

## EASON RAJAH QC

"A shrewd operator, who is brilliant on strategy, firm in negotiation and an outstanding advocate."

(Chambers & Partners 2019)



Call 1989 • QC 2011

Eason Rajah QC is a chancery silk with special expertise in private client matters, acting in difficult, complex, high value cases.

Eason is admitted to the Bars of England and Wales and Malaysia and has been admitted to the Bars of other jurisdictions (like the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas) for specific cases on many occasions. He often assists with cases in Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, the BVI, Bermuda, Singapore, Mauritius and Hong Kong.

He is ranked as a Leading Silk by Chambers and Partners 2021 Trusts (Band 1) , Chancery Traditional (Band 1), Court of Protection (Property and Affairs) (Band 1) and Offshore (Band 1). He is ranked as a Leading Silk by the Legal 500 2021 for Offshore (Tier 2), Private client; Trusts and Probate (Tier 2) and Court of Protection (Tier 3).

He is a former Chair of the Chancery Bar Association.

He was appointed a Recorder in 2016 and a Deputy High Court Judge in 2020.

### Private Client: Contentious

#### Reported Cases:

- **Dawson-Damer v Grampian Trust Company** [2021] – a 5 week pandemic trial in the Bahamas conducted remotely from the Bahamas, England and Australia – the culminations of this long running breach of trust dispute for \$400m.
- **Hinduja v Hinduja** [2020] EWHC 1533 (part of an ongoing dispute relating to the business and affairs of the Hinduja family)
- **Re Z** [2019] EWCOP 55 (contested CoP proceedings relating to a well known businessman)
- **High Commissioner of Pakistan v Nat West** (No.3) [2019] EWHC 2551 (Ch) (acting successfully for His Exalted Highness the 8<sup>th</sup> Nizam of Hyderabad in a claim to establish that funds held in a bank

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- account in the name of Pakistan since Indian independence were held on trust for the 7<sup>th</sup> Nizam)
- **Truchot Trustees v Griffiths** [2018] EWHC 1484 (unravelling steps taken in proceedings without authority)
  - **Crociani v Crociani** [2017] JRC 146, [2018] JCA 136 (successful breach of trust claim for over USD100m);
  - **High Commissioner of Pakistan v Nat West Bank (No.2)** [2016] EWHC 1465 (Ch)
  - **Dellal v Dellal & Ors** [2015] EWHC 907 (Fam): A £multi-million claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 in respect of the estate of the legendary property dealer Jack Dellal.
  - **High Commissioner of Pakistan v Nat West Bank** [2015] EWHC 55 (Ch): Involves issues of sovereign immunity and trust law, and Indian and Shari ‘a succession law.
  - **Crociani v Crociani & Others** [2014] UKPC 40: exclusive jurisdiction clauses in trusts and forum disputes.
  - **Al Sadi v Al Sadi** [2013]: Claim by certain children of deceased that under Shari ‘a, Liechtenstein and Monegasque law, assets held in a Liechtenstein Foundation and a Panamanian company form part of the estate.
  - **Rodman v Rodman** [2013]: Claims for intermeddling and misappropriation from \$125m estate – value £millions.
  - **Scarfe v Matthews** [2012] WTLR 1579: Doctrine of election – estate of Bernard Matthews.
  - **Re the Valetta Trust**[2011] JRC 227 (the validity of third party litigation funding arrangements for trust litigation in Jersey),
  - **Re IMK Family Trust**[2008] JLR 430 (the landmark decision on the enforcement of foreign matrimonial judgments in Jersey)
  - **C v C** (Privilege) [2008] 1 FLR 115 – applicability of legal professional privilege to disclosure by anstalt where wife claimed anstalt attempting to defeat her ancillary relief claim.

## Private Client: Non-Contentious

Eason is particularly experienced in advising on matters concerning trusts, and related tax issues as well as drafting and structuring. He has a reputation for giving clear, commercial and practical advice. Previous editions of Chambers UK reported that he is “a superb QC who makes unbelievably complicated things look very easy”. “A consummate problem solver, who is brilliant, personable and confidence-instilling”.

Cases are confidential and are not listed here.

## Court of Protection

He has over 30 years of experience of Court of protection issues and continues to be instructed in difficult or novel Court of Protection cases. Chambers UK have described him as “...the standout advocate. Clients like him and he doesn’t get pushed around. He’s the go-to man for contentious work”. “He is a very glossy and very persuasive advocate. He’s very well prepared and a formidable opponent”.

