



Drew Holiner

Call: 2005 | 2002 (Russia) | 2015 (BVI) |
2016 (USA) | 2018 (Ireland)

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Introduction

Drew specialises in commercial dispute resolution and is admitted to practise in Russia, the UK (England and the Territory of the Virgin Islands), the United States (California) and Ireland. His practice is focused on three key areas:

International Commercial Arbitration and Litigation. Drew is regularly instructed to act as counsel or arbitrator in commercial disputes, and in particular those involving application of the laws of Russia and other associate or member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States ('CIS States') or which otherwise have a close connection to those countries. He has experience in arbitrations conducted under HKIAC, ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL and ICAC (Russia) rules.

Legal 500 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration

- “As counsel, he has superb instincts and great knowledge of Russian and English law.” – **2021**
- “An extremely smart and astute lawyer on matters of both English and Russian law.” – **2019/20**

- ‘Highly recommended, particularly for Russia and CIS-related disputes.’ – **2018**
- “He brings strong preparation and depth of analysis.’ – **2017**
- “A sharp, quick-thinking, effective advocate, who handles complexity with ease.” – **2016**
- “An absolutely first-class lawyer who is thorough and meticulous.” – **2015**
- “An excellent advocate, whose knowledge of Russian law is unparalleled among non-Russians.” – **2014**

Russian and CIS law expert. Drew has over 20 years of specialist experience acting or advising in matters applying the laws of Russia and other CIS States. He regularly acts as an expert advisor or witness in legal proceedings on matters of Russia law and the laws of other CIS States, including most recently in respect of the laws of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine. Drew is fully fluent in both English and Russian and is equally comfortable working in either language.

Chambers UK – Commercial Dispute Resolution – London (Bar)

- “Very clever and a strong lateral thinker.” “Extremely responsive and helpful, he has a real depth and understanding of the Russian system.” – **2021**
- “Very good at giving incisive advice which gets to the point. He’s helpful and user-friendly and he has a great turnaround time.” – **2020**
- “One of a very small pool of high-level Russian law experts who acquits himself well in difficult cases.” – **2019**

Chambers Global – Dispute Resolution (Experts Based Abroad) – Russia

- “Having somebody who is a Western-trained lawyer but also with incredible expertise is unique,” a source says, adding: “I don’t have enough good things to say! He’s a unique asset and someone I enjoy working with.” “He can translate the concepts into English law and vice versa. That’s a real advantage to have on your side.” – **2020**
- “Sources appreciate his insight and expertise”[...]: “One of a very small pool of high-level Russian law experts who acquits himself well in difficult cases.” – **2019**

- “He regularly represents individuals from Russia and the former Soviet Union in London and British Virgin Islands-based litigation.” – **2018**
- “[A] well-regarded expert in varied Russia-related disputes.” – **2017**
- “Has extensive experience representing clients in high-stakes litigation and international arbitration proceedings concerning Russia and CIS countries.” – **2016**
- “He is well known for his long-standing experience in high-profile cross-border litigation and arbitration cases related to Russia.” – **2015**

Human Rights / Public International Law. Drew has specialist experience in international human rights protection mechanisms, with a focus on matters originating from Russia and other CIS States. He has been instructed in or advised on dozens of cases before the European Court on Human Rights, and has experience in the successful application of its procedural rules, including obtaining confidentiality and priority orders, as well as interim relief.

News

October 23, 2020

[Chambers Bar UK 2021 ranks 53 individual Monckton barristers across 20 practice areas](#)

October 1, 2020

[Legal 500 UK Bar 2021: Monckton recognised as top tier for five practice areas](#)

February 25, 2019

[Chambers Global 2019 – Recognition in Dispute Resolution \(Russia\) and Competition Law \(UK\)](#)

Commercial dispute resolution / international commercial arbitration

Cases

- Counsel to Russian and offshore investors in multiple LCIA arbitrations and related litigation in Cyprus alleging an illegal corporate raid to seize a landmark property off Red Square in central Moscow

