

Lily Church

Call: 2022

Lily is fast developing a busy practice across Chambers' core areas of expertise including commercial litigation, company law and corporate advisory work, arbitration, offshore litigation and restructuring and insolvency. She has appeared before the Supreme Court, the Commercial Court, the Chancery Division and the County Court and does so both as sole counsel and as part of a wider counsel team.

Her notable recent work includes appearing as junior counsel in the Supreme Court in THG Plc v Zedra Trust Company (Jersey) Ltd [2026] UKSC 6 and acting as junior counsel in a civil fraud claim in the Commercial Court worth >\$218 million, concerning the breakdown of private equity firm Novalpina LLP.

Lily's advocacy experience includes making submissions at a final substantive arbitral hearing, appearing as sole counsel at several case management conferences in both the Commercial Court and arbitral proceedings, and acting on a wide range of applications under the Civil Procedure Rules, the Companies Act 2006, and the Insolvency Act 1986.

After pupillage, Lily spent three months at Freshfields in the financial disputes team and a further three months in the corporate department at Slaughter and May.

Lily graduated second in her year at the University of Cambridge with a first-class postgraduate degree in corporate law. During her time at Cambridge, Lily won several university prizes and was the resident Richard Sykes QC Scholar at Pembroke College. She also holds a first-class undergraduate law degree and obtained a distinction on the bar course, ranking third in her cohort.

Corporate

Lily is regularly instructed to advise on a broad range of corporate advisory matters, both in her own right and as junior counsel. Lily is experienced in making applications under the Companies Act 2006 and regularly appears in the Insolvency and Companies Court.

Following pupillage, Lily spent three months in the corporate department at Slaughter and May where she gained practical experience of transactional work.

- Co-authored two publicly-available opinions commissioned by ClientEarth concerning company and director liability related to climate-related transition plan disclosures (with Andrew Thomspson KC and Phillip Morrison).



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- Provided confidential advice as sole counsel in relation to a capital reduction demerger.
- Advised a FTSE 250 company on the application and interpretation of provisions of the Companies Act 2006 arising from a hostile takeover attempt by a US shareholder.
- Advised on the application and interpretation of provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in relation to a company's intended transfer to REIT status and listing on the Jersey Stock Exchange.
- Appeared as sole counsel in the High Court in a successful application under section 306 Companies Act 2006 for a court ordered shareholders' meeting.
- Boston Trust Company Limited & Anor v Szerelmey Limited & Ors – Appeared as sole counsel in the Insolvency and Companies Court in the successful application for a charging order over shares, following judgment in derivative claim proceedings.
- Advised shareholders of Fresnillo Plc representing the El Bajio community in Mexico who were alleging environmental and humanitarian claims against local Fresnillo subsidiaries operating a mine. Advice concerned the approach to an upcoming AGM and advice as to merits of prospective company law claims (pro bono).
- Advised in connection with the negotiation and signing of Johnson Matthey Plc's sale of its Medical Device Components business to Montagu private equity fund (during secondment at Slaughter and May).

Litigation & Arbitration

Lily has a busy litigation and arbitration practice. She has appeared in the Supreme Court, the High Court (in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division) and County Court and appears both as sole and junior counsel. She is regularly instructed on corporate and shareholder disputes as well as general commercial matters.

Lily also holds a certificate in International Arbitration (CI Arb) and is experienced in all aspects of the arbitral process.

Following pupillage Lily spent three months in a disputes department at Freshfields where she gained experience in banking and insolvency related litigation.

- Currently acting in a commercial court civil fraud claim worth >\$218 million, concerning the breakdown of private equity firm Novalpina LLP (led by Andrew Thompson KC and Phillip Morrison).
- Currently acting as sole counsel in a commercial court claim concerning the Commercial Agents (Council Directive) Regulations, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract. Work involved to date includes providing pre-action advice, drafting the defence and counterclaim and preparing for the CMC.
- THG Plc v Zedra Trust Company (Jersey) Ltd [2026] UKSC 6 - Appeared in the Supreme Court for the successful appellant in an appeal concerning the limitation period applicable to claims under s994 Companies Act 2006 (led by Andrew Thompson KC and George McPherson).
- Baupost Group LLC & Ors v DPK Management Ltd - Acted in a commercial court claim (led by Andrew Thompson KC and Dan Butler) concerning a joint venture dispute. Assisted in relation to the PTR and preparation for trial.
- Acted in a confidential arbitration worth >\$460million concerning breach of a share purchase agreement (LCIA, London seat) (led by Andrew Thompson KC and Phillip Morrison).
- The Guernsey Financial Services Commission v Robin Fuller [2025] GRC 071 – Advised Mr Fuller as to company law related arguments in his appeal to the Guernsey Court of Appeal and Privy Council (led by Nigel Dougherty).
- Assisted Martin Moore KC in producing an expert statement for Barclays PLC in a US securities class action encompassing claims under English s90A Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The statement covered law on English multi-party litigation and s90A of FSMA.

