Rights & Public, Employment, Media & Entertainment, Offshore, Sport and Telecommunications Law. Key recent comments include:

- "Tom Richards KC is phenomenally clever and technically excellent."- Chambers and Partners, 2025
- "Tom has an outstanding legal mind. His legal brilliance is only outmatched by his humility. He has the ability to precisely set out and present his arguments and without fail he provides unique insight and advice."- Legal 500, 2024
- "Super bright and an excellent advocate. A real star of the future."- Legal 500, 2024
- "An outstanding practitioner."- Chambers and Partners, 2022

Tom was a member of the Attorney General's "A" Panel of Counsel until his appointment to silk in March 2023.

EXPERIENCE

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Tom has acted in several of the major commercial fraud cases of recent years. He also has experience of actions to recover the proceeds of crime, public inquiries into corruption, and constitutional and adminstrative law aspects of criminal defence work.

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Cases

Lord Chancellor v Persons Unknown (2025)

Acted for the Lord Chancellor obtaining interim injunctive relief against those responsible for cyber-hacking the Legal Aid Agency.

Advanced Hose and Marketing Ltd v Philbert and others

Defending an Attorney-at-Law in proceedings in Trinidad and Tobago involving allegations of fraud and conspiracy and a dispute about whether a freezing order was properly obtained.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co v Otep Technolgies Ltd

Sole counsel for the claimants in a High Court claim for trade mark infringement and passing off.

Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale S.A. and others

(Comm Ct, settled 2017)

Junior counsel for one of the Defendants to a $1.5 billion lawsuit alleging fraud, intimidation and bribery in connection with transactions entered into by Libya's sovereign wealth fund under the Gaddafi regime.

Public Institute for Social Security v Al-Rajaan and others

Acted for the First Defendant in a claim brought by the Kuwaiti social security fund said by the Claimant to be worth in excess of US$850 million.

Weavering Capital (UK) Ltd & others v Peterson & others; Dabhia and another v Weavering Capital (UK) Ltd [2013] EWCA Civ 71; Chancery Masters (Spring 2015)

[2012] EWHC 1480 (Ch)

Tom, led by Robert Anderson QC, acted for the liquidators of Weavering Capital (UK) in a c. $500 million action against its former directors and in a subsequent appeal and proceedings for the taking of an account. The claims arose in connection with the collapse of the Weavering Hedge Fund and included claims in deceit / misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.

Serious Organised Crime Agency v Namli

[2013] EWHC 1200 (QB); [2014] EWCA Civ 411

Junior counsel for SOCA (now the National Crime Agency) in an action for the civil recovery of c. $6 million constituting the proceeds of crime and in a subsequent appeal to the court of Appeal.

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Madoff Securities International Ltd v Raven

[2013] EWHC 3147 (Comm), [2014] Lloyd's Rep FC 95

Junior counsel for the liquidators of Bernard Madoff's former London company in the six-week Commercial Court trial of the company's claim for breach of directors' duty, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt, restitution and recovery of trust property. Tom has also been involved in various other pieces of litigation to recover the US$50 billion lost under Madoff's Ponzi scheme, in a retainer involving multi-jurisdictional disputes covering issues of EU law, cross-border insolvency, US bankruptcy law, tracing claims and trusts law. The issues in the case included shareholder ratification and the application of the ex turpi causa doctrine in the context of claims by companies.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Tom acts for individuals, companies and governments in civil liberties and human rights cases, including judicial review claims, applications to Strasbourg and private law actions against the police, Home Office and other public authorities. Tom's practice in this area has included appearances before the European Court of Human Rights, Privy Council, Court of Appeal and Administrative Court. For his specific experience of damages claims against the State, please see under that heading below.

"Tom's ability to identify all the pertinent issues in each case, and relay the same to judges in a digestible manner, is remarkable. He is a calming presence in court."

— LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

R (Kessie-Adjei) v Secretary of State for Justice

[2022] EWHC 722 (Admin)

Acted for the Secretary of State in a judicial review and Article 5 claim concerning the recall to prison of prisoners released on licence.

Shagang Shipping Company v HNA Group Ltd

[2020] UKSC 34

Junior counsel for the appellant, led by Lord Pannick QC, in a shipping case giving rise to important issues of appellate restraint and the proper approach to evidence alleged to have been obtained by torture.