- Counsel to Russian investor in BVI Commercial Court proceedings concerning alleged misappropriation of BVI company shares
- LCIA appointed sole arbitrator in procurement dispute between Kyrgyz publisher and Kyrgyz government agency
- LCIA appointed arbitrator in consolidated arbitrations concerning USD 100 million loan guarantee between Cyprus investor and Russian businessman
- Counsel to Russian mining company in an ICC arbitration over a shipping dispute involving chemical exports from Russia to Israel
- Counsel to Russian investor in an LCIA arbitration and related litigation in Cyprus over the disputed sale of a Moscow shopping and entertainment complex
- Counsel to Georgian investor in an LCIA arbitration over the alleged breach of a shareholders' agreement in a BVI holding company
- LCIA appointed sole arbitrator in investment dispute between Russian investor and British trader
- LCIA appointed sole arbitrator in debt recovery action between BVI oil trader and Mongolian oil supplier
- Counsel to Russian investment bank in an LCIA arbitration over disputed consultancy fees arising from the sale of a Cypriot telecommunications holding
- LCIA appointed sole arbitrator in services dispute between Kazakhstan-based consultancy firm and Kazakhstan investment group
- Counsel to Russian oil major in Russia's largest insolvency proceedings
- Counsel to Russian oil major in Moscow court proceedings challenging the auction of its core production asset
- Counsel to US commodities merchant in Moscow court proceeding seeking enforcement of a USD 25mln arbitral award against allegations of double recovery
- Counsel to Russian company in Moscow court proceedings concerning the enforceability of an award of the English High Court in Russia

Russian law expert

Cases

- Expert witness on Russian company, insolvency, tort and limitation law in Russian Deposit Insurance Agency application for USD 2.5 billion High Court freezing order against bank owner
- Advisory expert on Russian law on promissory notes and bills of exchange for Cayman Grand Court proceedings in company winding up petition
- Advisory expert on Russian securities law in New Zealand concerning alleged illegal trade in shares of Russian gas major
- Advisory expert to the Litvinenko Inquiry in London on the powers of the Russian executive branch and law enforcement under anti-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation
- Expert witness on Russian company and agency law for Luxembourg investment company in multi-billion rouble ICC arbitrations and enforcement proceedings in New York (USA)
- Expert witness on Russian arbitration law and commercial court procedure for Russian investor seeking enforcement of annulled Russian arbitral award in the Netherlands
- Advisory expert on shareholders remedies under Russian company, contract and tort law for Russian investor alleging an illegal corporate raid in BVI High Court proceedings
- Advisory expert on Russian administrative, labour and immigration law for UK software publisher in English High Court proceedings concerning alleged copyright infringement
- Advisory expert on Russian sale of goods law in shipping dispute over pledged marine bunkers
- Advisory expert on Russian tort, labour and limitation law for international technical consultancy firm in English High Court proceedings arising from Russian mining disaster
- Expert witness on Russian company law approach to fraudulent conveyances for district court proceedings in New York (USA)
- Expert witness on Russian tax and insolvency law, enforcement proceedings for the former management of a Russian oil major in multiple court proceedings in the Netherlands
- Advisory expert on Russian civil and insolvency law for several entities in Armenian court proceedings challenging the takeover of a local investment company

- Advisory expert on Russian law rules governing promissory notes for BVI investment company in district court proceedings in the Netherlands
 - Expert witness on various matters of Russian civil law (place of payment, unjust enrichment, set-off) in district court proceedings in the Netherlands seeking the attachment of monies held by a Dutch oil trader
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Law of CIS states

Cases

- Advisory expert on Ukrainian contract and limitation law in English commercial court dispute and LCIA arbitration between Ukrainian businessmen in the mining and ferroalloy sectors
 - Advisory expert on Kyrgyz arbitration law in investment dispute with the Kyrgyz Republic
 - Expert witness on Kyrgyz contract law, tort law and civil procedure in proceedings brought in the Isle of Man concerning the enforcement of a civil judgment in a telecoms dispute
 - Expert witness on Kyrgyz criminal procedure and constitutional law in English High Court dispute over an alleged criminal takeover of gold fields in Kyrgyzstan
 - Expert witness on Kazakhstan company, tort and limitation law in English commercial court dispute concerning allegations of fraudulent bank loans against bank's directors
 - Advisory expert on Kazakhstan company, labour, tort and limitation law in BVI commercial court proceedings concerning directors' alleged breach of fiduciary duties in nuclear energy company
 - Advisory expert on Armenian administrative and company law in multiple proceedings in the Netherlands concerning the hostile takeover of an Armenian LLC
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Human rights / public international law

