



Complex Disputes

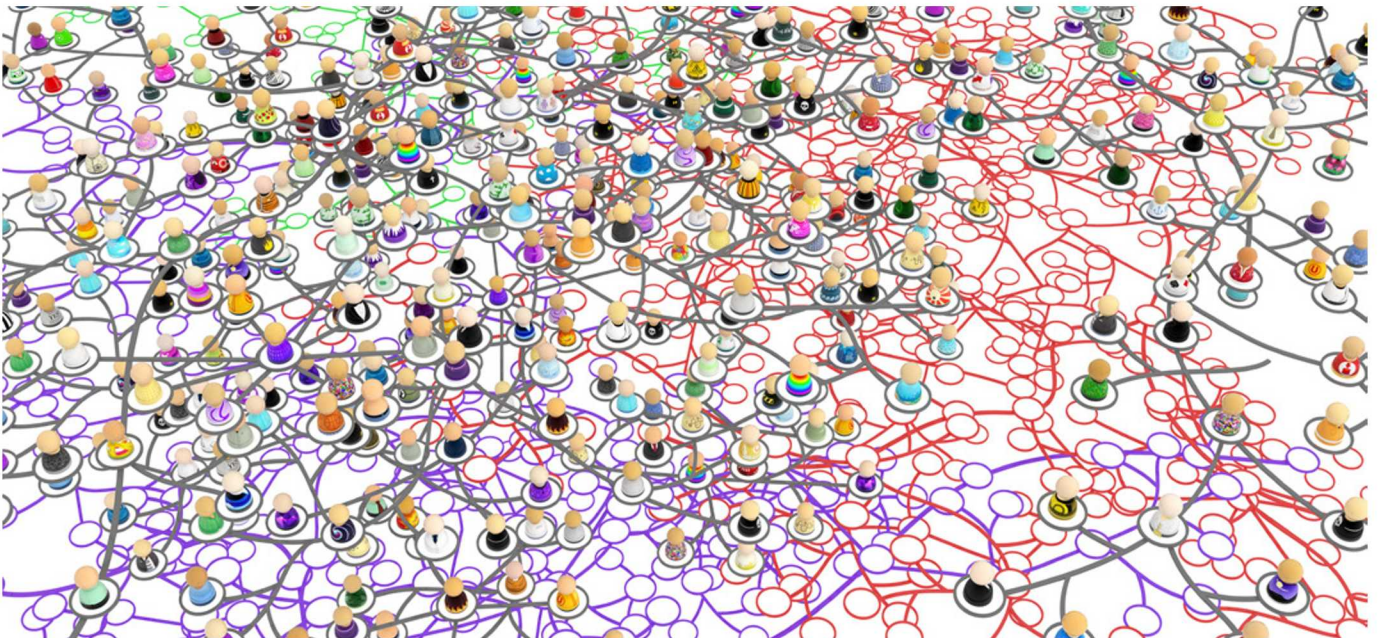
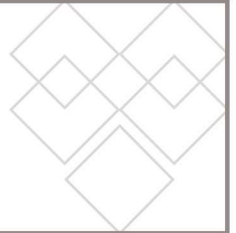
2022



PROFILED:

JAMES RUSSELL

Humphries Kerstetter LLP





Complex Disputes



JAMES RUSSELL

Managing Partner

Humphries Kerstetter LLP

London, UK

T: +44 (0)20 3929 3187

E: jr@humphrieskerstetter.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

James Russell is the managing partner of specialist city litigation practice Humphries Kerstetter LLP. He is a commercial litigator and solicitor advocate of nearly 20 years' experience. A former SuperLawyers rising star, he is recommended in the Legal 500 for complex financial disputes. His core practice comprises banking, finance and corporate disputes, often involving company law issues and breaches of trust and duty. He regularly appears as an advocate. Outside the law, he has a passion for classic cars and he founded a successful classic car restoration business in 2013, with which he remains involved.

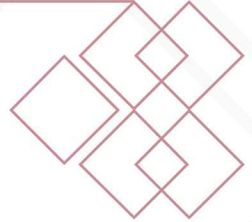
HK HUMPHRIES
KERSTETTER

**JAMES RUSSELL**

Humphries Kerstetter LLP



Q&A WITH JAMES RUSSELL

**What do you consider to be your major career achievements?**

◆ My first career achievement – training and qualifying at Linklaters – remains a key achievement because it hugely influenced my approach during my formative years as a litigator. It also set the course for my subsequent career at Humphries Kerstetter, which was founded by former Linklaters partner Mark Humphries in 2009. I joined in 2010. The firm has grown organically by reputation on the basis of a number of wins built up over time. These include clients, cases, hires and recognition, to name a few. When you have been an integral part of what was effectively a start-up, the story very much becomes a part of you. I see Humphries Kerstetter itself as a key career achievement which, importantly to me, I share with my partners. I was particularly proud when the firm was described in this year’s Legal 500 as offering “Magic Circle quality in a boutique setting”.

Could you provide an insight into how you approach your work? What drives and motivates you?

◆ Like all litigators I want to win. My approach is always to focus on what I would do if I was on the other side and to look for the vulnerabilities in my clients’ position as much as the strengths. Once you have assessed those you can plot a course around potential landmines. I focus on the detail because in my experience that is where complex commercial litigation is won or lost. Being a litigator is a vocation. We assist clients with their most difficult problems when they most need our help, thereby subjecting ourselves to regulated, but often brutal, warfare. It is not a job you leave when you leave your desk. Despite that, most litigators conclude early in their legal career that it is the only legal path for them, and I was no different. I prefer not to dwell on what many normal people make of that.

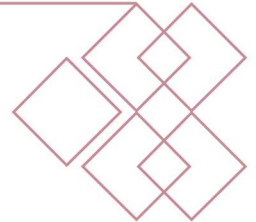


JAMES RUSSELL

Humphries Kerstetter LLP



Looking back, have you fulfilled the ambitions and aspirations you set for yourself early in your career?

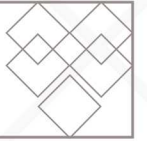


◆ My career aspiration was to take the path less trodden while not compromising on the quality of the work. As the managing partner of a firm which struck out on its own at a time when that was almost unheard of, it is very satisfying to have achieved all that we have. We have worked hard, slogging at times, and I do not take any of it for granted, particularly the luck. There is always more to do and not enough time, but I am proud of where we are. I am still looking forward, not back. ■

**“WE ASSIST CLIENTS WITH THEIR MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS
WHEN THEY MOST NEED OUR HELP, THEREBY SUBJECTING
OURSELVES TO REGULATED, BUT OFTEN BRUTAL, WARFARE.”**

**JAMES RUSSELL**

Humphries Kerstetter LLP

**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Acting for a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco Santander in defence of a claim made by BNP Paribas for a bond make whole payment valued at €250m.
- ◆ Acting for one of the world's largest winemakers in defence of proceedings brought by Goldman Sachs International in relation to highly leveraged FX derivatives.
- ◆ Acting for a consortium of retailers in collective proceedings against Visa and Mastercard in respect of unlawful credit card transaction fees.
- ◆ Acting against a high-profile defendant in arbitral proceedings for which injunctive relief was successfully obtained.
- ◆ Acting as lead advocate in arbitral proceedings against an investment bank in a mandate dispute in relation to the sale of a substantial manufacturing business.
- ◆ Appearing as advocate in the Commercial Court on a summary judgment application in relation to the true nature and effect of a financial settlement agreement.
- ◆ Acting as advocate for shareholders in contentious insolvency proceedings relating to the Core VCT liquidation.

