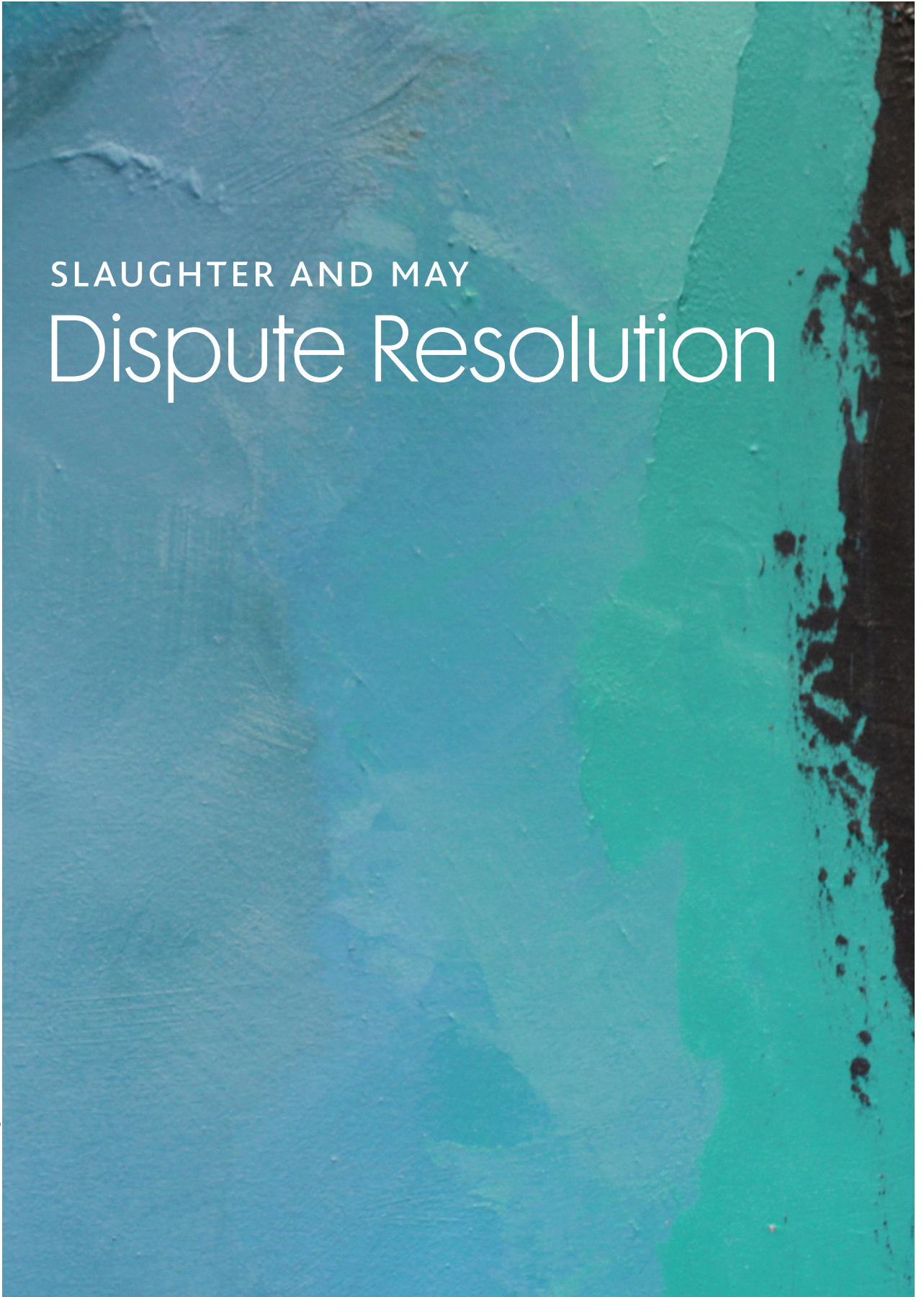


SLAUGHTER AND MAY

Dispute Resolution

Detail from Sea Hook by Trevor Bell



Dispute Resolution

"This team has an outstanding international reputation for commercial litigation, acting for a broad spectrum of clients, particularly in the corporate and financial sectors"

CHAMBERS UK, 2010

The complex nature of today's global business environment means that problems are inevitable from time-to-time. We aim to help our clients avoid disputes, by advising them on their dispute resolution procedures and managing the risk of disputes occurring. When disputes do arise, we know clients want them resolved, before they escalate, in a practical and efficient way that protects their immediate and future commercial interests.