Cases

- *Chagos Islanders v. United Kingdom*, no. 35622/04 [ECtHR]
 - *Corley and Others v. Russia*, no. 292/06 [ECtHR]
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- *Igarashi and Others v. Russia*, no. 43490/06 [ECtHR]
- *Yabloko Russian United Democratic Party and Others v. Russia*, no. 18860/07 [ECtHR]
- *Gontmakher v. Russia*, no. 34180/08 [ECtHR]
- *Merchant International Company Ltd v. Naftogaz Ukrayiny* [2011] EWHC 1820 (Comm)
- *Bayatyan v. Armenia*, no. 23459/03, ECHR 2011 [ECtHR]
- *Kimlya and Others v. Russia*, nos. 76836/01 and 32782/03 [ECtHR]
- *Nolan and K. v. Russia*, no. 2512/04, 12 February 2009 [ECtHR]
- *Aleksanyan v. Russia*, no. 46468/06, 22 December 2008 [ECtHR]

What the directories say

“Very clever and a strong lateral thinker.” “Extremely responsive and helpful, he has a real depth and understanding of the Russian system.” – Chambers UK 2021 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

“As counsel, he has superb instincts and great knowledge of Russian and English law.” – Legal 500, 2021 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

“Very good at giving incisive advice which gets to the point. He’s helpful and user-friendly and he has a great turnaround time.” “Drew Holiner is a good resource at the Bar, as he is dual-qualified in English and Russian law.” – Chambers Global 2020 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial – UK

“London-based Drew Holiner is a Russian-qualified advocate, US-qualified lawyer and UK-qualified barrister. “Having somebody who is a Western-trained lawyer but also with incredible expertise is unique,” a source says, adding: “I don’t have enough good things to say! He’s a unique asset and someone I enjoy working with.” Another source adds: “He can translate the concepts into English law and vice versa. That’s a real advantage to have on your side.” He regularly represents Russian clients in LCIA disputes and London-based litigation. Shareholder disputes and financial disputes are areas of experience.” –

Chambers Global 2020 – Dispute Resolution (Expertise Based Abroad) – Russia

“Very good at giving incisive advice which gets to the point. He’s helpful and user-friendly and he has a great turnaround time.” “Drew Holiner is a good resource at the Bar, as he is dual-qualified in English and Russian law.” – Chambers UK, 2020 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

“An extremely smart and astute lawyer on matters of both English and Russian law.” –

Legal 500, 2019/20 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

“UK-qualified barrister Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers represents Russian clients in London-based arbitration and litigation cases. He regularly acts for shareholders and corporate clients in commercial disputes and corporate conflicts. Sources appreciate his insight and expertise, with one noting: “One of a very small pool of high-level Russian law experts who acquits himself well in difficult cases.”” –

Chambers Global 2019 – Dispute Resolution (Expertise Based Abroad) – Russia

“One of a very small pool of high-level Russian law experts who acquits himself well in difficult cases.” –

Chambers UK, 2019 – Commercial Dispute Resolution

“Highly recommended, particularly for Russia and CIS-related disputes.” –

Legal 500, 2018 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is a Russian- and US-qualified lawyer as well as a UK-qualified barrister based in London. He regularly represents individuals from Russia and the former Soviet Union in London and British Virgin Islands-based litigation. He recently represented a former Russian MP in an application to discharge a USD240 million freezing order.” –

