



Louis Grandjouan

Call: 2022 (England and Wales); 2019 (New York)

Barrister

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Louis has a busy chancery practice and welcomes instructions across Chambers' core practice areas. He appears regularly in the High Court and County Court, both led and unled.

Louis has experience beyond his year of call, having formerly practised in the London and New York offices of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where he worked primarily on cross-border finance and restructuring transactions. He is admitted as an attorney in New York (2019). He has particular experience of cross-border and multi-jurisdictional issues, and understands the needs of clients operating in a fast-paced and pressured environment.

Since moving to the Bar Louis has dealt with many unled trials from which he has acquired considerable cross-examination experience. He also has experience working as part of a counsel team on substantial commercial chancery disputes.

In 2020-2021, Louis was the judicial assistant to Lord Stephens in the UK Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He worked closely on many appeals raising points of law of general public importance, across a wide range of areas.

COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

Commercial disputes form a significant part of Louis' practice and he is regularly instructed to advise or act in commercial matters, both led and unled.

He has a particular interest in commercial cases involving a company or partnership law element, such as disputes between directors, shareholders or partners, derivative actions, or unfair prejudice petitions.

Recent or ongoing instructions include:

- **Dispute re SPA** [2025]: Acting on behalf of a defendant in respect of an alleged breach of an SPA.
- **Dispute re sale of assets** [2025]: Acting on behalf of claimants in

respect of a claim for unpaid consideration under a Sale of Assets Agreement following the sale of a business.

- **Dispute re subscription agreement** [2025]: Acting on behalf of a shareholder in a high-value dispute relating to the allocation of shares.
- **Dispute re settlement agreement** [2024]: High-value claim for rescission for misrepresentation of a settlement agreement.
- **Dispute re JV** [2024]: Acting on behalf of the shareholder in relation to a complex dispute arising out of the breakdown of a joint venture, involving allegations of breach of contract and fiduciary duty.

As judicial assistant to Lord Stephens, Louis worked closely on a number of important commercial and commercial chancery cases in the Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In the Supreme Court, those cases included:

- *Matthew and others v Sedman* [2021] UKSC 19 (correct approach to calculation of limitation periods in midnight deadline cases).
- *General Dynamics United Kingdom Ltd v State of Libya* [2021] UKSC 22 (enforcement of arbitral award against a foreign state).
- *Triple Point Technology Inc v PTT Public Company Ltd* [2021] UKSC 29 (whether a limitation of liability clause which excludes loss caused by 'negligence' applies to acts amounting to a breach of a contractual duty to use reasonable care and skill, but which do not constitute negligence in tort).
- *CPS v Aquila Advisory* [2021] UKSC 49 (whether proprietary claim brought by company against directors in breach of fiduciary duty can be asserted in priority to confiscation order).

In the JCPC, those cases included:

- **BVI:** *Pleshakov v Sky Stream Corporation* [2021] UKPC 15 (whether shares in a BVI company held on trust).
- **BVI:** *Pickle Properties v Plant* [2021] UKPC 6 (claim for contribution in equity arising out of the payment of a claim under a joint and several guarantee).
- **Jersey and Guernsey:** *Equity Trust (Jersey) Ltd v Halabi (Jersey) and ITG Ltd and others v Fort Trustees Ltd and another (Guernsey)* [2022] UKPC 36 (status of a trustee's right of indemnity in relation to a Jersey law trust; and order of priorities as between trustees and trust creditors).
- **Anguilla:** *Friedland v Hickox* [2021] UKPC 3 (proper construction of a settlement agreement and two awards issued by a mediator in the settlement of a dispute).
- **Grenada:** *Prickly Bay Waterside Limited v British American Insurance Company Limited* [2022] UKPC 8 (whether a sum of money and any accrued interest held under a *Quistclose* trust).
- **Turks and Caicos:** *Silly Creek Estate and Marina Co Ltd v Attorney General Turks and Caicos Islands* [2021] UKPC 9 (legal effect of a settlement agreement and related lease).

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Insolvency is a key part of Louis' practice and he welcomes instructions in this area. He regularly appears in the High Court and County Court on behalf of insolvency practitioners, creditors and debtors, in both corporate and personal insolvency. He has extensive experience of winding-up and bankruptcy proceedings and the full range of related applications; and of claims involving allegations of misfeasance, transactions at an undervalue or preferences.

Louis has particular experience in cross-border insolvencies. He is admitted as an attorney in New York and has previously worked on Chapter 11 bankruptcies involving complex group structures and significant cross-border elements. He also has experience of offshore insolvencies, including involving Jersey companies.

