



Simon Conroy Consultant Solicitor

Jurisdiction: England & Wales

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Overview

Simon is a commercial litigator who has for over 25 years specialised in the cost-effective resolution of complex, high-profile disputes which often incorporate an international element.

The music industry is a strange place to live and work in. It is very much a thick soup full of sharks and can feel so much like quick sand. You are and have been for us such a breath of fresh air. Your energy, commitment and passion have not for one second gone unnoticed and for this, Simon, I am extremely grateful. Thank you for believing and sharing with us the vision of a great thing. We will never forget you and what you have done.

Johnny McDaid

Then of Vega 4, now of Snow Patrol and co-writer with Ed Sheeran, Robbie Williams and Pink

I have worked with Simon on a number of commercial legal matters since 2001. Simon has been a pleasure to work with, consistently meeting his commitments on a timely basis with cogent and, where necessary, pragmatic advice. Simon has the ability to see the issues from his clients perspective and use that insight to guide his clients.

Christopher Edmonson

Simon, provided a professional service with detailed insight in a complex topic, clearly and authoritively. No hesitation in recommending him.

Tim Thomas

Owner, The Thomas Partnership

I had cause to introduce Simon to a client friend in the media industry. When I say media, they are a celebrity. He took what was a fairly horrible situation for the client and turned it around completely, and the young lady in question could not be happier with the outcome at every level. Since Simon became involved, it has been a life changing experience for her (in the positive) and it is pretty much all down to the way Simon analysed the situation and orchestrated the best possible outcome. Based on the feedback I received personally, he clearly excels at what he does.

Nick M. Child

Managing Director, Secretariat International

Expertise

- Commercial litigation
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Media and entertainment (particularly music)
- Intellectual property disputes
- Employment
- Fraud
- Insolvency
- Contentious probate and trusts
- Family
- Privy Council appeals

Cases

Commercial Litigation

- Acted for the former managing director of a joint venture between a Greek hotelier and a sheikh including four-week Commercial Court trial involving €31m and advising on a related £8m arbitration.
- Acted for a BVI company which owns a £6m property in London included in a worldwide freezing injunction obtained in related proceedings in Cyprus.
- Acted for the former Managing Director of Whessoe Oil & Gas Limited and Cleveland Bridge (UK) Limited in relation to claims for over £50m after costs overruns on the construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in South Wales. Struck out £48m pre-trial. Case settled mid-trial.
- Acted for a leading UK architect in proceedings for the alleged wrongful exclusion of a third party from a £77m project in the Netherlands.
- Defended a claim by a London casino for payment of a £2m gambling debt incurred on one night of a period during which the client gambled £90m.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Numerous mediations on behalf of clients since 1990, the vast majority of which settled at or shortly after the mediation.
- Appointed by The Musicians' Union to mediate a dispute between members.

Sports, Media and Entertainment

- Opposed the continuation of a Mareva injunction on behalf of the owner of four satellite television broadcasting channels unlawfully sequestered by the client's former business partner.
- Acted for the estate of a famous Spanish poet whose manuscript was being auctioned at Christies without the estate's consent.
- Acted for an advertising agency in relation to a pan-European injunction obtained by a leading rock band for alleged copyright infringement on a Christmas campaign for a well-known jeans company.
- Acted for the Spanish sponsor of a leading Premiership football club.
- Acted for a leading Formula One racing driver in relation to a claim for infringement of his trade mark.
- Advised a leading football agent on his exit from a joint venture with a Dutch agency.

Intellectual Property

- Acted for a global mining company in relation to worldwide patent litigation against a leading Belgian competitor, including five-week High Court trial, £34m account of profits, two-week appeal to Court of Appeal and Petition to House of Lords.
- Acted for the manufacturer of impact wrenches used in the railway industry in relation to infringement of design right and passing off proceedings.
- Acted for a leading Parisian department store against a leading London department store in relation to a claim for copyright infringement in its Christmas window display.
- Acted for a leading clothes retailer in relation to a claim by a leading clothes retailer for copying its designs.
- Acted for a UK dating agency being sued for passing off by a rival US agency setting up in the UK.
- Acted for a leading Turkish white-goods manufacturer in a domain name dispute.

