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Andrew Blake

Call: 2012

Andrew specialises in company law, corporate and commercial litigation, restructuring and corporate insolvency. He acts, as sole counsel or as part of a counsel team, in litigation in each of these fields and also has a strong corporate advisory/ transactional practice.

Andrew frequently advises or acts in overseas matters and has recently been instructed in substantial matters in the Cayman Islands, the BVI, Bermuda, Guernsey, Jersey, Gibraltar and Singapore. He is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

His recent work includes **Ocean Rig** (acting with Michael Todd QC for the opposing creditors in a \$3.7 billion Cayman Islands restructuring), **TPD Investments** (acting with Michael Todd QC in a shareholder dispute concerning the affairs of a company owning two of the UK's largest hotels) and **First Names v IFG** (acting as sole counsel for the successful claimants in the Commercial Court trial of an SPA indemnity claim raising several issues of Jersey company law).

Corporate

- Meetings and resolutions
- Construction and drafting of constitutional documents
- Schemes of arrangement
- Corporate reorganisations
- Takeovers and M&A
- Directors' disqualification
- Corporate governance
- Shareholders rights
- Companies House matters (including rectifications, restorations and registrations)

Andrew acts and advises in relation to all aspects of corporate law, both in litigation and in the transactional/ advisory context.

Examples of his recent corporate work include:

- **TPD Investments** [2017] EWHC 657 – acted (with Michael Todd QC) in the trial of unfair prejudice proceedings and a linked Part 7 Claim in relation to the affairs of a company owning two of the largest hotels in the UK.
- **SABMiller** – acted (with Andrew Thompson QC) for a shareholder of SABMiller in connection with its acquisition by Anheuser-Busch.

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- Acting (with Edward Davies QC) for the claimant in professional negligence proceedings concerning, amongst other things, unlawful financial assistance.
- Acting (as sole counsel) for the respondents to an insolvency application in relation to a transaction alleged to contravene common law rules as to capital maintenance.
- Acting (as sole counsel) for the respondent to an insolvency application for misfeasance arising from a complex corporate restructuring.

Andrew has also undertaken secondments to corporate teams at Slaughter & May and Baker McKenzie.

Litigation & Arbitration

- Shareholder disputes
- Unfair prejudice petitions
- Joint venture disputes
- Directors' duties
- Directors' disqualifications
- Warranties and indemnities
- Civil fraud and asset recovery
- Interim remedies

Examples of Andrew's recent litigation and arbitration work include:

- **TPD Investments Ltd** [2017] EWHC 657 – acted (with Michael Todd QC) in the trial of unfair prejudice proceedings and a linked Part 7 Claim in relation to the affairs of a company owning two of the largest hotels in the UK.
- **First Names v IFG** [2017] EWHC 3014 – acted (as sole counsel) for the successful claimants in the commercial court trial of a multi-million pound SPA indemnity claim involving matters of Jersey law.
- **JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov** – acted (with Tim Akkouch) on behalf of the Claimant in relation to various asset recovery applications in the JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov litigation.
- Applications (as sole counsel) for ex parte interim relief, including freezing and proprietary injunctions.
- Significant shareholder disputes in the BVI, Bermuda, Jersey and Gibraltar.
- Confidential unfair prejudice proceedings resolved by way of arbitration.

Restructuring & Insolvency

- Restructuring
- Schemes of arrangement
- Contentious insolvency (including cross-border issues)
- Winding-up proceedings
- Administration proceedings
- Pensions/moral hazards

Examples of Andrew's recent restructuring and insolvency work include:

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- **Ocean Rig** – acted (with Michael Todd QC) for the opposing creditors in the complex Cayman Islands restructuring of £3.7bn of debt by way of interdependent schemes of arrangement.
- **MedRe** – acted (with Peter Arden QC) on the urgent application for the appointment of administrators in respect of a reinsurance company and on subsequent freezing injunction and fraud proceedings.
- **Andrey Chernyakov** – acted (as sole counsel) for the petitioner in bankruptcy proceedings against the owner of NPO Kosmos, formerly one of Russia's largest construction companies.
- Acting (with Raquel Agnello QC) in connection with the Pensions Regulator's moral hazard powers.

International & Offshore

Andrew has a substantial international and offshore practice, and has recently been instructed in relation to proceedings in the Cayman Islands, the BVI, Bermuda, Guernsey, Jersey, Gibraltar and Singapore. He is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

- **Ocean Rig** – acted (with Michael Todd QC) for the opposing creditors in the complex Cayman Islands restructuring of £3.7bn of debt by way of interdependent schemes of arrangement.
- Significant shareholder disputes in the BVI, Bermuda, Jersey and Gibraltar.
- Acting for directors of Guernsey investment funds in respect of claims for breach of duty.

In early 2015, Andrew spent 3 months on secondment with Solomon Harris in the Cayman Islands, where he worked on a number of contentious and non-contentious insolvency matters relating to the liquidations of Bear Stearns, Weaving Capital and Caledonian Bank.

Memberships & Publications

Chancery Bar Association

COMBAR

Education & Awards

2007 – 2010: BA Law, Worcester College, Oxford (First Class; ranked 1st of 223 in Law Moderations)

2010 – 2011: Bachelor of Civil Law, Worcester College, Oxford (Distinction)

2011 – 2012: BPTC, BPP Holborn (Very Competent)

Prizes and Scholarships

The Sweet and Maxwell Prize (best performance in Oxford University in law Moderations)

The Andrew Dixon Scholarship (best performance in Worcester College in Law Moderations)

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The Ogilvie Thompson Scholarship (all round contribution to Worcester College)

Arts and Humanities Research Council full grant for the Bachelor of Civil Law

The Bruce Reynolds Prize (best Bachelor of Civil Law performance in Worcester College)

Lord Denning Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn Award)

Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn Award)