Breyer Group plc & others v Department for Energy and Climate Change

(QBD, settled 2018)

Junior counsel for the claimants in a leading A1P1 damages claim concerning the Government's changes to the Solar Feed In Tariff subsidy scheme.

MG (Nepal) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2016] EWCA Civ 358

Sole counsel for the Secretary of State in this immigration appeal concerning the construction and application of section 85 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

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Ferguson & others v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2016] UKPC 2

Acted for the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago in a Privy Council appeal concerning the retrospective removal by Act of Parliament of a limitation period for criminal offences, which was said by the Appellants to involve a violation of the principle of separation of powers and to infringe their constitutional rights.

SSWP v Bevan

[2015] UKUT 0056 (AAC), [2016] EWCA Civ 413

Acted for Mr Bevan (a claimant) in appeals concerning the sanctioning of jobseekers allowance claimants under "back to work" schemes – as sole counsel before the Upper Tribunal and then with a leader in the Court of Appeal. Issues in the case included whether the retrospective validation of the sanctioning scheme is contrary to the ECHR, and the requirements of common law fairness in the context of the schemes.

Williamson v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2014] UKPC 29

Acted for the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago in an appeal concerning a damages claim for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Commercial

Tom is a commercial litigator experienced in working both as sole counsel and as a member of a large legal team. For his specific experience of civil fraud, media and entertainment, sport and telecommunications work please see the relevant headings above and below.

"He has excellent judgement in terms of knowing how things will play out in court."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

Newcastle United FC v Football Association Premier League

[2021] EWHC 349 (Comm), [2021] EWHC 450 (Comm)

Newcastle United brought arbitral proceedings against the Premier League in connection with the proposed takeover over of the club by the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund. Tom (led by Shaheed Fatima QC and Nick De Marco QC) acted for the club in a Commercial Court claim seeking the removal, on grounds of apparent bias, of the chairman of the arbitrators.

Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation v Serious Fraud Office

[2022] EWHC 1138 (Comm)

Acting for the SFO in a $250 million claim for inducing breach of contract and misfeasance in public office.

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Public Institute for Social Security v Al-Rajaan and others

Acted for the First Defendant in a claim brought by the Kuwaiti social security fund said by the Claimant to be worth in excess of US$850 million.

Ofcom v Vodafone and others

[2020] EWCA Civ 784

Junior counsel for Telefónica, the operator of the O2 network, resisting an appeal by Ofcom against an order for restitution of very substantial licence fees.

Shagang Shipping Company v HNA Group Ltd

[2020] UKSC 34

Junior counsel for the appellant, led by Lord Pannick QC, in a shipping case giving rise to important issues of appellate restraint and the proper approach to evidence alleged to have been obtained by torture.

CPL v CPL Opco (Trinidad) and another

(Ch Div, 2018)

Acted for the Defendants in a dispute concerning the operation of the Trinidad and Tobago T20 cricket team.

Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale S.A. and others

(Comm Ct, settled 2017)

Junior counsel for one of the Defendants to a $1.5 billion lawsuit alleging fraud, intimidation and bribery in connection with transactions entered into by Libya's sovereign wealth fund under the Gaddafi regime.

Glenn Maud v Aabar Block & ors

(Comm Ct, 2016)

Acted for the claimant in a contractual dispute forming part of complex litigation concerning control of multi-billion euro real property in Spain.

Saatchi v Saatchi Online Inc

(Ch Div, 2015)

Junior counsel for Saatchi Online, an online art company, in litigation brought against it by one of its former shareholders, Charles Saatchi, in connection with the alleged termination of an intellectual property licence to use the "Saatchi" name. The case settled after the hearing of Saatchi Online's summary judgment application.

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Serious Organised Crime Agency v Namli

[2013] EWHC 1200 (QB); [2014] EWCA Civ 411

Junior counsel for SOCA (now the National Crime Agency) in an action for the civil recovery of c. $6 million constituting the proceeds of crime and in a subsequent appeal to the court of Appeal.

Substantial LCIA Arbitration

(settled January 2014)

Junior counsel for a respondent to a claim involving allegations of conspiracy and breach of Article 101 TFEU.