WHO WE ARE

We provide clients with a complete dispute resolution service of the highest calibre. We have the resources to handle cases of all types, no matter how large or small or how straightforward or complex. We have a strong record of achieving successful, cost-effective, outcomes for our clients.

WHAT WE DO

Our Dispute Resolution group has an outstanding international reputation, acting for a broad spectrum of clients, particularly in the corporate and financial sectors. Our clients also include governments and international organisations. We act for many of the world's leading companies who choose us to assist in resolving their disputes because we share their ethos of excellence and because we consistently deliver outstanding results.

We handle the full range of civil disputes. Our work includes fraud and white collar crime investigations and proceedings, investigations by the Financial Services Authority, and many other inquiries and disciplinary proceedings. We act in domestic and international arbitrations in the United Kingdom and abroad involving both English and foreign law, and in all other forms of dispute resolution, including mediations. We also deal with a variety of administrative law matters that frequently involve proceedings for judicial review. Our experience handling cross-border, multi-jurisdictional disputes means that we are increasingly asked to manage overseas disputes and enquiries for our clients, including those which have no connection with England.

HOW WE WORK

We are not a litigation factory. In order to ensure we deliver value to clients by producing outstanding results, we do not encourage our lawyers to over-specialise or deal only with one particular area of law or type of dispute. We believe the best lawyers are those who have broad commercial experience combined with the intellect and judgement to deal with the most demanding cases. Over-specialisation can limit vision, which is why we, with our depth and breadth of experience, provide an innovative, but above all practical, approach to solving our clients' problems, no matter what size or how complex.

"This team has received a lion's share of enviable instructions, at the forefront of which is its role as counsel to HM Treasury"

CHAMBERS UK, 2010

We provide a focused and individual service. We liaise regularly with the client, discussing strategy, progress, and the legal and practical issues as they arise. It is this close attention to detail and the clients' practical and commercial needs which helps us to achieve a successful, cost-effective outcome for our clients whether through negotiation, mediation, litigation, arbitration or otherwise. Each case is led by a partner who is actively involved and takes direct responsibility for the advice and service provided by all members of the team.

Our advice is sought in connection with the broad range of disputes our clients are likely to encounter:

Contractual disputes

We handle the complete range of contractual disputes which arise in the commercial environment, including the many different types of claims arising from sales and purchases of businesses (including warranty and indemnity claims and completion account disputes); claims which can arise under joint ventures and investment agreements; employment-related issues; and disputes under supply and distribution agreements for all kinds of products and services.

Banking

The spectrum covered by our banking litigation practice includes cases involving letter of credit disputes, derivatives disputes, insurance, fraud and issues of sovereign immunity, and general "work out" situations/debt recovery. Other areas include disputes arising from the banker-customer relationship including breaches of mandate, issues of constructive trust, set-off, inter-pleader relief, freezing orders and garnishee proceedings.

Insolvency/restructuring

Over the past few years we have been involved in almost all of the high profile, complex insolvencies and restructurings. We act for companies in financial difficulties and also for banks and other creditors and for office holders. We regularly act for and with the

major firms of accountants and work extensively with investment banks.

Financial services and regulated industries

Our strong investigations and inquiries practice stems from the large number of our clients who are active in regulated fields, particularly those regulated by the Financial Services Authority. We have had major roles in the most important inquiries and regulatory investigations over many years. Our experience spans the full range of statutory, regulatory and ad hoc investigations and inquiries, as well as disciplinary proceedings and the civil proceedings, including class actions, to which such investigations can give rise.

Insurance and reinsurance

We act for numerous high-profile insurers and leading brokers as well as insureds over a wide spectrum of insurance and reinsurance litigation. Recent work undertaken includes multi-jurisdictional coverage disputes, policy interpretation issues, reinsurance insolvency, subrogation issues, brokers' liability and claims litigation, including product recall insurance, property and professional indemnity insurance, business interruption insurance, political risk insurance, general comprehensive liability coverage disputes, excess of loss coverage issues, combined energy risks, asbestosis issues, binding authorities, Directors & Officers' liability and Lloyd's disciplinary proceedings.