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- Assisted Andrew Thompson KC in giving confidential advice as to a prospective claim under s90A FSMA by a shareholder in a well-known clothing brand.
- Acted as junior counsel on a confidential multi-million pound arbitration concerning a breach of warranty claim in a share purchase agreement in respect of a global medical devices company (London Seat, LCIA)(led by Andrew Thompson KC and Philip Morrison).
- Appeared for the successful defendant in a confidential arbitration concerning breach of a share purchase agreement. Drafted pleadings, appeared as sole counsel at 2 CMCs, made substantive submissions at a final hearing on the merits, drafted costs submissions (UNCITRAL, London seat) (led by Nigel Dougherty).
- Acted as sole counsel for Elizabeth Arden in a Commercial Court debt claim worth >£7million. The work involved providing pre-action advice, drafting the particulars of claim and reply, advising as to (and achieving) favourable settlement.
- Acted in a Commercial Court claim concerning breach of services agreement. Appeared as sole counsel at the CMC.
- Alkhawaja v TPL Investment Management Ltd and TPL Reit Management Company Ltd [2024] ADGMCFI 0009 – Acted as junior counsel in what was the highest value claim ever heard in the Abu Dhabi General Market Court, Employment Division. Successfully defended certain contractual claims on points of company law.
- Advised shareholders of Fresnillo Plc representing the El Bajio community in Mexico who were alleging environmental and humanitarian claims against local Fresnillo subsidiaries operating a mine. Advice concerned an upcoming AGM and advice as to merits of prospective company law claims (pro bono).
- Assisted in connection with the Competition and Markets Authority's first investigation into 'greenwashing' with environmental claims brought against ASDA, Boohoo and ASOS (during secondment at Slaughter and May).
- Client Earth v Shell Plc [2023] EWHC 1897 (Ch) – provided research support during the preparation of written submissions on an application for permission to continue a derivative claim (during pupillage).
- Carillion director's disqualification – provided research support in advance of the PTR (during pupillage).

International & Offshore

Lily regularly has acted in several matters in offshore jurisdictions, including the Cayman Islands, BVI and Antigua. Lily's practice often involves international elements, including international clients, companies, points of foreign law and questions as to conflicts of law.

- The Guernsey Financial Services Commission v Robin Fuller [2025] GRC 071 – Advised Mr Fuller as to company law related arguments in his appeal to the Guernsey Court of Appeal and Privy Council (led by Nigel Dougherty).
- Acted in a Cayman Islands winding-up petition brought on the just and equitable ground in respect of a UAE-based aviation group (led by Michael Todd KC, Ben Griffiths and Jack Rivett).
- Assisted in a BVI winding-up petition brought on the just and equitable ground (led by Michael Todd KC and Ben Griffiths).
- Assisted in connection with a 'creditor duty' claim (led by Andrew Thompson KC).
- Alkhawaja v TPL Investment Management Ltd and TPL Reit Management Company Ltd [2024] ADGMCFI 0009 – Acted as junior counsel in what was the highest value claim ever heard in the Abu Dhabi General Market Court, Employment Division. Successfully defended certain contractual claims on points of company law.
- Provided research assistance on a Hong Kong matter, concerning the construction of an arbitration clause in a dispute concerning Hong Kong and PRC incorporated companies.
- Advised a Bermudan segregated accounts company in the context of a winding up petition, gaining experience in the global insurance and reinsurance industries (during secondment at Freshfields).

Restructuring & Insolvency

Lily is experienced in advising in relation to insolvency and restructuring matters. She regularly appears as sole counsel in the Insolvency and Companies Court and County Court on a variety of Insolvency Act applications including in relation to winding up, administrations and CVLs.