Madoff Securities International Ltd v Raven

[2013] EWHC 3147 (Comm), [2014] Lloyd's Rep FC 95

Junior counsel for the liquidators of Bernard Madoff's former London company in the six-week Commercial Court trial of the company's claim for breach of directors' duty, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt, restitution and recovery of trust property. Tom has also been involved in various other pieces of litigation to recover the US$50 billion lost under Madoff's Ponzi scheme, in a retainer involving multi-jurisdictional disputes covering issues of EU law, cross-border insolvency, US bankruptcy law, tracing claims and trusts law. The issues in the case included shareholder ratification and the application of the ex turpi causa doctrine in the context of claims by companies.

Weavering Capital (UK) Ltd & others v Peterson & others; Dabhia and another v Weavering Capital (UK) Ltd [2013] EWCA Civ 71; Chancery Masters (Spring 2015)

[2012] EWHC 1480 (Ch)

Tom, led by Robert Anderson QC, acted for the liquidators of Weavering Capital (UK) in a c. $500 million action against its former directors and in a subsequent appeal and proceedings for the taking of an account. The claims arose in connection with the collapse of the Weavering Hedge Fund and included claims in deceit / misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.

ParOS Plc v Worldlink Group PLC

[2012] EWHC 394 (Comm)

Sole counsel for the Claimant in a six-day Commercial Court trial concerning a claim for fees and costs in connection with the failure of the reverse takeover of an AIM-listed public limited company. The issues included the applicability to the Claimant's claim of the statutory prohibition on financial assistance.

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Damages Claims Against the State

Tom's practice across commercial, human rights, EU and public law has seen him acting for or advising both claimants and defendants in a wide range of damages claims against governments and public authorities, including under section 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998, on Francovich principles, and in private law (e.g. in contract, misfeasance in public office, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment and breach of fiduciary duty).

Employment

Tom's employment practice has a focus on claims raising issues of EU law, but he accepts instructions for both claimants and respondents in all areas of employment law. Tom co-wrote the age discrimination chapter in Tolley's Discrimination in Employment Handbook and was a member of the CBI's working party on holiday pay.

"Tom is a strategic thinker, and his calm yet direct advocacy style is very effective."
— LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

Holiday pay claims
(Employment Tribunals)

Sole counsel for the respondents in various sets of multi-claimant Employment Tribunal proceedings for alleged underpayment of holiday pay.

Seukeran Singh v Commissioner of Police
[2019] UKPC 26

Acted for the appellant in a case concerning promotions in the Police Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Watson and others v London Borough of Newham
(Employment Tribunal, 5 April 2016)

Acted for the Respondent in a multi-claimant claim for underpayment of EU holiday pay.

Ingrid Isaac v Caribbean New Media Group
JCPC 2014/0088 (17 February 2015)

Acted for the Respondent (the state broadcasting company of Trinidad and Tobago) resisting an application for permission to appeal to the Privy Council by the Respondent's former chief executive officer in an employment dispute arising from the termination of her employment contract following a new government coming to power in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

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Bear Scotland Ltd v Fulton, Amec Group Ltd v Law & others

[2015] ICR 221

Led by Dinah Rose QC, Tom Richards acted for Amec in this leading case on holiday pay, arguing questions of EU and domestic statutory interpretation before the EAT.

EU Law

Tom has appeared in EU law cases from the Employment Tribunals to the CJEU. For Tom's specific EU law experience in the sectors of employment, intellectual property, sport and telecommunications please see above and below under the relevant headings.

"On top of the detail, a considered and a clear communicator."

— LEGAL 500, 2019

Cases

Bear Scotland Ltd v Fulton, Amec Group Ltd v Law & others

[2015] ICR 221

Led by Dinah Rose QC, Tom Richards acted for Amec in this leading case on holiday pay, arguing questions of EU and domestic statutory interpretation before the EAT.

NG v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

[2012] UKUT 26 (AAC), [2012] AACR 3

Acted for the Secretary of State in an Upper Tribunal appeal concerning the effect of the CJEU's judgment in C-537/09 Bartlett & Ors.

R (BASCA) v SSBIS

[2015] EWHC 1723 (Admin), [2015] 3 CMLR 28

Junior counsel for the intervener, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, supporting the Claimants' successful challenge to regulations exempting private copying from the scope of copyright protection. The case involved questions of the intensity of review in an EU proportionality context, the harmonised EU copyright regime and State aid law.

R (Diomed Developments Ltd) v Clearcast Limited

(Administrative Court, Spring 2016)

Junior counsel for the Claimant in judicial review proceedings involving the effect of the Medical Devices Directive.

