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Andrew Blake

Call: 2012

Andrew specialises in company law, corporate disputes, restructuring and corporate insolvency.

His time is divided between litigation and advisory work. Much of his work involves large and contentious corporate transactions, both domestically and overseas. He is called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and is instructed in corporate and insolvency matters in the UK and internationally.

Andrew was shortlisted for Company/Insolvency Junior of the year at the 2023 Chambers UK Bar Awards and for Chancery Junior of the Year at the 2025 Legal 500 Bar Awards. He is described in the legal directories as having a "brilliant legal mind", as "considered, extremely user-friendly, pragmatic and an excellent strategist", and as "not just bright but…wise; he has that bigger picture perspective".

Beyond confidential corporate advisory instructions and arbitration work, Andrew's recent instructions include:

- *Jardine Strategic v Oasis Investments II Master Fund* [2025] UKPC 33; [2025] UKPC 34 – successfully arguing for the abolition of the long-established 'shareholder privilege rule' (led by Jonathan Crow KC and Martin Moore KC; instructed by Linklaters). Andrew also acts for Jardine Strategic in the underlying merger appraisal proceedings in Bermuda.

- *1Globe Capital v Sinovac Biotech* [2025] UKPC 3 – Privy Council appeal concerning the contested AGM of a NASDAQ-listed company, as well as the adoption of a 'poison pill' rights agreement (led by James Potts KC; instructed by Latham & Watkins).

- *Re Petrofac Ltd* [2025] EWHC 859 – acting as lead counsel for a group of s. 90 FSMA claimants in the leading authority on contested restructuring plans.

- *APS Holding Corp v Sumito Pharma UK Holdings Ltd* [2025] SC (Bda) 16 civ – acting for Myovant Sciences in appraisal proceedings in Bermuda arising from its $2.9 billion acquisition by Sumitovant Biopharma (led by Sonia Tolaney KC).

- *Re Carillion Plc* – representing the five non-executive directors of Carillion in defending directors' disqualification proceedings arising from the largest ever trading liquidation in the UK. The Secretary of State abandoned the claim the day before the commencement of a 13-week trial (led by Andrew Thompson KC; instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills.

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Corporate

- Takeovers and M&A
- Meetings and resolutions
- Construction and drafting of constitutional documents
- Schemes of arrangement
- Directors' disqualification
- Corporate governance
- Shareholders rights
- Corporate reorganisations

Andrew specialises in corporate advice and corporate disputes.

He advises on all matters of company law, frequently in relation to takeovers and M&A, shareholder rights, boardroom disputes, returns of capital and contentious meetings.

Most of his advisory work is confidential. Examples of corporate litigation in which Andrew is acting or has acted include the following:

- *Jardine Strategic v Oasis Investments II Master Fund* [2025] UKPC 33; [2025] UKPC 34 – successfully arguing for the abolition of the long-established 'shareholder privilege rule' (led by Jonathan Crow KC and Martin Moore KC; instructed by Linklaters). Andrew also acts for Jardine Strategic in the underlying merger appraisal proceedings in Bermuda.

- *1Globe Capital v Sinovac Biotech* [2025] UKPC 3 – Privy Council appeal concerning the contested AGM of a NASDAQ-listed company, as well as the adoption of a 'poison pill' rights agreement (led by James Potts KC; instructed by Latham & Watkins).

- *Shallan Overseas Investments v Primefuels Investments* – acting on behalf of the claimant in unfair prejudice proceedings concerning an East African logistics group with holding companies in the BVI and Mauritius (led by David Mumford KC).

- *APS Holding Corp v Sumito Pharma UK Holdings Ltd* [2025] SC (Bda) 16 civ – appraisal proceedings in Bermuda arising from its $2.9 billion acquisition by Sumitovant Biopharma (led by Sonia Tolaney KC).

- *Zavarco plc v Sidhu* [2022] EWCA Civ 1040 – successfully resisting an appeal concerning a member's liability to pay up EUR 84 million of subscriber shares in a Plc in cash (led by Patrick Lawrence KC).

- *Ace Lead Profits v Re Hollysys Automation Technologies Ltd* BVIHC (Com) 2021/0015 – acting for the NASDAQ-listed company in resisting a challenge to amendments introduced to its articles in the context of a contested takeover bid (instructed by Latham & Watkins; led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re William Hill Plc* [2021] EWHC 967 – opposing the contested scheme for the takeover of William Hill by Ceasars Entertainment Inc (led by David Chivers KC).

- *Re Rockrose Energy Plc* [2020] EWHC 2496 – opposing a contested scheme for the takeover of Rockrose Energy Plc (instructed by Allen & Overy; led by Martin Moore KC).

- *Re Profile Partners Ltd* [2020] EWHC 1473 (Ch) – a complex shareholder dispute concerning an international sports media rights business headquartered in Germany, including in obtaining injunctive relief (led and unled).

- *Kaye v Oxford House* [2019] EWHC 2181 – sole counsel for the successful claimants in challenging the chairman's conduct of a requisitioned meeting.

