

Clifford Chance

Private Wealth

November 2025



How we can help you

Our private wealth practice focusses on protecting and preserving family-owned businesses and other investments.

Sometimes the challenge comes from outside; by cutting through complexity, we can help you resolve contentious mandates involving the courts more quickly than our peers.

Sometimes the challenge comes from within as wealth transitions from one generation to another; here, we know how to help families move forward with confidential, negotiated solutions by helping you see further, faster.

We have the team to help you, across multiple jurisdictions worldwide, with market-leading fiduciary litigation practitioners in London, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the UAE.

Our clients include UHNWIs, family offices, trustees and protectors, and other stakeholders in large family-owned businesses.

We know that disputes in this sphere can be emotionally challenging and carry serious reputational risk. As a result, we will look after you with round-the-clock, close and personal attention.

Quotes from Chambers and Legal 500

"For large and complex matters they are my go-to firm and, having said that, even for smaller matters with significant sensitivities they are also at the top of the list."

Jeremy Kosky *"is an intellectual heavyweight and commercially aware"* and *"has such a huge range of experience. Nothing gets past him. He is a very impressive lawyer and an absolutely serious operator."* and *"A supremely impressive operator. Wily, charming and strategic: exactly who you want in your corner in a difficult situation and an incredibly impressive lawyer."*

"Nish Shetty maintains an excellent reputation in the Indian dispute resolution market, with extensive experience advising on arbitration cases."

Maxine Mossman is *"careful, considered and first-rate for this area"* and *"is very good on the technical side of law. She is also very calm, patient and excellent with clients."*

"Nicole Buncher is ultra-dedicated, very astute and a rapidly rising star."

"Laura Hasson is a true star of the future and is a delight to work with. She keeps long running matters moving through a combination of diligence and empathy." and *"a partner in the making."*

"Emily Elliott is another significant member of the practice."

Our experience acting for HNWIS

A broad range of matters globally

Father-son business battle

Advised the Swiss son and CEO of a global business in a battle with his father to prevent the father revoking a trust and taking back the business for his fifth wife. The father alleged that he had been unduly influenced by his son to create the trust. The matter settled with an all-encompassing family arrangement, with Bermuda Court approval, which addressed the father's entire estate very shortly before his death.

Family Office mediation

Advised successive generations of a family in Asia in relation to the mediated redefinition of their family office, and global assets, avoiding what would otherwise be deeply damaging allegations.

Family business buy out

Advised a Swiss UHNWI buying out his siblings' interests in the family business in return for liquid investments; long, complex but patient negotiations over multiple years concluding with court approval in Cayman.

UK/Indian family fall out

Advised one branch of a well-known UK/Indian family in relation to the transition of their wealth from the older generation to the next with proceedings in London, Switzerland and offshore. The case involved allegations about the provenance of a family charter and the Wills made by the older generation.

Greek Inheritance Restructuring

Advised one branch of a Greek family on a multi-billion dollar restructuring with the other branches of the family, relating to assets in an offshore trust, bank accounts and a shipping fleet. Hostile court proceedings averted by artful negotiation.

Saudi Royal Family

Representing a member of the Saudi royal family in relation to disputes over ownership of substantial real estate assets in Spain.

Dr Mike Lynch (deceased)

Defended the former CEO of Autonomy in civil and criminal fraud trials in London and California. Now representing his estate in the ongoing civil proceedings with HP.

Dutch Enterprise Chamber

Successfully acting for the founder in a billion dollar family-owned company against one of the minority shareholders (another member of the same family) in the Amsterdam Enterprise Chamber.

Dutch widow

Advising the widow of an entrepreneur on the corporate, tax and succession law aspects of the settlement of the entrepreneur's estate.

Dutch daughter

Successfully acting for the CEO daughter of the high net worth founder of family-owned business in court proceedings.

Family Charter and Family office in Romania

Acting for a HNW Romanian family preparing a Family Charter and exploring options for setting up their family office.

Distant cousins

Mediated a resolution between members of a successful British family without recourse to court proceedings.

Bullet proof?

Advising a GCC family about how to ensure that their structures are able robustly to resist legal challenge both within and out with the family.

Breach of Trust

Advised a beneficiary of a family trust in a multi-faceted dispute involving interlinked actions at trust level (including actions to replace trustees), shareholder level (including actions against rogue minority shareholders) and director level (including actions to challenge director appointments and employment claims).

Succession Dispute

Acting for family members in a high profile multi-jurisdictional succession dispute involving a Liechtenstein family foundation.

Saudi family capacity contest

Advising in relation to highly contentious allegations of mental incapacity of a Saudi protector of offshore trusts in Cayman, Bahamas and Jersey.

Mr Manuel Jove

Representing former chairman and majority shareholder of a leading real estate company, in the largest administrator liability claim to date in Spain (1.57 billion euros), filed by the company's insolvency receivers.

Mis-selling Dispute

Advising a HNWI in connection with a potential mis-selling claim against a Middle Eastern bank for significant losses arising from the HNWI's investment into a scheme promoted by the bank.

Elder care

Acted for a brother and sister of a well-known family that founded a local bank in Hong Kong to rescue and secure their incapacitated mother who was removed without their knowledge and consent from the family home by the elder brother and his fiancée.

Our experience acting for HNWIS

A broad range of matters globally (continued)

Polish custody battle

Advising a Polish family involved in a dispute over child custody. Our work has included close collaboration with family law academics, private investigators, and experts, including psychologists.

Dutch divorce

Advising a divorcee in a high-value dispute in the Netherlands in relation to the unwinding of a joint venture structure with her former husband.

Breach of directors' duties and knowing receipt

Advised a South African HNWI and a Jersey trustee in relation to a Cayman Islands claim brought by a Russian oligarch in relation to the alleged misappropriation of assets from their joint venture.