R (EE) v Ofcom

[2016] EWHC 2134 (Admin), [2017] EWCA Civ 1873

Acted for Telefónica in a challenge to Ofcom's decision on Annual Licence Fees.

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R (Leyton Orient Football Club) v London Legacy Development Corporation

[2013] EWHC 3653 (Admin)

Junior counsel for Leyton Orient in an EU and domestic law challenge to the procurement process for the award to West Ham of a concession to use Olympic Stadium. Tom also acted in an earlier judicial review challenge concerning the Stadium award in 2011 and in related arbitration proceedings under FA Rule K.

R (Lumsdon & others) v Legal Services Board

[2014] EWCA Civ 1276, [2015] UKSC 41

Acted for members of the criminal Bar in their challenge to the legality of the Legal Services Board's adoption of the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates. The Supreme Court's decision is considered a key judgment on intensity of judicial review in an EU law proportionality context.

Telefónica UK Limited v Office of Communications

[2012] CAT 28

Appeared as sole counsel for Telefónica in a CAT appeal against a determination by Ofcom concerning "flip-flopping" of termination rates by H3G and Vodafone.

Watson and others v London Borough of Newham

(Employment Tribunal, 5 April 2016)

Acted for the Respondent in a multi-claimant claim for underpayment of EU holiday pay.

Competition

Competition law features in a wide range of contexts across Tom's practice, including the cases included below.

"On top of the detail, a considered and a clear communicator."

— LEGAL 500, 2019

Cases

Association of Football Agents v FIFA

(2014-2015)

Junior counsel for the AFA in a complaint to the European Commission challenging FIFA's proposed new regulations for football agents on EU competition law grounds.

Competition law advice to sports governing body

February 2023

Advising a sports governing body on the implications of competition law for proposed negotiations relating to the collective selling of media rights.

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London Welsh RFC v Rugby Football Union

(July 2012)

Junior counsel for London Welsh in its appeal against its non-promotion to the Premiership, establishing that the rules which had been applied to prevent the club's promotion were void for breach of competition law.

Substantial LCIA Arbitration

(settled January 2014)

Junior counsel for a respondent to a claim involving allegations of conspiracy and breach of Article 101 TFEU.

Intellectual Property

Tom's intellectual property practice has its focus on soft IP. He has experience of copyright (including issues of Crown copyright, digital royalties and streaming, film rights, literary adaptation, online infringement and music royalties), design right, passing off, trademarks and confidential information; and he is particularly interested in the nexus between intellectual property and EU law (a subject on which he has lectured and has been interviewed by the BBC).

Cases

Hebden v Domino Recording Co Ltd

Acted for Domino in a claim by the recording artist known as "Four Tet" seeking increased digital royalties and the assignment to him of Domino's masters.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co v Otep Technolgies Ltd

Sole counsel for the claimants in a High Court claim for trade mark infringement and passing off.

Martin v Kogan

[2021] EWHC 24 (Ch)

Sole counsel for the claimants in the November 2020 retrial of the leading modern case on joint authorship.

Plantronics Inc v Digiphone Ltd and others

(Chancery Division, 2016)

Acted for the defendants in a trade mark infringement claim involving alleged "grey market" goods.

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Yorke & ors v Parlophone Records Ltd

(Ch Div, 2016)

Junior counsel for for the defendant record company in a claim for alleged underpayment of digital royalties brought by members of the band Radiohead.

Kelly & ors v Parlophone Records Ltd

(Ch Div, 2015-2016)

Junior counsel for the defendant record company in a claim for alleged underpayment of digital royalties brought by members of the band Marillion.

R (BASCA) v SSBIS

[2015] EWHC 1723 (Admin), [2015] 3 CMLR 28

Junior counsel for the intervener, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, supporting the Claimants' successful challenge to regulations exempting private copying from the scope of copyright protection. The case involved questions of the intensity of review in an EU proportionality context, the harmonised EU copyright regime and State aid law.

Saatchi v Saatchi Online Inc

(Ch Div, 2015)

Junior counsel for Saatchi Online, an online art company, in litigation brought against it by one of its former shareholders, Charles Saatchi, in connection with the alleged termination of an intellectual property licence to use the "Saatchi" name. The case settled after the hearing of Saatchi Online's summary judgment application.

EMI Records Ltd v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2013] EWHC 379 (Ch); Dramatico Entertainment v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2012] EWHC 1152 (Ch); Dramatico Entertainment & others v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2012] EWHC 268 (Ch)

Junior counsel for the claimants in a series of actions by the record industry under s. 97A CDPA 1998, requiring ISPs to block access to The Pirate Bay and other websites used for online copyright infringement.

