



Blake Lapthorn international dispute resolution

firm overview

With over 100 partners and a total staff of 600, Blake Lapthorn provides a full range of integrated services for organisations and individuals from our offices in London, Southampton, Portsmouth and Oxford.

Our experienced Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution team, operating throughout all of our offices, is 12 partners strong, supported by two consultants and 13 specialist solicitors, both junior and senior. We have expertise in international arbitration as well as in the courts of England and Wales and we are authorised to conduct appeals before the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. We also have extensive experience in all forms of ADR.

In addition, our dedicated Family Dispute Resolution team comprises a further three partners, four solicitors and two legal executives. The team deals with a significant number of cases involving multi-jurisdictional issues and assets overseas.

Our Travel team handles travel accident and holiday compensation claims, dealing with overseas defendants, lawyers, witnesses and different legal systems every day. The team is headed by one partner (dual-qualified for USA claims), assisted by a consultant, three solicitors and two paralegals. The team is multi-lingual and is supported by native French, German and Spanish speakers.

We have a solid history of working seamlessly with our TAGLaw associates when we are involved in multi-jurisdictional litigation.

past and present examples of our multi-jurisdictional litigation experience

- Representing a US client to recover \$20 million worth of telecoms kit from a European/US telecoms company. This involved proceedings in the UK and six other European jurisdictions in which we found, recommended and instructed the relevant European law firms on our client's behalf. We acted as the client's in-house counsel throughout, leading the litigation and strategy and travelling to the US, Sweden and Germany.
- Acting for a UK PLC, assisting with litigation being conducted in the US, and specifically with the gathering of evidence in this country pursuant to Letters of Request and with the taking of depositions.
- Representing a US client in litigation in the Bahamas and in the Privy Council in a dispute over the ownership and possession of an island.
- Representing members of the Romanian royal family in a landmark libel case against *Royalty* magazine.
- Representing various BVI companies defending a multi-million dollar claim (\$30 million) and freezing orders in the BVI, with related litigation in the UK, US, Bahamas, Switzerland and Australia.
- Acting in a fraud/breach of warranty claim involving a property development in China, which involved proceedings in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Caribbean and in the Commercial Court in Paris.

the natural choice in law



- Acting for a UK appointed liquidator in English High Court proceedings against a Spanish company and a Portuguese company to recover monies that are the proceeds of fraud. Extensive proceedings in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles requiring the preparation of expert evidence on English law and procedure and attendance at a court hearing in Curacao in October 2008.
- Dealing with a claim in the English High Court against a Swiss company and a Dubai company, which involves efforts to recover \$1 million held by a Moroccan company in a bank account in the Caribbean.
- Representing a client in multi-million pound civil fraud proceedings. This involved obtaining a freezing order in the UK, working with two sets of Jersey lawyers in satellite proceedings in Jersey, and with German lawyers in other proceedings in Germany.

BL Resolve

As well as our expertise in litigation, adjudication, expert determination and bespoke methods of alternative dispute resolution, we have established BL Resolve, our own mediation service. BL Resolve is a Civil Mediation Council accredited mediation provider and a member of the National Mediation Helpline.

With an established track record and through our large specialist team of trained mediators, BL Resolve provides mediators for businesses and individuals involved in disputes.

our reputation

As well as individual accolades from clients, Blake Lapthorn is consistently very highly rated by both the *Legal 500* and *Chambers UK, A Client's Guide to the Legal Profession*, the two leading UK legal directories. This is what they had to say about the firm's Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution team in 2009:

"Blake Lapthorn has a considerable reputation for its banking litigation practice, and was recently awarded the tender to handle all of the UK litigation for Banque PSA, a French finance company owned by Peugeot Citroën. Chris Potts and his team have the expertise to handle complex, multi-jurisdictional cases, such as a recent £25m claim involving substantial VAT carousel fraud. The team, which is 'always open to debating points and tactics', has a sterling mediation figure in Jonathan Lloyd-Jones."

Legal 500 2009

"This 'top regional player' stands out for its sizeable dispute resolution team and formidable national presence. Viewed by observers as 'a first-rate litigation firm,' Blake Lapthorn has offices throughout Hampshire and is able to derive support from its Oxford and London branches. The firm's broad-based commercial litigation practice incorporates technology, publishing, finance and IP disputes, and "its extremely active, talented team" represents a portfolio of clients featuring companies such as Alcatel Lucent"

Chambers UK, A Client's Guide to the Legal Profession 2009

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