- Acted in a Cayman Islands winding-up petition brought on the just and equitable ground in respect of a UAE-based aviation group (led by Michael Todd KC, Ben Griffiths and Jack Rivett).
- Assisted in connection with a 'creditor duty' claim (led by Andrew Thompson KC).
- Assisted in a BVI winding-up petition brought on the just and equitable ground (led by Michael Todd KC and Ben Griffiths).
- Acted as sole counsel for the Charity Commission in relation to a winding-up petition presented against a charity concerning a disputed debt.
- Drafted documentation in advance of the convening hearing of a proposed creditors scheme of arrangement, concerning a leading German telecommunications company (during secondment at Freshfields).
- Appeared as sole counsel for the joint liquidators of the former Arcadia Group in a successful application concerning the payment of distributions in the liquidation (during secondment at Freshfields).
- Advised the joint liquidators of two Russian-owned and sanctioned entities operating in the aviation industry (during secondment at Freshfields).

Financial Services

Lily's practice encompasses matters involving financial services law, including the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and the UK Listing Rules.

- Advised on the application and interpretation of provisions of FSMA in relation to a company's intended transfer to REIT status and listing on the Jersey Stock Exchange.
- Assisted Martin Moore KC in producing an expert statement for Barclays PLC in a US securities class action encompassing claims under English s90A FSMA – statement covered law on English multi-party litigation and s90A FSMA.
- Co-authored two publicly-available opinions commissioned by ClientEarth concerning public company and director liability related to climate-related transition plan disclosures (with Andrew Thomspson KC and Phillip Morrison).
- Assisted Andrew Thompson KC in giving confidential advice as to a prospective claim under s90A FSMA by shareholder in well-known clothing brand.

Partnership

Lily has experience in advising partnerships and partners. She is familiar with, amongst other matters, the Partnership Act 1890, Limited Partnerships Act 1907 and the relevant common law.

- Currently acting in a commercial court civil fraud claim worth >\$218 million, concerning the breakdown of private equity firm Novalpina LLP (led by Andrew Thompson KC and Phillip Morrison).
- Acted as junior counsel and assisted in preparing an extensive research note to support an application for disclosure against limited partners of a foreign partnership. The note covered many areas of partnership law as well as conflicts of law and procedural points relating to the CPR (led by Andrew Thompson KC and Phillip Morrison).
- Assisted Andrew Thompson KC with advice concerning complex and high-value claims against LLP partners for breach of fiduciary duty, accessorial liability and knowing receipt. Advice concerned the allocation of losses, the law of contribution and group litigation.

Secondments

- Mactavish (May – August 2024) - assisted in providing advice to insured parties and underwriters primarily in respect of breach of warranty claims under W&I policies. Work also involved advising in relation to the placement and negotiation of W&I policies in connection with high-value M&A transactions.
- Freshfields (October – December 2023)
 - o Appeared unled in Court for the joint liquidators of the former Arcadia Group in a successful application concerning the payment of distributions in the liquidation.
 - o Advised a Bermudan segregated accounts company in the context of a winding up petition, gaining experience in the global insurance and reinsurance industries.
 - o Advised the joint liquidators of two Russian-owned and sanctioned entities operating in the aviation industry.
 - o Drafted all documentation in advance of the convening hearing of a proposed creditors scheme of arrangement, concerning a leading German telecommunications company.
 - o Drafted a statement of defence in an arbitration governed by the Rules of the International Chamber of Commerce.
- Slaughter & May (January – March 2024)
 - o Advised in connection with the negotiation and signing of Johnson Matthey Plc's sale of its Medical Device Components business to Montagu Private Equity (during secondment at Slaughter and May).
 - o Assisted in connection with the Competition and Markets Authority's first investigation into 'greenwashing' with environmental claims brought against ASDA, Boohoo and ASOS.
 - o Provided a broad range of corporate advice including in the areas of company distributions, audit and disclosure requirements and share class structures.

Education

- Inns of Court College of Advocacy, Bar Course (BTC), Distinction (ranked 3rd in cohort).
- University of Cambridge, Masters of Corporate Law (MCL), First Class (ranked 2nd in cohort).
- Durham University, Law (LLB), First Class Honours.
- Prizes and Awards

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- Major Scholarship, Inner Temple (Top 20 of c.450 applicants).
- Duke of Edinburgh Award, Inner Temple.
- Richard Sykes QC Scholarship, University of Cambridge.
- The Foundress Prize, University of Cambridge.
- The Foundation Award, University of Cambridge.
- Academic Honours List, Durham Law School.
- Future Queens Council of the Year Award, Durham Law School.
- COMBAR Scholarship.
- Inner Temple PASS Scholarship.
- Advocate of the Year Winner 2018, BPP Leeds.

Languages

- English, fluent.
- Spanish, advanced.