Media & Entertainment

Tom is ranked as a media and entertainment law silk by Legal 500.

"Tom is a go-to instruction for complex contractual matters requiring forensic analysis and an understanding of the media and entertainment industry."

— LEGAL 500, 2025

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Cases

Martin v Kogan

[2021] EWHC 24 (Ch)

Sole counsel for the claimants in the November 2020 retrial of the leading modern case on joint authorship.

Hebden v Domino Recording Co Ltd

Acted for Domino in a claim by the recording artist known as "Four Tet" seeking increased digital royalties and the assignment to him of Domino's masters.

Yorke & ors v Parlophone Records Ltd

(Ch Div, 2016)

Junior counsel for for the defendant record company in a claim for alleged underpayment of digital royalties brought by members of the band Radiohead.

Kelly & ors v Parlophone Records Ltd

(Ch Div, 2015-2016)

Junior counsel for the defendant record company in a claim for alleged underpayment of digital royalties brought by members of the band Marillion.

Saatchi v Saatchi Online Inc

(Ch Div, 2015)

Junior counsel for Saatchi Online, an online art company, in litigation brought against it by one of its former shareholders, Charles Saatchi, in connection with the alleged termination of an intellectual property licence to use the “Saatchi” name. The case settled after the hearing of Saatchi Online’s summary judgment application.

EMI Records Ltd v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2013] EWHC 379 (Ch); Dramatico Entertainment v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2012] EWHC 1152 (Ch); Dramatico Entertainment & others v British Sky Broadcasting Ltd [2012] EWHC 268 (Ch)

Junior counsel for the claimants in a series of actions by the record industry under s. 97A CDPA 1998, requiring ISPs to block access to The Pirate Bay and other websites used for online copyright infringement.

Remus Films v BBC & Ors

(2012)

Junior counsel for the Defendant firm of literary agents in a claim concerning a 60-year old assignment of copyright and a BBC production of John Braine’s classic novel Room at the Top. The matter settled shortly before trial.

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Reformation v Cruiseco

[2018] EWHC 2761 (Ch)

Acted with Tom Coates for the Claimant at the trial of its claim for infringement of its music publishing rights in the Spandau Ballet hits "Gold" and "True".

Privy Council & Offshore

Tom has a particular interest in the constitutional law of the Anglophone Caribbean but his practice includes commercial as well as public law work. He has appeared before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in more than 10 appeals, in several of which he has had conduct of the advocacy.

In April 2016 Tom was called as a permanent member of the Bar of Trinidad & Tobago.

Cases

Martinez v Chief Immigration Officer of Trinidad and Tobago

[2022] UKPC 29

Counsel for the appellants, a Venezuelan mother and child, in an appeal involving the legality of their detention by the immigration authorities of Trinidad and Tobago.

Caribbean Welding Supplies Ltd v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2024] UKPC 7

Acted for the appellant in an appeal from Trinidad and Tobago involving the remedies available for the wrongful detention of chattels.

Sahatoo v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2019] UKPC 19

Acted for the appellant in a Privy Council appeal concerning the constitutional right to equality of treatment.

Seukeran Singh v Commissioner of Police

[2019] UKPC 26

Acted for the appellant in a case concerning promotions in the Police Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Re C (a child)

[2018] UKPC 4

Acted for the Appellant in a case concerning among other things the jurisdiction of the Court of the Sensechal of Sark and the quality of law requirement of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Juman v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2017] UKPC 3

Acted as sole counsel for the State of Trinidad and Tobago resisting an appeal in a malicious prosecution claim.

Commissioner of Customs v Delta Petroleum Caribbean Ltd

[2016] UKPC 27

Acted for Delta Petroleum in a Privy Council appeal and cross-appeal concerning the lawfulness of a seizure of fuel by the BVI Customs Commissioner and a claim by Delta for damages.

Ghany v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2015] UKPC 12

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago in a public law appeal concerning the jurisdiction of a commission established to award compensation to police officers and other members of the protective services injured in the line of duty.

Central Broadcasting Services Ltd & another v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2018] UKPC 6

Acted for the appellant in a Privy Council appeal concerning the assessment of compensatory damages for the State's failure to award a radio licence.