Intra-family dispute regarding international business

Advised a well-known CEO of a global family-owned business in a dispute with his brother and father, involving contentious legal proceedings brought by offshore trustees to sell the business and allocate the net proceeds.

Wrongful trading

Acting for the substantial shareholder and chairman of a PRC property developer listed on HKEx in obtaining urgent injunctive relief and ancillary orders before the Hong Kong court and in parallel arbitration proceedings in Singapore, in connection with wrongful trading of its listed shares.

BVI, Panama, HK and Singapore

Acting on an ultra-high value trust dispute between different factions of a family, involving the determination of the beneficial owners of several corporate entities in the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Polish probate

Advised members of a wealthy Polish family caught up in multiple legal proceedings relating to the alleged claims to the estate of that family by their relatives.

IPOs too

Acting for UHNW family in connection with the IPO and listing of their main family business.

Feud over family business

Representing a Middle Eastern HNWI in battle for control of the family-built financial and industrial group, involving multiple branches of the same family. The situation was extremely conflictual, with deep divisions between family members over governance and strategic decisions at the group level, against the backdrop of looming solvency issues.

Mismanagement Dispute

Advising a member of a Panamanian Foundation and director of a BVI company in relation to allegations concerning the management and performance of a global business.

Trust patrimony

Represented the patriarch of a family in court proceedings concerning the disputed ownership of approximately US\$ 650 million in assets allegedly held in trust.

DNA dispute

Advising beneficiaries in respect of a negotiated resolution with their brother as to whether he was a biological descendent of the settlor and entitled to beneficiary status.

Family Business Dispute

Advised members of a family in the GCC in dispute with the rest of the family in relation to their family-owned business held through offshore holding companies in the Isle of Man and Mauritius.

Conspiracy Claim

Advised an individual in the English High Court involving claims that members of her family wrongly conspired to deprive her of money, rights and interests in a family-owned global business created by her late father.

Arbitration of a hedge fund dispute

Acted for an UNHWI and his trustees in a confidential arbitration arising out of the disputed ownership of a hedge fund business established with another UHNWI.

"Next Generation" in Bucharest

We have created and lead an informal network of second generation UHNW families in Romania mentoring them on how to transition their management and control of their family businesses.

Our experience acting for corporates and financial institutions globally

Sanctions

Successfully defended ING Bank in proceedings in London in 2025 relating to the application of sanctions. The claimant, EuroChem, is a Russian fertiliser company founded by Andrey Melnichenko, who was sanctioned by the EU in March 2022.

Misleading publication

Successfully defended a news organization in proceedings in the UAE by an UHWNI alleging that he had been falsely accused of unlawfully circumventing sanctions.

Multi-Jurisdictional Trust Restructuring

Advised a corporate trustee in relation to a multi-jurisdictional trust restructuring involving London, Guernsey, BVI and the US and complex valuation issues of a range of trading and other assets.

Breach of Trust

Acted for a leading bank's Jersey based trust company when faced with multi-faceted claims for grossly negligent breach of trust by eight members of a Saudi family.

Family Office Claim

Advising a leading bank in relation to reputationally significant claims by a family office acting for multiple investors.

Defence of Minority Shareholder Action

Advising and representing a wealth family management company, in a series of claims filed by a minority shareholder. These claims simultaneously challenge the General Meeting's resolutions to approve the annual accounts, exercise the shareholder's right to exit, and contest the resolution concerning the establishment of maximum remuneration for the management body.

Annulment Proceedings

Representing an Irish fund in proceedings to annul a financial product against a high-net-worth British family, with the debt secured by three luxury villas on the Costa del Sol.

Quincecare Defence

Defending a Swiss private bank in US\$110 million Hong Kong Court proceedings for an alleged breach of the Quincecare duty.

Misselling Claim

Defending a major UK financial institution in Hong Kong Court proceedings in relation to a US\$30 million claim arising from alleged mis-selling of financial products.

Family dispute regarding the disposition of an investment

Successfully represented an investment holding company in court proceedings arising from the dissipation of more than US\$ 100 million in sale proceeds to parties in various jurisdictions. The matter involved complex issues of agency, breach of fiduciary duty and conspiracy.

Deceit Claim

Advised a leading bank in the Dubai International Finance Centre Courts in relation to a claim for mis-selling financial products to members of a Kuwaiti family.

Charitable Purpose Trust

Represented a Singapore company in Singapore court proceedings concerning allegations that approximately US\$ 1 billion of the company's assets were held on a charitable purpose trust.

Breach of Administrators' Duties

Advised a leading bank in a dispute before the Milan Court in respect of claims brought by a trust company and other investors for breach of administrators' duties in relation to a Cayman Islands hedge fund.

Ownership of Trust Assets

Advised a trustee in a multi-jurisdictional dispute (in Guernsey, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) with the settlor's heirs regarding ownership of valuable assets.

Insolvency-Related Trust Dispute

Advising a corporate trustee which has been joined to English High Court proceedings seeking to set aside certain transactions pursuant to English insolvency legislation.

Fraud Claim

Advised a leading bank in the Singapore High Court in relation to a claim brought by the former Prime Minister of Georgia for losses arising from the alleged fraud of a relationship manager based in Switzerland.

SIAC Arbitration

Representing two subsidiaries of a leading global financial services and banking company in an SIAC arbitration, commenced by a former mining magnate and businessman in Australia and his associated companies.

Sibling rivalry

Advising and representing the holding company of a high value-business in a dispute between two sisters and their brother.

Mismanagement claims

Representing a Chinese multinational in arbitration proceedings against two high-net-worth founders of a company where the multinational held a majority stake, concerning allegations of mismanagement by the founders.

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