Recent or ongoing instructions include:

- **Re a Company** [2025]: advising liquidators in respect of claims against a company director for breach of fiduciary duty and in respect of transactions at an undervalue.
- **Cresta Estates & ors. v MPB Developments & ors.** [2025] EWHC 1291 (Ch) (application for non-party costs orders against defendant directors).
- **Re a Company** [2025]: representing a former administrator (in their capacity as a creditor) for an administration order with retrospective effect.
- **Re an Unincorporated Association** [2025]: advising the trustees of an unincorporated association as to winding-up proceedings.
- **Recognition application under the CBIR 2006** [2024]: Advising a US group contemplating Chapter 11 proceedings in relation to an application for recognition under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations 2006 in the UK.

At Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Louis worked primarily on cross-border finance and restructuring transactions, including:

- advising a US-based offshore drilling group in Chapter 11 bankruptcy on its refinancing and restructuring.
- advising the ad hoc committee of senior secured noteholders in relation to the financial restructuring and recapitalisation of a UK-based offshore and subsea services group.
- advising a UK and Netherlands-based multinational capital goods group in respect of its debt programmes.
- advising a Netherlands-based multinational health technology group in respect of the establishment of, and subsequent issuances under, a debt programme.
- advising a Canadian mining group in respect of a project financing for a gold mine in Mauritania.

PRIVATE CLIENT

Louis has a busy private client practice and he welcomes instructions in this area. He has significant trial experience in private client cases, including in the cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses.

Louis regularly appears in the High Court and County Court in a variety of trust disputes, including applications to remove trustees, claims for breach of trust, applications under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996, and claims for accounts and recovery of assets.

Louis is also regularly instructed to advise or act in proceedings involving claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975; claims by or against administrators and executors; claims relating to testamentary capacity or involving allegations of undue influence, mutual wills, or common intention constructive trusts.

Ongoing or recent instructions include:

- **Re Variation of a Trust** [2025]: Acting on behalf of the trustees in a high-value application under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958.
- **Dispute re a 1975 Act Claim** [2025]: Acting on behalf of minor defendants to a 1975 Act claim brought by their father.
- **Dispute re a 1975 Act Claim** [2025]: Acting on behalf of a cohabitant claimant against the deceased's wife in a 1975 Act claim involving a large and complex estate.
- **Dispute re a Will** [2025]: Acting on behalf of the claimant in a cross-border claim to remove executors and propound in favour of a will.
- **Dispute re a Will** [2025]: Acting on behalf of defendant beneficiaries in a claim alleging mutual wills and undue influence.
- **Paisley v Arthurs** [2024]: Successfully representing the defendant beneficiaries in a multi-day trial in the High Court in a 1975 Act claim brought by the deceased's wife. The claim was dismissed after the first day with an award of indemnity costs, after establishing that significant parts of

the claimant's evidence were untrue, such that the claimant decided not to continue with her claim.

As judicial assistant to Lord Stephens, Louis worked closely on the following important cases in a private client and charities context:

- *Equity Trust (Jersey) Ltd v Halabi (Jersey) and ITG Ltd and others v Fort Trustees Ltd and another (Guernsey)* [2022] UKPC 36 (status of a trustee's right of indemnity in relation to a Jersey law trust; and order of priorities as between trustees and trust creditors).
- *Rittson-Thomas and others v Oxfordshire County Council* [2021] UKSC 13 (scope of trustees' powers of sale in respect of a charitable trust of land).

TAX

Louis is currently instructed on behalf of HMRC in a number of high-value and complex tax disputes and appeals, including cases involving film partnership schemes and the disguised remuneration loan charge.

He is a member of the GLD Junior scheme and welcomes instructions in his own right in relation to contentious and non-contentious tax matters.

Recent instructions include:

- **Dispute re EBT:** Acting on behalf of HMRC in a high-value claim relating to an employee benefit trust settlement.
- **Re Variation of a Trust:** Advising the trustees as to the tax implications of an application under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958.

As a pupil, he assisted with a number of complex tax disputes involving avoidance schemes, including the *Ingenious* litigation before the Court of Appeal (*Ingenious Games LLP and ors v HMRC* [2022] EWCA Civ 1015: application under CPR r.52.30 to seek to re-open the refusal of permission to appeal).

As judicial assistant to Lord Stephens in the Supreme Court, Louis worked closely on *R (Haworth) v HMRC* [2021] UKSC 25 (interpretation of HMRC's obligations under follower notice regime).