Ferguson & others v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2016] UKPC 2

Acted for the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago in a Privy Council appeal concerning the retrospective removal by Act of Parliament of a limitation period for criminal offences, which was said by the Appellants to involve a violation of the principle of separation of powers and to infringe their constitutional rights.

Ingrid Isaac v Caribbean New Media Group

JCPC 2014/0088 (17 February 2015)

Acted for the Respondent (the state broadcasting company of Trinidad and Tobago) resisting an application for permission to appeal to the Privy Council by the Respondent's former chief executive officer in an employment dispute arising from the termination of her employment contract following a new government coming to power in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

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Lovell Romain v Police Service Commission

[2014] UKPC 32

Acted for the Appellant in a public law appeal before the Privy Council concerning promotions in the police and public service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Webster v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2015] UKPC 10

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago in an appeal concerning alleged unconstitutional discrimination against members of the Special Reserve Police force.

Balram Singh v Public Service Commission

[2014] UKPC 26

Acted for the Appellant in a public law appeal before the Privy Council concerning promotions in the police and public service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Williamson v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2014] UKPC 29

Acted for the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago in an appeal concerning a damages claim for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Kublalsingh v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

(Privy Council, 26 February 2014)

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago before the Privy Council in an urgent bias challenge to a High Court Judge of Trinidad and Tobago hearing a constitutional claim against the State in relation to a politically and environmentally controversial highway extension project.

Ramoutar v Public Service Commission

[2012] UKPC 29

Appeared before the Privy Council as an advocate for the Appellant in an appeal concerning promotions in the Prison Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Maharaj v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2019] UKPC 6

Junior counsel for the appellant in a constitutional appeal concerning the composition of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Public & Regulatory

Tom is recommended as a public law silk by both the leading directories and has appeared as an advocate in public and regulatory law cases in the Upper Tribunal, Administrative Court, Competition Appeal Tribunal, Court of Appeal and Privy Council. His clients include individuals (particularly in the fields of asylum and social security), corporations, governments and other public bodies.

"He is a superb junior; very effective."
— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

R (Kessie-Adjei) v Secretary of State for Justice
[2022] EWHC 722 (Admin)

Acted for the Secretary of State in a judicial review and Article 5 claim concerning the recall to prison of prisoners released on licence.

Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation v Serious Fraud Office
[2022] EWHC 1138 (Comm)

Acting for the SFO in a $250 million claim for inducing breach of contract and misfeasance in public office.

JJ Management Consulting LLP v HMRC
[2020] EWCA Civ 784

Junior counsel for HMRC in a significant Court of Appeal decision on HMRC's powers of informal investigation.

Ofcom v Vodafone and others
[2020] EWCA Civ 784

Junior counsel for Telefónica, the operator of the O2 network, resisting an appeal by Ofcom against an order for restitution of very substantial licence fees.

Sahatoo v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago
[2019] UKPC 19

Acted for the appellant in a Privy Council appeal concerning the constitutional right to equality of treatment.

Seukeran Singh v Commissioner of Police
[2019] UKPC 26

Acted for the appellant in a case concerning promotions in the Police Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

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R (Coulter) v IPSO

[2018] EWHC 1017 (Admin)

Acted for the Independent Press Standards Organisation resisting the first claim for judicial review of one of its decisions.

Commissioner of Customs v Delta Petroleum Caribbean Ltd

[2016] UKPC 27

Acted for Delta Petroleum in a Privy Council appeal and cross-appeal concerning the lawfulness of a seizure of fuel by the BVI Customs Commissioner and a claim by Delta for damages.

Central Broadcasting Services Ltd & another v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2018] UKPC 6

Acted for the appellant in a Privy Council appeal concerning the assessment of compensatory damages for the State's failure to award a radio licence.

Breyer Group plc & others v Department for Energy and Climate Change

(QBD, settled 2018)

Junior counsel for the claimants in a leading A1P1 damages claim concerning the Government's changes to the Solar Feed In Tariff subsidy scheme.

R (EE) v Ofcom

[2016] EWHC 2134 (Admin), [2017] EWCA Civ 1873

Acted for Telefónica in a challenge to Ofcom's decision on Annual Licence Fees.

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(Administrative Court, Spring 2016)

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MG (Nepal) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2016] EWCA Civ 358

Sole counsel for the Secretary of State in this immigration appeal concerning the construction and application of section 85 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

R (Rauch) v HMRC

(Admin Ct, 1 March 2016)

Acted for HMRC resisting a renewed application for permission to claim judicial review of HMRC's refusal to give a refund in respect of levies made under the UK/Swiss Agreement on tax co-operation.

