

John D. Magnin

Partner

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OVERVIEW

John Magnin is a partner with almost 40 years' experience in the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice. His experience includes international arbitration, commercial litigation, and other forms of complex dispute resolution, often with a significant international dimension. Much of his time is spent advising clients on mitigating risk, and avoiding or preparing for litigation or arbitration.

John's experience includes: cross-border joint-venture disputes; acting for, and responding to activist investors; investment and transaction-related claims; boardroom disputes; gas and trading disputes; agency and distribution disputes; companies, insolvency and financial services proceedings; and sport, tech and media related matters.

Testimonials include: *The Legal 500* 2025: Hall of Fame – “excellent top-legal strategy advice”; *The Legal 500* 2024: Hall of Fame – “clients love working with [him]”, and “excellent…. especially for complex and high value disputes”; *The Legal 500* 2023: Hall of Fame – “wise counsel”; *The Legal 500* 2022: Hall of Fame - “an excellent disputes lawyer, very experienced, a great tactician”; *The Legal 500* 2021: “exceptional” and ranked as a leading individual; GAR 100 (13th Ed): “excellent, accurate and responsive” ; and “understand[s] the client, work[s] endlessly to satisfy their needs and come up with great suggestions”; *The Legal 500* 2020: “exceptionally easy to work with and pragmatic”; GAR 100 (12th Ed): did an “excellent job” in a case that was “key to the [client's] business”; *Chambers* 2017: “able to provide consistent advice on delicate or tough matters”; *The Legal 500* 2017: “a strong leader”, and “knows when to get his hands dirty on clients' behalf”; *The Legal 500* 2015: “great strategic vision”; *Chambers* 2014: "very good at mapping out the course and planning the litigation"; GAR 100 (5th Ed.): "a first-rate tactician"; *The Legal 500* 2011: "strategically brilliant"; *The Legal 500* 2010: highlights "the sheer quality and depth of his advice"; *Chambers* 2009: "business-like and practical"; *Chambers* 2008: "excellent judgment".

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* in London
  - Hall of Fame for Commercial Litigation: Mid-market, 2024-2027
  - Recommended Lawyer for International Arbitration, 2024-2026

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Head of Litigation, Nicholson Graham & Jones (2002 - 2004)
- Partnership Board, Nicholson Graham & Jones (2002 - 2004)
- Money Laundering Reporting Officer, London (1994 - 2014)
- Management Committee, K&L Gates (2005 - 2016)
- Advisory Council, K&L Gates (2016 - 2026)
- Global co-Practice Area Leader for Dispute Resolution and Litigation, K&L Gates (2005 - 2026)

EDUCATION

- LL.B., University College London, 1984

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Rights Civil)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 20 October 2022, High Court of Australia to Hear Appeal on Recognition of ICSID Arbitral Award Against Spain in November 2022
- 28 March 2022, High Court of Australia Grants Special Leave to Appeal Decision Recognizing ICSID Arbitral Award Against Spain
- 16 February 2021, No-Deal Brexit for Dispute Resolution?
- 1 December 2020, UK Supreme Court Issues Guidance on the Governing Law of an Arbitration Agreement: Enka v Chubb
- October 2017, Arbitration World
- 28 July 2017, Competition Appeal Tribunal Blocks Class Action Against MasterCard
- 22 February 2017, Mastercard Win Over Retailers for “Interchange Fees”
- December 2016, Arbitration World
- 15 August 2016, Brexit's Impact on ISDA Documentation
- 8 July 2016, Brexit: Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Arbitration Clauses
- June 2016, Arbitration World

- 3 June 2016, "Brexit Bites": Dispute Resolution Implications
- 27 May 2016, "Brexit Bites": Dispute Resolution
- January 2016, Brexit Briefing

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Brexit, MiFID II, MiFIR and Cross-Border Dispute Resolution," 19 August 2016
- "Taming Price Review Clauses: Lessons from the Transactional and Arbitration Battlefields," *LNG18*, April 2016

