# Harry Wright

Call: 2012

'Harry is excellent. He is bright, articulate, and charming. He delivers concise and practical advice which is commercially sensible and in a client-friendly format.'

Aviation, Legal 500 2026

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Harry Wright is a commercial barrister who specialises in (re)insurance, professional negligence, aviation, shipping & shipbuilding, and other commercial disputes.

During 2020, he appeared in the ***FCA Test Case*** on business interruption insurance claims arising from Covid-19 (recently decided by the Supreme Court); a Supreme Court appeal in a professional negligence claim against auditors (***Manchester Building Society v Grant Thornton***); a shipbuilding case currently on appeal to the Court of Appeal (***Shanghai Shipyard v Reignwood***); and in a heavy and valuable High Court insurance trial, acting for the broker (***ABN Amro v RSA and others***).

As well as forming part of a team in large and high-profile commercial cases, Harry regularly appears as sole counsel in court and arbitral proceedings. He has already developed a reputation for the quality of his oral advocacy and cross-examination: the 2021 Legal 500 describing him as an "*excellent advocate*" with "*good instincts for how to deal with both witnesses and the court*".

Harry has been recognised by Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 in the fields of insurance & reinsurance, professional negligence and aviation. He is known for his particular expertise in the Insurance Act 2015, having co-written *A Practical Guide to the Insurance Act 2015* with David Kendall. He also edits the chapter in Simpson on the liability of auditors and accountants. He is a junior barrister who "*performs significantly above his year of call.*"

Harry has a first-class degree in history, having studied in the UK and the USA, and was a Prince of Wales Scholar and winner of the Du Cann Prize in Gray's Inn.

# Expertise

## Insurance & Reinsurance

Harry is currently ranked by Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for insurance and reinsurance. Selected cases and experience are summarised below.

## Insurance:

- ***FCA Test Case on business interruption insurance*** *(The FCA v Arch Insurance (UK) Ltd and others* [2020] EWHC 2448 (Comm); [2021] UKSC 1). Harry was part of a team (led by Jonathan Gaisman QC and Adam Fenton QC) acting for the insurer Hiscox in this high-profile test case about business interruption insurance claims arising from Covid-19, which was recently appealed to the Supreme Court.
- ***ABN Amro v Royal & Sun Alliance***. Harry appeared for the broker, Edge, in a £35m claim by a Dutch Bank against its marine cargo insurers (led by Sioban Healy QC). Judgment of the High Court (Jacobs J) is awaited.
- ***In the Matter of First Title Insurance Plc.*** Acted for a major UK title insurer in a transfer of business to Malta under Part VII of FSMA 2000.
- ***2019 arbitration***: Harry was involved in a multi-million-dollar insurance arbitration between a well-known manufacturer of medical implants including hip replacement devices, and its insurer (led by Gavin Kealey QC).
- ***Suez Fortune Investments Ltd & Piraeus Bank AE v Talbot Underwriting Ltd*** (the *"Brillante Virtuoso")* [2019] EWHC 2599 (Comm). Appeared as junior counsel for the claimant in this dispute involving allegations of scuttling by the insured under a war risks policy.
- ***Pemberton Greenish LLP v Jane Henry*** [2017] EWHC 246 (QB). Sole counsel for the successful defendant in a case about whether a subrogated claim may be brought against a co-insured.
- ***2015 arbitration***: insurance dispute arising from a catastrophic rail crash in Italy (led by David Bailey QC)
- ***Porchuck Boat Company v Kiln Regional Underwriting***. Sole counsel in the Mercantile Court for a marine cargo insurer; issues involving notification of loss, valuation of the insured powerboat, and policy construction.
- ***Teal Assurance v WR Berkley Insurance*** [2013] UKSC 57. Harry was involved in extensive research on the *"hold harmless fiction"* in this dispute over the order in which claims are paid under a tower of liability insurance contracts (Christopher Butcher QC and Rebecca Sabben-Clare QC).
- ***Sunboat Inc v Amlin Corporate Insurance***. Commercial Court dispute under a contract of marine hull and machinery insurance following the total loss of a superyacht by fire (led by David Bailey QC).