OFFSHORE

Louis has a growing offshore practice and he welcomes instructions in this area. Recent instructions include:

- **Jersey:** Advising on an application to the Royal Court of Jersey for directions on behalf of the liquidators of a Jersey company.
- **Jersey:** As a pupil, assisting with a professional negligence claim against Jersey Advocates.

As a judicial assistant at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Louis worked on many commercial chancery cases from offshore jurisdictions, including:

- **BVI:** *Pleshakov v Sky Stream Corporation* [2021] UKPC 15 (whether shares in a BVI company held on trust).
- **BVI:** *Pickle Properties v Plant* [2021] UKPC 6 (claim for contribution in equity arising out of the payment of a claim under a joint and several guarantee).
- **Jersey and Guernsey:** *Equity Trust (Jersey) Ltd v Halabi (Jersey) and ITG Ltd and others v Fort Trustees Ltd and another (Guernsey)* [2022] UKPC 36 (status of a trustee's right of indemnity in relation to a Jersey law trust; and order of priorities as between trustees and trust creditors).
- **Anguilla:** *Friedland v Hickox* [2021] UKPC 3 (proper construction of a settlement agreement and two awards issued by a mediator in the settlement of a dispute).
- **Grenada:** *Prickly Bay Waterside Limited v British American Insurance Company Limited* [2022] UKPC 8 (whether a sum of money and any

accrued interest held under a Quistclose trust).

- **Turks and Caicos:** *Silly Creek Estate and Marina Co Ltd v Attorney General Turks and Caicos Islands* [2021] UKPC 9 (legal effect of a settlement agreement and related lease).

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Louis has extensive experience of professional liability disputes, including claims for negligence, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty.

Recent or ongoing instructions include:

- **Solicitors** [2025]: Acting for a claimant lender against former solicitors in respect of a dispute regarding loan documentation.
- **Tax advisors** [2025]: Acting for claimant beneficiaries against tax advisors in respect of the provision of tax advice in relation to the variation of a will.
- **Estates and probate** [2025]: Acting for claimant beneficiaries against solicitors in respect of a dispute regarding the drafting of a will.
- **Civil engineers** [2025]: Acting for a claimant against an engineer in respect of defective designs.
- **Accountants** [2024]: Acting on behalf of HMRC in a high-value claim against an accountancy firm.
- **Jersey Advocates** [2023]: As a pupil, Louis assisted with a professional negligence claim against Jersey Advocates.

PROPERTY

Louis regularly advises on property law issues and has been instructed in a wide range of property law disputes in respect of both commercial and residential property, freehold and leasehold. Recent or ongoing instructions include:

- **Re a Dispute** [2025]: advising a landowner in respect of a claim for nuisance by flooding.
- **Re a TLATA Dispute** [2025]: claim for an order for sale under TLATA.

As judicial assistant to Lord Stephens, Louis worked closely on a number of property cases in the Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

In the Supreme Court:

- *T W Logistics Ltd v Essex County Council & another* [2021] UKSC 4 (effect of registration under the Commons Act 2006)

In the JCPC:

- **Turks and Caicos:** *Silly Creek Estate and Marina Co Ltd v Attorney General Turks and Caicos Islands* [2021] UKPC 9 (legal effect of a settlement agreement and related lease).
- **Mauritius:** *Hurhangee v Ramsawhook* [2021] UKPC 25 (claim for acquisition of land by prescription).

QUALIFICATIONS

Louis graduated from the University of Oxford with a first-class degree in Law (Jurisprudence). He was a scholar of University College, Oxford where he was awarded the Alan Urbach Memorial Prize for Jurisprudence.

In 2022 Louis benefited from a Pegasus Scholarship to meet with judges at the US Supreme Court and other US federal and state courts.

Louis is bilingual in French and is happy to accept instructions in French.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Christ Church, the Dean and the Charity Commission](#), Private Client

Business, P.C.B. 2023, 1, 34-40

- [Boilerplate terms restricting freedoms in composite transactions: some traps for the unwary](#), Simon Mills and Louis Grandjouan Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, B.J.I.B. & F.L. 2024, 39 (2), 97-99
- Case Report: *Hex Technologies Ltd & ors V DCBX Ltd*, Corporate Rescue and Insolvency (2023) 3 CRI 111

MEMBERSHIPS

Chancery Bar Association

L'Association des Juristes Franco-Britanniques/ The Franco-British Lawyers Society

POLICIES

Read Louis' [Privacy Notice](#), [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Disposal Policy](#).