- *TGL Group Ltd v Wojakovski* [2019] EWHC 857 – obtaining permission to pursue derivative claims against a former managing director in the context of a complex, cross-border corporate group structure (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *TPD Investments* [2017] EWHC 657 – trial of unfair prejudice proceedings and a linked Part 7 Claim in relation to the affairs of a company owning two of the largest hotels in the UK (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *SABMiller* – acting in relation to the acquisition of SABMiller by Anheuser-Busch (led by Andrew Thompson KC).

- *Re Chagala Group Ltd* - acting for an AIM-listed company in BVI proceedings concerning an alleged concert party takeover attempt and allegations of misuse of fiduciary powers (led by Michael Todd KC).

Restructuring & Insolvency

- Restructuring
- Schemes of arrangement
- Contentious insolvency (including cross-border issues)
- Winding-up proceedings
- Administration proceedings
- Pensions/moral hazards

Andrew was shortlisted for Company/Insolvency Junior of the Year at the C&P Award 2023. He has considerable experience of acting for creditors and officeholders. He has been instructed on behalf of opposing creditors and members of several leading Part 26 schemes and Part 26A restructuring plans.

Examples of his recent restructuring and insolvency work include:

- *Re Petrofac Ltd* [2025] EWHC 859 – acting as lead counsel for a group of s. 90 FSMA claimants in the leading authority on contested restructuring plans.

- *Re Carillion Plc* – representing the five non-executive directors of Carillion in defending directors' disqualification proceedings arising from the largest ever trading liquidation in the UK. The Secretary of State abandoned the claim the day before the commencement of a 13-week trial (led by Andrew Thompson KC; instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills).

- *Re Northstar Financial Services (Bermuda) Ltd, Re Omnia Ltd, Re PB Life and Annuity Co Ltd* – acting for the joint provisional liquidators of several insurers/financial services providers, including in proceedings concerning Bermuda's Segregated Accounts Companies Act 2000 and its Insurance Act 1978 (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re Ocean Rig UDW (Inc)* 2017 2 CILR 594 – opposing a complex Cayman Islands restructuring of £3.7bn of debt by way of interdependent schemes of arrangement (led by Michael Todd KC).

Litigation & Arbitration

- Corporate disputes
- Shareholder disputes and unfair prejudice
- Joint venture disputes
- Directors' duties
- Directors' disqualifications
- Warranties and indemnities
- Civil fraud and asset recovery
- Interim remedies

Andrew specialises in corporate disputes in litigation and arbitration. He is frequently instructed in litigation arising from contentious transactions, M&A activity, private equity investment, shareholder and boardroom disputes and joint ventures.

He has acted in confidential, high value and commercially sensitive arbitrations under the LICA and ICC rules.

His recent litigation work includes the following:

- *Jardine Strategic v Oasis Investments II Master Fund* [2025] UKPC 33; [2025] UKPC 34 – successfully arguing for the abolition of the long-established 'shareholder privilege rule' (led by Jonathan Crow KC and Martin Moore KC; instructed by Linklaters). Andrew also acts for Jardine Strategic in the underlying merger appraisal proceedings in Bermuda.

- *1Globe Capital v Sinovac Biotech* [2025] UKPC 3 – Privy Council appeal concerning the contested AGM of a NASDAQ-listed company, as well as the adoption of a 'poison pill' rights agreement (led by James Potts KC; instructed by Latham & Watkins).

- *Shallan Overseas Investments v Primefuels Investments* – acting on behalf of the claimant in unfair prejudice proceedings concerning an East African logistics group with holding companies in the BVI and Mauritius (led by David Mumford KC).

- *APS Holding Corp v Sumito Pharma UK Holdings Ltd* [2025] SC (Bda) 16 civ – appraisal proceedings in Bermuda arising from its $2.9 billion acquisition by Sumitovant Biopharma (led by Sonia Tolaney KC).

- *Re Carillion Plc* – representing the five non-executive directors of Carillion in defending directors' disqualification proceedings arising from the largest ever trading liquidation in the UK. The Secretary of State abandoned the claim the day before the commencement of a 13-week trial (led by Andrew Thompson KC; instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills).

- *Ace Lead Profits v Re Hollysys Automation Technologies Ltd* BVIHC (Com) 2021/0015 – acting for the NASDAQ-listed company in resisting a challenge to amendments introduced to its articles in the context of a contested takeover bid (instructed by Latham & Watkins; led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re Profile Partners Ltd* [2020] EWHC 1473 (Ch) – a complex shareholder dispute concerning an international sports media rights business headquartered in Germany, including in obtaining injunctive relief (led and unled).

- *Kaye v Oxford House* [2019] EWHC 2181 – sole counsel for the successful claimants in challenging the chairman's conduct of a requisitioned meeting.

