



## Banking and Finance Litigation

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis and the more recent accusations regarding LIBOR and foreign currency exchanges, banks and other financial institutions need now, more than ever, to reduce and manage legal, regulatory, financial and reputational risks.

An important part of the risk management exercise is the investigation, identification and monitoring of contentious and regulatory issues across each international centre of operation, partnering with litigation and regulatory counsel attuned to your needs in relevant jurisdictions.

We are experienced in handling large and complex investigations and claims, both domestic and international, and are regularly instructed by some of the largest financial institutions in relation to their most substantial and sensitive disputes. Our big case experience means that we are accustomed to managing large multi-disciplinary teams across international borders, spanning the life cycle of a dispute from investigation, through contentious regulatory proceedings to litigation or arbitration.

Our experience is deep and diverse and includes representing banks and financial institutions in a full range of financial disputes, before courts and tribunals around the globe. We are equally comfortable litigating before the High Courts of England, Frankfurt, Hong Kong or Singapore, the US District Court for the Southern District of New York or the Moscow Arbitrazh Court. We arbitrate before all the major arbitral institutions and were a founding sponsor of the PRIME Finance arbitration and mediation tribunal, established in the Hague specifically to resolve disputes relating to complex financial transactions.

### CAPABILITES

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#### **Investment banking and structured finance litigation**

We have acted on a number of the most significant cases in the investment banking arena since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. These matters are typically high value, both in terms of quantum, and reputational and precedential risk.

#### **Corporate and retail banking**

We have extensive experience handling the full range of corporate and retail banking disputes, and we are able to combine our experience and expertise in all major financial centres with regional strength to coordinate multi-party and class action litigation, including representation of underwriters in US shareholder class actions.

#### **Regulatory enforcement and disputes**

We offer legal knowledge and practical advice on a wide range of issues relating to all the global financial services regulatory bodies, including the US Department of Justice, Federal Reserve Bank, the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulation Authority, various European and European Union regulatory and supervisory bodies, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, Australian Securities and Investments Commission and many others. The team regularly undertakes internal investigations for

both wholesale and retail firms and assists clients with self-notification issues, responses to supervisory enquiries and investigations by the enforcement divisions of regulatory bodies, and we appear before the various regulatory tribunals, committees and panels when action is taken.

### **Fraud and asset tracing**

We are experienced in the investigation and prosecution of fraud (civil and criminal) and in tracing misappropriated assets across national borders. We are also experienced in assisting financial institutions to respond to freezing and disclosure orders served on them and in defending them against direct allegations of fraud.

## **EXPERIENCE**

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- Acting for Australian noteholders in the landmark Belmont Park case brought in England to establish payment priority under a US\$12.5 billion Lehman synthetic CDO program and coordinating parallel proceedings in the New York Bankruptcy Court and District Court.
- Representing a major international bank in related proceedings in New York and Tanzania courts arising out of the financing of a power plant in Dar-es-Salaam.
- Conducting various regulatory, governance and compliance investigations and reviews for financial institutions.
- Providing global FATCA and privacy advice to leading financial institutions.
- Advising a major UK lender in connection with an investigation of mortgage fraud in a portfolio of in excess of 400 mortgages on 'buy to let' properties.
- Representing two major banks in relation to a US\$2 billion swap dispute in Italy.
- Advising a Russian bank in relation to several arbitrations and in obtaining injunctive relief in connection with a number of credit default swaps.
- Representing a major international bank in related proceedings in London and the UAE in a US\$120 million claim arising out of disputed title to an oil cargo.
- Advising an international banking group in relation to a €140 million claim in respect of a high profile takeover of a financial institution by a banking consortium.
- Acting for a financial services group in relation to payment protection insurance claims, advising on the implementation of a root cause analysis, the British Bankers' Association Review and representing the firm in a related dispute with its insurers regarding its customer redress programme.
- Conducting an investigation for an international bank in relation to forex trading with a major Chinese company and advising on a related HKSF and Commercial Crime Bureau investigations.
- Acting in parallel litigation and arbitration proceedings relating to a large international Ponzi scheme involving entities in Liechtenstein, Cyprus, and St Vincent & the Grenadines, resulting in a multi-million RICO judgment in the US.
- Advising a major international bank in connection with theft, fraud and money laundering involving funds misappropriated in South Africa and wired through Hong Kong and thereafter layered through various banks in a number of jurisdictions.
- Representing the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as receiver for numerous failed banks throughout the United States in post-insolvency disputes regarding capitalization, ownership of assets and similar matters.