Chambers Global 2018 – Dispute Resolution (Expertise Based Abroad) – Russia

“He brings strong preparation and depth of analysis.” –

Legal 500, 2017 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is the only UK-qualified barrister who is also admitted to the Russian Bar, and he is also admitted to

practice in the British Virgin Islands. Based in London, he is a well-regarded expert in varied Russia-related disputes. He speaks fluent Russian and represents corporate entities as well as individuals.” – Chambers Global 2017 – Dispute Resolution (Expertise Based Abroad) – Russia

“A sharp, quick-thinking, effective advocate, who handles complexity with ease.” –

Legal 500, 2016 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration: Counsel

“Has extensive experience representing clients in high-stakes litigation and international arbitration proceedings concerning Russia and CIS countries. He is a member of the Russian Bar Association and is based in London.” –

Chambers Global 2016 – Dispute Resolution (Experts Based Abroad) – Russia

“An absolutely first-class lawyer who is thorough and meticulous.”

Legal 500, 2015 – Leading Junior in International Arbitration

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is an English barrister who is also a member of the Russian Bar. He is well known for his long-standing experience in high-profile cross-border litigation and arbitration cases related to Russia. Highlights include his involvement in proceedings regarding YUKOS assets in a number of jurisdictions.” –

Chambers Europe 2015 – Dispute Resolution (Experts Based Abroad) – Russia

‘An excellent advocate, whose knowledge of Russian law is unparalleled among non-Russians.’ – Legal 500 2014 – International Arbitration

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is a Russian-qualified English barrister with an extensive track record of commercial litigation and arbitration in Russia and the CIS.” –

Chambers Global 2014 – Dispute Resolution – Lawyers Based Abroad – Russia

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is the only English barrister to be a qualified member of the Russian Bar, and he is well known for his work in

Russia-related disputes. He has also advised on a large number of cases before the ECHR” –

Chambers Global 2013 – Dispute Resolution – Lawyers Based Abroad – Russia

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers continues to be an active presence in the market, and benefits from his qualifications in both Russia and the UK” –

Chambers Europe 2012 – Dispute Resolution – Lawyers Based Abroad – Russia

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers is the only barrister in England and Wales to also be admitted to the Russian Bar. He is fluent in both languages and handles a range of public and private international law cases relating to commercial, company, tax, property, human rights, regulatory and public law issues.” –

Chambers Global Ranking 2011 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial: UK

“As a dual-qualified practitioner in Russia and the UK, Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers provides expert advice on Russia-related international disputes, with several sources commending his ability to operate seamlessly between English and Russian in court.” –

Chambers Global 2011 – Dispute Resolution: Russia

“Drew Holiner of Monckton Chambers has extensive experience in Russian cases and is known for his long-standing involvement with YUKOS proceedings.” – Chambers Europe 2011 – Dispute Resolution: Russia

Additional information

Panels and Councils

- London Court of International Arbitration, European Users’ Council
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators
- California International Arbitration Council, Board of Directors
- Asian International Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators
- Astana International Financial Centre International Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators

Professional Memberships

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London Branch)
- Russian Arbitration Association
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- Swedish Arbitration Association

Awards

Drew was given the 2007 St. Petersburg Bar Award for Criminal Defence Achievement for his representation before the ECtHR of a former oil company executive charged with white-collar crimes and suffering from AIDS, having obtained interim orders for his transfer to a civilian hospital and appointment of a bipartisan medical commission.

Drew has lectured at a number of legal training seminars conducted under the auspices of the EU, Council of Europe, FCO, ABA and various NGOs concerning application of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) within domestic legal systems. These have included training of members of the bar, judiciary, government officials and NGOs in both Eastern and Western Europe.

Education

Jurist (Moscow, Russian law), GDL/BVC (London, English law), Russian Law expert, CIS Law expert, FCI Arb

Professional qualifications

Barrister (England & Wales; Ireland), Advokat (Russia), Legal Practitioner (British Virgin Islands), Attorney (California, USA)

Publications

August 16, 2018 | International arbitration

[Drew Holiner and William Hooper, Practical Law: California: a golden opportunity for international arbitration?](#)

October 25, 2012 | Civil liberties & human rights

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