Employment

- Acted for a high-flying chartered accountant formerly employed by a major bank concerning a £12m loss-of-career claim due to sex discrimination. Also involved whistleblowing allegations.
- Obtained an interim injunction to restrain the breach of restrictive covenants by the former employee of a leading IT recruitment agency.

- Acted for a music industry executive who was dismissed after falling pregnant.

Fraud

- Obtained a Mareva injunction on behalf of a member of a leading pop group after his financial adviser had made substantial secret profits on property transactions.
- Acted for the former director of a joint venture company after his co-director had conspired with a PLC to defraud him.
- Acted for a former partner in a firm of solicitors after the firm's managing partner had defrauded him.

Insolvency

- Acted for a leading independent record label after its joint-venture partner appointed a receiver.
- Acted for the co-writer of a worldwide hit record after his company went into liquidation and he was declared bankrupt.
- Advised a leading West End nightclub in relation to restructuring and issues arising with HMRC in relation to the same.
- Acted for a leading rock band in the aftermath of the liquidation of its European operating company.

Contentious Probate and Trusts

- Acted for the widow of a famous rock guitarist in a dispute with the deceased's parents and sister who made allegations of undue influence.
- Advised the beneficiary of a famous film star's will in relation to the executor's exercise of discretion.
- Advised the beneficiary of a will where the testator bequeathed property in London and Lebanon and the testator's siblings allege the testator lacked mental capacity.
- Advised the executors of a famous architect's estate regarding attempts by the deceased's siblings to appoint new executors.

Family

- Advised the managing director of a leading futures broker in relation to his divorce.
- Advised a world-famous rock star in relation to his divorce.
- Advised a well-known classical musician in relation to his divorce.

Privy Council Appeals

- Advised the director of a Bahamian company in a \$32m dispute with a Bahamian bank regarding a resort development.

- Acted for the Government of the British Virgin Islands in relation to an appeal to the Privy Council regarding duty allegedly payable on imported petroleum.
- Acted for the sole executrix of the deceased's estate in circumstances giving rise to allegations of undue influence.
- Acted for the wife in ongoing proceedings involving the Matrimonial Causes Act and the Married Women's Property Act over 17 years after the divorce.

Reported Cases

- *Glaverbel v British Coal Corporation* [1993] RPC 90, [1994] RPC 443, [1995] RPC 225
- *Airtec v Bance* [1996] RPC 667
- *Wainwright & Burton v FX Music Limited* [1999] EMLR 826
- *Macdonald v Polaine* [2002] All ER (D) 132
- *Hart v Relentless Records* [2003] FSR 36
- *JD Wetherspoon Plc v Van De Berg & Co Limited* [2007] EWHC 1044 (Ch)
- *Al-Zayat v Aspinall's Club Limited* [2007] EWHC 362, [2007] EWCA Civ 1001
- *Whessoe Oil & Gas Limited & Anor v Dale* [2012] EWHC 1788 (TCC), [2012] EWHC 2270 (TCC)
- *Antigua Power Company Limited v The Attorney General of Antigua* [2013] UKPC 23
- *Eutetra Bromfield v Vincent Bromfield* [2015] UKPC 19 (Jamaica)
- *Alcide v Desir & Anor* [2015] UKPC 24 (St Lucia)
- *Silver Point Condominium Apartments v Johann D Swart & Ors* [2015] UKPC 32 (Bahamas)
- *Pinard-Byrne v Lennox Linton* [2015] UKPC 41 (Dominica)
- *Commissioner of Customs v Delta Petroleum (Caribbean) Limited* [2016] UKPC 27 (BVI)
- *NRC Holding Limited v Danilitskiy & Anor* [2017] EWHC 1431 (Ch)

Career

- 2018** **Keystone Law** | *Consultant Solicitor*
- 2017 - 2017** **Setfords** | *Consultant Solicitor*
- 2010 - 2017** **Simons Muirhead & Burton** | *Partner*
- 1998 - 2006** **Simon Conroy Solicitors** | *Sole Principal*
- 1995 - 1998** **Statham Gill Davies** | *Partner*
- 1989 - 1995** **Nabarro** | *Solicitor*