## Insurance Act 2015:

- Harry is a leading expert on the ***Insurance Act 2015***. He acted for the Lloyd's Market Association during the passage of the Insurance Bill, and was responsible for several substantive changes to the statute. He wrote the principal guidance to the Act (Please click here to view), and appeared (led by Alistair Schaff QC) on the first occasion when it was given judicial consideration (by Lord Mance, in the BILA Mock Trial). More recently, he has advised a number of policyholders and insurers on the implications of the Act for their businesses, and is co-author of *A Practical Guide to the Insurance Act 2015*.

## Reinsurance:

- ***Jordan Insurance Company v AIG Europe Limited***. Harry acted for AIG in this High Court dispute about the effect of US sanctions against Syria on payment of a reinsurance claim (led by Peter MacDonald Eggers QC).
- **Christchurch Earthquake arbitration**. Harry acted for a reinsured in an international arbitration in New Zealand worth over $100m, which arose from the Christchurch earthquakes, and involved complex issues on discharge, illegality, mistake, rectification, waiver and estoppel (led by Gavin Kealey QC).



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## Bermuda Form:

Harry has been instructed in two major Bermuda Form Arbitrations:

- The first of these (led by David Bailey QC) was a $40m claim arising from a rail crash, the issue being the recoverability of defence costs. Issues of contractual construction, estoppel, bad faith and tortious interference arose.
- He was also instructed (led by John Lockey QC) in another Bermuda Form arbitration concerning building defects in thousands of residential properties in the USA.

## Professional Negligence

Harry is currently ranked by Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for professional negligence. Selected cases and experience are summarised below.

## Auditors/accountants:

Harry is co-author (with James Brocklebank QC) of the chapter on Accountants and Auditors in *Professional Negligence and Liability* (ed. Mark Simpson QC). He has been instructed in several major audit/accountancy negligence cases, including:

- ***Manchester Building Society v Grant Thornton***, a case arising from the Society's misapplication (on the advice of GT) of hedge accounting to a portfolio of interest rate swaps. This case is currently on appeal to the Supreme Court.
- ***3D-Gold Jewellery v Pricewaterhouse Coopers***, a HK$237m professional negligence claim in the Hong Kong High Court. The case involved complex issues of attribution (including consideration of *Stone & Rolls v Moore Stephens*).
- ***Wey Bridging v Ernst & Young***, a case in the Chancery Division involving an auditor's allegedly negligent failure to detect fraudulent "cross-firing" payments by directors of a company.

## Solicitors:

- ***Trilogy Management v Harcus Sinclair*** [2017] EWHC 1164 (Ch) (led by Christopher Butcher QC). Obtained summary judgment for the solicitors on basis the claim was time-barred, in (unusually) a second application for summary disposal of the claim (having previously succeeded in [2016] EWHC 170 (Ch)).
- ***Pemberton Greenish LLP v Jane Henry*** [2017] EWHC 246 (QB). Sole counsel in High Court trial against a solicitor sued by her former firm: the claim against her was dismissed.

## Insurance Brokers:

- ***ABN Amro v Royal & Sun Alliance***. Harry appeared for the broker, Edge, in a £35m claim by a Dutch Bank against its marine cargo insurers and its broker (led by Sioban Healy QC). Judgment of the High Court (Jacobs J) is awaited.
- ***Hiscox v Edge Brokers.*** Harry is currently instructed as sole counsel in a claim by the insurer Hiscox against Edge Brokers.
- ***Eco-Farming Ltd v Willis Ltd***. Sole counsel for the insurance broker Willis in a negligence claim by an insured. Succeeded in having the claim struck out on the basis that it was time-barred.