Professional negligence

We frequently advise corporates, professional partnerships and financial services clients, including banks, insurance brokers and investment managers in respect of professional negligence claims, both in bringing and in defending them. The claims range from a few hundred thousand pounds to multi-billion pound litigation and arbitration.

Pensions

The Pensions Litigation Unit at Slaughter and May consists of leading practitioners drawn from our Dispute Resolution group and our Pensions group,

"The level of expertise and the readiness of the team to get involved in any and all technical details of a case is simply outstanding"

THE LEGAL 500, 2009

who have specialist, in-depth knowledge across a broad range of pension disputes. Pension related disputes are frequently complex and require specialist knowledge (including for example, how to deal with reviews by the Pensions Ombudsman), as well as high quality litigation and dispute resolution skills.

Public and administrative law

We have significant experience of acting for and against governmental departments, regulatory authorities and other public bodies. We have advised a number of clients in relation to decisions of the HM Revenue & Customs and of financial regulatory bodies. We have also advised in relation to the grants of industry franchises and media licences in contested judicial review proceedings. We are often asked to scrutinise and advise upon the potential for challenging administrative decisions, for example in the context of our regulatory investigations and inquiries practice.

Fraud and asset tracing

We have extensive experience in handling large claims and high value, complex fraud and asset tracing work for clients, often at short notice, and involving the obtaining of freezing and other interim orders. We have special expertise in the commercial and financial sectors, particularly in the context of our substantial investigations and inquiries practice.

Tax litigation

We frequently advise on disputes with the HM Customs and Revenue in proceedings before its Special Commissioners or the Court, often working closely with practitioners from our Tax Group. Our work in this area has included successfully acting for test claimants in group litigation before the European Court of Justice.

Product liability

Our wide ranging experience covers a broad range of sectors (including food products, consumer goods, such as defective children's toys and home safety products, pharmaceutical products and the latest technology products). We have substantial experience of class actions both in this country and abroad, in particular in the US. Due to the sensitive nature of product liability cases we frequently advise on how to limit the commercial harm to a client, on crisis management and media relations.

Arbitration

We have an extensive international arbitration practice and act in a wide range of complex, high-value arbitrations all round the world, involving both English and foreign law. We advise across the full range of domestic and cross-border arbitral proceedings – including LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, SIAC, and ICSID arbitrations, as well as those conducted under the auspices of various trade associations or under ad hoc arrangements – and our Hong Kong office handles arbitrations under the CIETAC Rules in Beijing.

THE COSTS OF DISPUTES

Effective costs management is a priority for any client. We believe that our overall charges are highly competitive. We expect to record fewer hours per case than our major competitors, mainly due to the following factors:

- our flexibility on charging structures and emphasis on the overall relationship with the client;
- the multi-specialism of our lawyers which consistently enables us to field fewer lawyers whilst achieving superior results and to pass on the efficiencies to our clients;

“Clients highlight the firm’s excellent responsiveness and levels of communication, noting: ‘It is always on top of all the latest legal developments’”

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CHAMBERS UK, 2009
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- our value mentality – our lawyers are required to provide value to client, not to meet personal billing or time recording targets;
- the importance we attach to understanding the business drivers in disputes, which eliminates unnecessary lawyering; and
- our emphasis, above all, on quality over growth within our business.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

Our work is client-focused rather than product-focused. This means our practice groups work closely together, when required, to form integrated teams of lawyers who are well informed about all aspects of our clients’ business. Where appropriate, work is handled in conjunction with specialist lawyers from other groups within the firm, for instance in tax, pensions, employment matters, EU and domestic competition, and technology, media and telecom matters. Similarly we have developed close working relationships with leading independent law firms around the world which enable us to provide seamless first class advice world-wide.

Contact us

This brochure is a snapshot only of what we do and what we can offer our clients. For further information about our work and services, please contact one of our partners direct, either through email or by telephone, or visit our website on www.slaughterandmay.com.

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