Ferguson & others v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2016] UKPC 2

Acted for the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago in a Privy Council appeal concerning the retrospective removal by Act of Parliament of a limitation period for criminal offences, which was said by the Appellants to involve a violation of the principle of separation of powers and to infringe their constitutional rights.

R (Lumsdon & others) v Legal Services Board

[2014] EWCA Civ 1276, [2015] UKSC 41

Acted for members of the criminal Bar in their challenge to the legality of the Legal Services Board's adoption of the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates. The Supreme Court's decision is considered a key judgment on intensity of judicial review in an EU law proportionality context.

R (BASCA) v SSBIS

[2015] EWHC 1723 (Admin), [2015] 3 CMLR 28

Junior counsel for the intervener, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, supporting the Claimants' successful challenge to regulations exempting private copying from the scope of copyright protection. The case involved questions of the intensity of review in an EU proportionality context, the harmonised EU copyright regime and State aid law.

Ghany v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2015] UKPC 12

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago in a public law appeal concerning the jurisdiction of a commission established to award compensation to police officers and other members of the protective services injured in the line of duty.

Webster v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2015] UKPC 10

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago in an appeal concerning alleged unconstitutional discrimination against members of the Special Reserve Police force.

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Lovell Romain v Police Service Commission

[2014] UKPC 32

Acted for the Appellant in a public law appeal before the Privy Council concerning promotions in the police and public service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Balram Singh v Public Service Commission

[2014] UKPC 26

Acted for the Appellant in a public law appeal before the Privy Council concerning promotions in the police and public service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Kublalsingh v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

(Privy Council, 26 February 2014)

Acted for the State of Trinidad and Tobago before the Privy Council in an urgent bias challenge to a High Court Judge of Trinidad and Tobago hearing a constitutional claim against the State in relation to a politically and environmentally controversial highway extension project.

R (Leyton Orient Football Club) v London Legacy Development Corporation

[2013] EWHC 3653 (Admin)

Junior counsel for Leyton Orient in an EU and domestic law challenge to the procurement process for the award to West Ham of a concession to use Olympic Stadium. Tom also acted in an earlier judicial review challenge concerning the Stadium award in 2011 and in related arbitration proceedings under FA Rule K.

Ofcom v Playboy

(16 Jan 2013)

Acted for Playboy in regulatory proceedings brought by Ofcom as co-regulator of On Demand Programme Services.

Telefónica UK Limited v Office of Communications

[2012] CAT 28

Appeared as sole counsel for Telefónica in a CAT appeal against a determination by Ofcom concerning “flip-flopping” of termination rates by H3G and Vodafone.

Ramoutar v Public Service Commission

[2012] UKPC 29

Appeared before the Privy Council as an advocate for the Appellant in an appeal concerning promotions in the Prison Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Maharaj v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago

[2019] UKPC 6

Junior counsel for the appellant in a constitutional appeal concerning the composition of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sport

Tom is recommended as a sports law silk by both leading directories. He has experience of a variety of sport-related disputes, including in relation to competition law, doping issues, appeals over penalty, broadcasting rights, players' agents and player transfers; and his clients have included sports associations (e.g. The Football Association, The Football League, the Rugby Football League, the Welsh Rugby Union, UK Athletics), clubs and corporations (e.g. Cardiff City FC, London Welsh RFC, Leyton Orient FC, Matchroom Sport Ltd) and individuals (e.g. Joe Calzaghe, Barry Hearn).

Tom is an author of the competition law chapter in Lewis and Taylor's Sport: Law and Practice and of the Financial Fair Play chapter in De Marco's Football and the Law.

"Tom Richards KC is phenomenally clever and technically excellent."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

Newcastle United FC v Football Association Premier League

[2021] EWHC 349 (Comm), [2021] EWHC 450 (Comm)

Newcastle United brought arbitral proceedings against the Premier League in connection with the proposed takeover over of the club by the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund. Tom (led by Shaheed Fatima QC and Nick De Marco QC) acted for the club in a Commercial Court claim seeking the removal, on grounds of apparent bias, of the chairman of the arbitrators.

Competition law advice to sports governing body

February 2023

Advising a sports governing body on the implications of competition law for proposed negotiations relating to the collective selling of media rights.