- **Re Z** [2019] EWCOP 55 (contested CoP proceedings relating to a well known businessman)

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- **Re MN** [2010] WTLR 1355: The first decision on the ambit of the international jurisdiction of the Court of Protection.

## Capital Taxes

Eason acts in the full range of onshore and offshore capital taxes matters.

## Recommendations

Shortlisted for Barrister of the Year 2021

Citywealth magic Circle Awards 2021

*“Has great presence in front of clients and displays absolute clarity of thought when speaking.*

*He puts points across to clients that they might not want to hear in a very palatable way.”*

Trusts - Chambers UK 2021

*“The consummate silk.” He has an exceptional reputation for his work on trust disputes and is regularly involved in offshore matters.*

*“He’s the best thing since sliced bread – the top man for trusts disputes. He’s very good at working in a team, and very contactable.”*

Chancery: Traditional – Chambers UK 2021

*“He is an extremely confident barrister with impressive advocacy skills.”*

*“He is very hands-on, easy to deal with and a pleasure to work with.”*

Offshore - Chambers UK 2021

*“A super-smooth advocate.”*

*“A shrewd operator – he’s brilliant on strategy, firm in negotiations and an outstanding advocate.”*

*“An absolutely brilliant strategic thinker.”*

Court of Protection: Property and Affairs - Chambers UK 2021

*‘An excellent advisor with excellent courtroom presentation and commercially savvy.’*

*‘An excellent all-rounder. He gives excellent advice in a commercially savvy way. He is brilliant in court. He is a serious strategist.’*

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Legal 500 2020

*“the consummate silk.”* He has an exceptional reputation for his work on trust disputes and is regularly involved in offshore matters.

*“He’s the best thing since sliced bread, the top man for trusts disputes. He’s very good at working in a team, and very contactable,”* according to a source.

Chambers HNW 2020

“A trusted pair of hands who is excellent on complex international matters. He is able to explain issues and his strategy very clearly, and his delivery in court is smooth and concise.”

“He is strategic, quick-thinking and excellent with clients. He’s very reassuring and has a real presence in the courtroom.”

“The consummate silk. He has a remarkable intellect and command of strategy, and is a formidable advocate. Most important of all, he is approachable and client-friendly.”

“He has a good manner, is very easy to work with and presents well.”

“A true team player who is a master at tactics.”

“Eason is very cool and collected and extremely clever – he’s very approachable and easy to work with and translates quite complicated legal concepts into plain English very well.”

“He’s very impressive indeed. He has a good way with the clients and is a very strong team player.”

Chambers UK 2020

“Very good with clients and very user-friendly.”

“Very clever and knows his trust law inside out. He is also a good tactician and can explain the options to clients very well.”

Legal 500 2020

“The consummate silk. He has a remarkable intellect and command of strategy, and is a formidable advocate. Most important of all, he is approachable and client-friendly”

“Bright, sensible and a very nice chap – I always recommend him, because he’s a great practitioner”

“A consummate litigator”

HNW Guide 2019 - Band 1

Shortlisted – STEP Advocate of the year 2020.

Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners Private Client Awards

“The finest trust barrister of his generation”

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WWL UK Bar 2019

“His advocacy is outstanding and he is very, very persuasive in court.”

“He is incredibly robust, very strong and very direct. Constructive in his advice, he deals with complex disputes very well.”

Chambers UK 2019

“A shrewd operator, who is brilliant on strategy, firm in negotiation and an outstanding advocate.”

“He’s extremely nice and a very able practitioner with very good client skills.”

Chambers UK 2019

“Clear and concise, with a commercial outlook.”

Legal 500 2018

“He is an agile thinker who is willing to brain storm.”

Legal 500 2018

“Vastly experienced and is the first port of call for advice on trust issues of particular complexity.”

Legal 500 2018

Private Client: Trusts & Probate ‘Silk of the Year’ 2018

Legal 500 UK Awards 2018

“A joy to deal with and brings a lot of common sense to matters. He guides you very smoothly through a case, demonstrating impeccable judgement, and is polite but forceful when needed.”

“You can rely on him due to his real in-depth knowledge of complex cross-border matters. He is also really first rate on multi-jurisdictional family disputes.”

HNW UK 2018

Eason Rajah QC is ranked as a Band One Silk and is described as ‘ ’ a well-known chancery practitioner with particular experience in offshore trust disputes. ’ . Clients say: “He is extremely highly thought of by us and has been advising on quite a complicated case.”

“He has got the depth of knowledge to provide commercial and practical advice on technical topics,” reports a source. The strength of Rajah’s advocacy is widely regarded in the market, and one interviewee reports: “He is a brilliant advocate who speaks very eloquently and fluently.” The same interviewee continues: “He is a consummate performer in court and clients are pleased with what he can do.”