NEWS & EVENTS

- 30 September 2026, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2027 Edition
- 1 October 2025, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2026 Edition
- 8 November 2024, K&L Gates Leads Hanson Building Materials Limited to Trial Victory
- 4 October 2023, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognized in *The Legal 500 UK* 2024 Edition
- 21 September 2023, K&L Gates Welcomes Frankfurt Litigation Partner
- 22 June 2023, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Throughout Europe Recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 30 September 2022, K&L Gates Ranked in 30 Categories in *The Legal 500 UK* 2023 Edition
- 25 August 2022, India Business Law Journal Names K&L Gates Among Top Firms for India-Related Work in 2022 Report
- 6 October 2021, K&L Gates Ranked in Nearly 30 Categories in the 2022 Legal 500 UK Guide
- 6 January 2021, K&L Gates Furthers Growth of Litigation Practice With Paris Partner Addition
- 21 August 2020, *India Business Law Journal* Names K&L Gates Among Top Firms for India-Related Work
- 26 May 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Earn Honors in Chambers Global, Regional Guides
- 6 May 2015, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers Global Guides

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- International Arbitration

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Sports

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Corporate, Joint-venture, Transactional and Boardroom Disputes

- Joint venture disputes (x 2) involving assets in Kazakhstan.
- Joint venture disputes (x 2) involving assets in Kurdistan.
- Joint venture dispute involving assets in Nepal.
- Joint venture dispute involving assets in Ghana.
- Joint venture dispute involving assets in Zambia.
- Activist investor dispute involving proceedings before the Takeover Panel and the Takeover Appeal Board.
- Obtaining eight-figure judgment in ‘material adverse change’ claim.
- Unfair prejudice proceedings resulting in nine-figure buy-out of venture capital client.
- Acting for Chinese investors in unfair prejudice proceedings leading to boardroom change at UK-listed African mining company.
- Acting for non-executive directors in successful defence at trial of disqualification proceedings following high-profile collapse of a UK Christmas savings company.
- Working with US counsel to defeat hard fought veil-piercing claims in Californian proceedings.
- Successful defence of eight-figure warranty claims concerning sale of car and van rental business.
- Advising on favourable resolution of warranty claims on purchase of telecoms business.
- Eight-figure recovery through completion accounts expert determination following purchase of oilfield services business.
- Seven-figure recovery through completion accounts expert determination, to reflect status of ageing inventory, following sale of food additives business.
- Advising on limited partner disputes involving substantial real estate assets.
- Advising on team moves, especially in the financial services sector.
- Advising on boardroom disputes involving severance and bad leaver provisions.
- Advising investment manager on limited partnership departures.

Finance and Financial Services Disputes

- Numerous disputes arising from securitisation and structured finance transactions, including litigation in the UK and internationally.
- Crypto asset related litigation.
- Litigation over bills of exchange and promissory notes.
- Litigation over security, guarantees and indemnities.
- Successful mediation of alleged *Quincecare* claim.
- Defending CFD broker against claims brought by customers alleging mis-selling, churning and provision of false information.
- Defending forex broker against claims brought by purported customers over the operation of sub accounts.
- Defending futures broker against claims brought by customers over the operation of stop loss instructions.
- Defending stock broker against claims brought by customers concerning inter-action of trading and loan accounts.
- Advising stock broker on regulatory investigation into trading execution practices.
- Advising stock broker on challenge to regulator's refusal to grant authorization.
- Advising investment bank on regulatory investigation into identity/disclosure of ultimate beneficial ownership of customer.
- Advising investment bank on regulatory investigation into alleged concert party involving a fund promoted by the bank.
- Advising investment manager on regulatory investigation into alleged concert party in takeover of listed company.
- Injunction proceedings involving departing team in financial services sector.
- Advising life insurer in mis-selling proceedings.

Sport, Tech and Media

- Acting for Formula One Management Limited in a claim brought by former F1 driver, Felipe Massa, arising out of the “Crashgate” controversy [2025] EWHC 3064.
- Acting for The Racing Partnership Limited and AtTheRaces Limited in litigation concerning protection of data, confidentiality and conspiracy (including [2020] EWCA Civ 1300, [2019] EWHC 1156 and [2017] EWHC 431).
- Acting for Press Association in the British Horseracing Board/bookmakers litigation concerning data rights [2005] EuLER 924.