EFL v Derby County FC (2020 - 2021)

Acted for Derby County in disciplinary proceedings relating to the Championship Profitability & Sustainability Rules.

Association of Football Agents v FIFA

(2014-2015)

Junior counsel for the AFA in a complaint to the European Commission challenging FIFA's proposed new regulations for football agents on EU competition law grounds.

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R (Leyton Orient Football Club) v London Legacy Development Corporation

[2013] EWHC 3653 (Admin)

Junior counsel for Leyton Orient in an EU and domestic law challenge to the procurement process for the award to West Ham of a concession to use Olympic Stadium. Tom also acted in an earlier judicial review challenge concerning the Stadium award in 2011 and in related arbitration proceedings under FA Rule K.

Warren & Anor v Bellew, Hearn & Ors

(2013)

Acted for Eddie and Barry Hearn and Matchroom Sport Ltd in a claim by Frank Warren and his promotions vehicle concerning alleged poaching of a boxer.

London Welsh RFC v Rugby Football Union

(July 2012)

Junior counsel for London Welsh in its appeal against its non-promotion to the Premiership, establishing that the rules which had been applied to prevent the club's promotion were void for breach of competition law.

Telecommunications

Tom is ranked in the telecommunications sector by both leading directories. He has advised on, or acted in, challenges to decisions of ATVOD, the BBC, the Communications Authority of Hong Kong, HM Government, Ofcom and PhonepayPlus, as well as commercial disputes between operators. His experience in the sector includes telecoms-related issues of: broadcasting; competition law; dispute resolution by Ofcom; Francovich damages; intellectual property; internet-law and e-commerce; procurement; regulatory investigations; regulatory reform; and spectrum auctions, licensing and management.

"Tom Richards was good at getting to the nub of the issue and giving advice, and always very good at being accommodating."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

Ofcom v Vodafone and others

[2020] EWCA Civ 784

Junior counsel for Telefónica, the operator of the O2 network, resisting an appeal by Ofcom against an order for restitution of very substantial licence fees.

R (EE) v Ofcom

[2016] EWHC 2134 (Admin), [2017] EWCA Civ 1873

Acted for Telefónica in a challenge to Ofcom's decision on Annual Licence Fees.

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PhonepayPlus v Churchcastle

(13 June 2013)

Acted for Churchcastle defending regulatory proceedings brought by the premium rate phone services regulator, which had sought to impose its largest ever fine (£800,000) upon Churchcastle.

Ofcom v Playboy

(16 Jan 2013)

Acted for Playboy in regulatory proceedings brought by Ofcom as co-regulator of On Demand Programme Services.

Telefónica UK Limited v Office of Communications

[2012] CAT 28

Appeared as sole counsel for Telefónica in a CAT appeal against a determination by Ofcom concerning "flip-flopping" of termination rates by H3G and Vodafone.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

Classics & English, BA Hons (Oxon); Diploma in Law (City)

Prizes & Scholarships

- 2007 Phoenicia Scholarship (Bar European Group)
- 2005 The Uthwatt Award (Gray's Inn)
- 2004 David Karmel Entrance Award (Gray's Inn)
- 2003 Passmore-Edwards Prize (Oxford University prize for best performance in Classics & English Finals)
- Magdalen College Selig Poetry Prize
- 2002 Magdalen College Tutorial Prize in English
- 2001 Passmore-Edwards Prize (Oxford University prize for best performance in Classics & English Honour Moderations); Magdalen College Scholarship; Magdalen College Lawlor Prize in English

Publications

- Bullen & Leake & Jacob's Precedents of Pleadings, 18th ed., London, 2016 (contributor)
- Lewis and Taylor's Sport: Law and Practice, 3rd ed., London, 2013 (contributor)
- "Zambrano, McCarthy and Dereci: reading the leaves of EU citizenship", J.R. 2012, 17(3), 272-285

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- Tolley's Discrimination in Employment Handbook, 2nd ed., London, 2011 (contributor)
- "Appeal and Review in the Competition Appeal Tribunal and High Court" 2010 J.R. 2010, 15(3), 201-219 (with Dinah Rose QC)
- Tolley's Discrimination in Employment Handbook, London, 2008 (contributor).

Appointments / Awards

- Attorney General's "A" Panel (2020)

Memberships

- ALBA
- BEG
- CBA
- COMBAR
- ELA
- ELBA

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