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## General Commercial Disputes

## Selected cases:

- ***Aircraft Purchase Fleet Limited v Compagnia Aerea Italiana*** [2018] EWHC 3315 (Comm). Harry acted for the successful Defendant (led by Gavin Kealey QC), which previously operated the airline Alitalia, in a €300m claim for non-acceptance of thirteen aircraft.
- ***Bockstiegel v Chilena Consolidada Seguros*** (2018). Harry successfully obtained an anti-suit injunction following commencement of proceedings in Chile, in breach of an English arbitration clause in a general average guarantee.
- ***AOT Trading AG v Cassar Fuel Ltd*** [2015] EWHC 3674 (Comm), sole counsel in a sale of goods case arising from non-acceptance of a cargo of fuel oil. Harry defeated AOT's application for summary judgment on liability, arguing that it would serve no useful purpose, which Popplewell J accepted could amount to a compelling reason for trial.
- ***Flame SA v Agarwal Coal Corporation*** successfully obtained an anti-suit injunction against an Indian party to a contract of sale of steam coal containing an exclusive English law and jurisdiction clause (led by Robert Bright QC).
- ***GAFTA arbitration*** Harry has experience of arbitration under the GAFTA rules, including appeals both to GAFTA and to the High Court.

## Aviation

Harry is currently ranked by Legal 500 for aviation. Selected cases and experience are summarised below.

- ***Aircraft Purchase Fleet Limited v Compagnia Aerea Italiana*** [2018] EWHC 3315 (Comm). Harry acted for the successful Defendant (led by Gavin Kealey QC), which previously operated the airline Alitalia, in a €300m claim for non-acceptance of thirteen aircraft.
- ***Rivermead Aviation v HML and Rise Aviation*** (2020). Sole counsel in a dispute arising from a crash during ground runs of a Robinson R44 helicopter.
- ***Aercap Ireland Limited v Hainan Airlines Holding Co.*** (2020) Sole counsel for the defendant in a multi-million dollar dispute between an Irish lessor and a Chinese airline.
- ***Jet2.com Limited v Menzies Aviation*** (2020). Sole counsel for the claimant in a claim following damage to a Jet2 aircraft by a tug at Edinburgh Airport.

## Shipping & Shipbuilding

- ***Shanghai Shipyard v Reignwood*** [2020] EWHC 803 (Comm). Shipbuilding dispute proceeding in High Court and LMAA arbitration concerning four drillships. Harry appeared for the buyer in a successful preliminary issues trial about the nature of a guarantee, currently on appeal to the Court of Appeal (led by Zoe O'Sullivan QC of Serle Court). He also appears in the ongoing LMAA arbitration.
- ***Bockstiegel v Chilena Consolidada Seguros*** (2018). Harry successfully obtained an anti-suit injunction following commencement of proceedings in Chile, in breach of an English arbitration clause in a general average guarantee.



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- **LMAA arbitrations:** Harry is currently or has recently been instructed in numerous LMAA arbitrations, including the following matters:
  - A dispute between the builders and operators of a ferry service in South America regarding performance of the ferry (led by David Bailey QC).
  - Sole counsel for owners in claim against charterers for loading unlawful cargoes connected with parties subject to US and UN sanctions.
  - Sole counsel for charterers defending a claim by owners and bareboat charterers, arising from the contamination of a grain cargo by reason of the poor condition of the vessel's cargo holds.
  - Junior counsel for charterers in claim arising from a fatal fire caused by a shore crew performing hot works, giving rise to complex issues of unseaworthiness (led by Charles Priday).

# Memberships

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# Education

2006-10 MA History, University of Edinburgh (First Class)
2008-09 History and Politics, University of Virginia, USA
2010-11 GDL, BPP University College, Distinction
2011-12 BPTC, Kaplan Law School, Very Competent

## Scholarships and awards

2007 Simon Gray Prize for top mark in politics, University of Edinburgh
2009 Top mark ever awarded in US Politics, University of Virginia
2010 Winner of BPP & Atkin Chambers Moot
2011 Prince of Wales Scholarship, Gray's Inn
2011 Advocacy Scholarship, Kaplan Law School
2012 Du Cann Memorial Prize and Gray's Inn Bowl for winning the Gray's Inn Moot

## Languages

Spanish, French



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