- Advising on the postponement and re-staging of the 34th Ryder Cup matches, including insurance issues affecting the matches.
- Advising Ryder Cup Limited on governance and selection issues.
- Advising PGA European Tour on promotion, sponsorship, media rights, governance and accounting issues.
- PGA European Tour -v- KLO re staging rights for Dubai Desert Classic.
- Advice to international cricket boards on separate disputes with players, promoters, sponsors and a broadcaster.
- Acting for former chairman of well-known football club in successful defence of a libel action.
- Obtaining urgent injunctive relief for an internet service provider facing withdrawal of telecom network services.
- Acting for European telecoms company on its withdrawal from a series of joint ventures in Asia.
- Acting for a major telecoms company in disputes over use and deployment of infrastructure assets.
- Advising data management automation business on the unwinding of a major business processing agreement in the asset management industry.
- Film, television, video and music rights disputes. Film finance disputes.

Over 35 Years' Experience of Litigation in England and Internationally

- Acting for non-cause of action defendant in US$400 million crypto asset recovery litigation, Tai Mo Shan Ltd -v- Oazo Apps Ltd [2024] EWHC 2532 (Comm).
- Representing one of eighteen defendants, accused of conspiracy by Syrian claimants, in successful challenge to jurisdiction on grounds of state immunity, Hashwah & Ors -v- Qatar National Bank & Ors [2022] EWHC 2242.
- Successfully challenging jurisdiction, Idemia -v- Decatur and Ors, [2019] EWHC 946.
- Acting for a Brazilian defence contractor discharging an injunction obtained by Israeli defence systems company concerning a Brazilian Air Force project, Rafael Advance Defence Systems -v- Mectron Engenharia [2017] EWHC 597.
- Acting for litigation funders successfully resisting security for costs in the RBS Rights Issue Litigation [2017] EWHC 1217.
- Acting for the Note Trustee in CSAM -v- Titan and Others (x4), Financial List trial concerning Class X Noteholder rights in securitisation structure, [2016] EWHC 969 (first instance) and [2016] EWHC Civ 1265 (Court of Appeal).
- Central Bank of Ecuador -v- ContiCorp [2015] UKPC 11: US$570 million decision in the Privy Council.

- Acting for an investment manager in recovery of its performance fee in Proteus -v- SAPRO [2011] EWHC 768.
- Acting for “WWE” striking out US$80 million claim by World Wide Fund for Nature, [2008] 1 All ER 74.
- Euroalliages -v- Commission, ECJ [2003] ECR II - 2359 discontinuance of anti-dumping duties on ferro silicon.
- Sheikh Fahad -v- Grupo Torras [1999] EWHC 300 (Comm): multijurisdictional fraud claims.
- Disputes arising from distressed business reorganization - British Newspaper Printing Co -v- Kelly [1989] IRLR 222; Mirror Group Newspapers -v- Gothard [1988] ICR 729.

Over 35 Years’ Experience in International Arbitration

- ICC arbitration concerning joint venture investment in Saudi Arabia involving issues of English, Sharia and Swiss law.
- ICC arbitration concerning joint venture investments in India, and associated litigation (freezing order, anti-suit injunction and determining the law of the arbitration agreement), Shashoua -v- Sharma, incl [2008] 2 All ER 74).
- ICC arbitration concerning sale of power plant from Baltic to India.
- ICC arbitration concerning termination of distributorships.
- ICC arbitration concerning participation arrangements for major sporting events.
- LCIA arbitration relating to Central European shopping centre joint venture (x 2).
- LCIA arbitration relating to financial services business in Kazakhstan.
- LCIA arbitration relating to rights connected with sporting event.
- LCIA arbitrations concerning gas/LNG price reviews.
- LCIA and UNCITRAL arbitrations relating to supply of oil shipments to Kamchatka.
- UNCITRAL arbitration relating to LNG project in Africa.
- Fast-track arbitration for noteholders in a structured investment vehicle.
- Fast-track arbitration for policyholder under contingency event insurance.
- Ad hoc arbitration concerning a landmark building.
- Ad hoc arbitration concerning reinsurance disputes.
- Commodity trading arbitration involving sugar trading.
- Commodity trading arbitration involving cotton trading finance and letters of credit.
- Non-ferrous metals arbitration involving quality of alumina supplies.

- Non-ferrous metals arbitration involving economic effects of downturn in gallium market.