Another commentator enthuses: “His advocacy is outstanding and he is very, very persuasive in court. He is one of the most persuasive advocates I have seen.” He is further praised for being “particularly strong on pure private client matters” and an offshore adviser remarks that “he deals with complex disputes very well.” The adviser adds

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that “you want him on your side.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Chancery: Traditional (Band 1)

“He is extremely bright and very easy to deal with. An excellent tactician, I would recommend him for any big trust case without question.” “He is first class and works seamlessly with our team.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Offshore

“A very quick thinker who has a silky delivery in court.” “He’s super-impressive, tremendous with clients and an absolute delight to work with.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Private Wealth: Trusts (Band 1)

“A leading light in trusts and private client work.” “He’s incredibly articulate and precise, and his arguments are very punchy and convincing.”

Chambers Global 2017 - Offshore

“A shrewd operator, brilliant on strategy, firm in negotiations and an outstanding advocate.”

Chambers UK 2018 - Court of Protection: Property and Affairs

“He is a joy to deal with and brings a lot of common sense to matters. He guided us very smoothly and demonstrated impeccable judgement”. “He is polite but forceful when needed.” “You can rely on him for real in-depth knowledge of complex cross-border matters. He is also really first-rate on multi-jurisdictional family disputes.”

Chambers HNW 2017 - Chancery: Traditional

“He is an excellent advocate and one of the best around. He’s able to press a point, persuade a judge and keep them focused on the issues.”

Legal 500 2017

Shortlisted for Private Client: Trusts & Probate ‘Silk of the Year’ 2017

Legal 500 UK Awards 2017

### **Private client: trusts and probate – Leading silk**

Eason ‘is enormously clever and always helpful.’

Legal 500 2017

### **Offshore – Leading silk**

Eason Rajah QC ‘is enormously clever, always helpful and his views are tremendously respected.’

Chambers UK 2017 - Chancery: Traditional (Band 1)

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“A leading light in trusts and private client work.” “He’s incredibly articulate and precise, and his arguments are very punchy and convincing.” “An exemplary practitioner who receives abundant chancery-related offshore instructions, and has noted skill in contentious trusts matters.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Offshore (Band 2)

“A very quick thinker who has a silky delivery in court.” “He’s super-impressive, tremendous with clients and an absolute delight to work with.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Trusts (Band 1)

“Top-quality property and financial affairs silk with a fantastic reputation for his chancery work generally.” “Calm, sophisticated, smooth, highly intelligent and a shrewd strategist.”

Chambers UK 2017 - Court of Protection (Band 1)

Chambers UK 2016 directory rank him in the top bands for Traditional Chancery, Trusts and Court of Protection and report that he “continues to handle some of the most impressive trust disputes in the onshore, offshore and cross-border contexts”. and that “he is an excellent trusts expert who is pragmatic and has a good sense of humour”. “An incredibly bright and forceful advocate”.

Chambers UK 2016

“He is technically first class and clients have total confidence in him.”

Legal 500 2016 - Private Client: Trusts & Probate

Shortlisted for Private Client: Trusts & Probate ‘Silk of the Year’ 2016.

Legal 500 UK Awards 2016

“A superb all-rounder” and shortlisted him for their Private Client: Trusts & Probate

The Legal 500 2015

“A superb all-rounder”.

The Legal 500 2015

Shortlisted for Private Client: Trusts & Probate ‘Silk of the Year’ 2015

Legal 500 UK Awards 2015

Shortlisted for Chancery Silk of the Year 2014

Chambers Bar Awards 2014

“A superb QC who makes unbelievably complicated things look very easy”

Chambers 2014

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## Qualifications

Epsom College; University of Nottingham (1988 LLB Hons)

## Appointments

- Recorder (2016), Deputy High Court Judge (2020)

## Associations & Memberships

Eason was Chairman of the Chancery Bar Association (2018-20) and remains a member. He is a member of the committee of STEP Central London. He is a member of ACTAPs. He is a former member of the Bar Council Professional Standards Committee and the Bar Standards Board Rules Committee and a former Vice Chairman of one of the Bar Council Pupillage Monitoring Panels. He is a member of the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

## Publications

- He is an Editor of [Mellows Taxation of Executors & Trustees](#)
- He is an Editor of the [Court of Protection Law Reports](#)
- He is the Consultant Editor of [Ranking Spicer Pegler, Executorship Law, Trusts & Accounts](#)

## Speaking Engagements

Eason speaks regularly at specialist conferences both nationally and internationally.

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