- *TGL Group Ltd v Wojakovski* [2019] EWHC 857 – obtaining permission to pursue derivative claims against a former managing director in the context of a complex, cross-border corporate group structure (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *TPD Investments* [2017] EWHC 657 – trial of unfair prejudice proceedings and a linked Part 7 Claim in relation to the affairs of a company owning two of the largest hotels in the UK (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re Chagala Group Ltd* - acting for an AIM-listed company in BVI proceedings concerning an alleged concert party takeover attempt and allegations of misuse of fiduciary powers (led by Michael Todd KC)

International & Offshore

Andrew has a substantial international and offshore practice. He is ranked in Tier 1 for Offshore Commercial Disputes by Legal 500.

He is called the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and is very familiar with the companies legislation and procedural rules of Bermuda, the BVI and the Cayman Islands. In addition to those jurisdictions, he has been instructed in proceedings in Antigua & Barbuda, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey and Singapore.

- *Jardine Strategic v Oasis Investments II Master Fund* [2025] UKPC 33; [2025] UKPC 34 – successfully arguing for the abolition of the long-established 'shareholder privilege rule' (led by Jonathan Crow KC and Martin Moore KC; instructed by Linklaters). Andrew also acts for Jardine Strategic in the underlying merger appraisal proceedings in Bermuda.

- *1Globe Capital v Sinovac Biotech* [2025] UKPC 3 – Privy Council appeal concerning the contested AGM of a NASDAQ-listed company, as well as the adoption of a 'poison pill' rights agreement (led by James Potts KC; instructed by Latham & Watkins).

- *Shallan Overseas Investments v Primefuels Investments* – acting on behalf of the claimant in unfair prejudice proceedings concerning an East African logistics group with holding companies in the BVI and Mauritius (led by David Mumford KC).

- *APS Holding Corp v Sumito Pharma UK Holdings Ltd* [2025] SC (Bda) 16 civ – appraisal proceedings in Bermuda arising from its $2.9 billion acquisition by Sumitovant Biopharma (led by Sonia Tolaney KC).

- *Re Northstar Financial Services (Bermuda) Ltd, Re Omnia Ltd, Re PB Life and Annuity Co Ltd* – acting for the joint provisional liquidators of several insurers/financial services providers, including in proceedings concerning Bermuda's Segregated Accounts Companies Act 2000 and its Insurance Act 1978 (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Ace Lead Profits v Re Hollysys Automation Technologies Ltd* BVIHC (Com) 2021/0015 – acting for the

NASDAQ-listed company in resisting a challenge to amendments introduced to its articles in the context of a contested takeover bid (instructed by Latham & Watkins; led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re Ocean Rig UDW (Inc)* 2017 2 CILR 594 – opposing a complex Cayman Islands restructuring of £3.7bn of debt by way of interdependent schemes of arrangement (led by Michael Todd KC).

- *Re Chagala Group Ltd* - acting for an AIM-listed company in BVI proceedings concerning an alleged concert party takeover attempt and allegations of misuse of fiduciary powers (led by Michael Todd KC)

Memberships & Publications

Chancery Bar Association
COMBAR
Contributor to FromCounsel

"Restructuring debt in the COVID-19 pandemic: class composition in creditors' schemes" (with Michael Todd QC), Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, March 2021
"Strangling the golden goose – why English law needs reform" (with Nigel Boardman and James Shirbin), Legal Business (2015)

Education & Awards

- BA Law (First Class), Worcester College, Oxford: 2007-2010
- BCL (Distinction), Worcester College, Oxford: 2010-2011
- Lecturer in contract law, Worcester College/University College, Oxford: 2012-2013

Recognition

Andrew was shortlisted for Company/Insolvency Junior of the year at the 2023 Chambers UK Bar Awards.

Ranked in:
Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027 - Company, Offshore, Commercial dispute resolution, Restructuring & Insolvency
Legal 500 2027 - Company, Commercial Litigation and Insolvency.
Legal 500 2027 English Bar Offshore (Commercial Disputes) - Tier 1

Chambers & Partners UK Bar

"*Andrew is a brilliant lawyer with an incredibly sharp mind and great commercial awareness. He's a brilliant strategist and someone you can rely on when times get tough.*" – 2027

"*A complete star in the making, he is absolutely fantastic.*" – 2027

"*Andrew Blake is very active and very smart, and his reputation in the industry is second to none. He is incredibly respected, and everyone speaks very highly of him.*" – 2027

"*Andrew is super clever; such a pleasure to work with. He has a nice understated style with the judge, which was really effective*." - 2027

"*Andrew has a brilliant legal mind and is a man whose opinions and input we value. He's able to simplify issues and focus in on what matters*." – 2026

"*He is a first-class junior. His writing is persuasive and punchy, grappling with challenging legal concepts but making them seem simple. His analysis and commercial awareness are equally impressive*." - 2025

"*He is brilliant. His advice is expertly crafted and thoroughly robust, with one eye on the bigger picture at all times. He is a pleasure to work with and is happy to get in the trenches*." – 2025

Legal 500 UK Bar

"*Andrew is brilliant – he is considered, extremely user-friendly, pragmatic and an excellent strategist. His written advocacy is robust and compelling and consistently to a very high standard*." - 2025

"*Andrew is brilliant and insightful, offering excellent strategic input and advice on all aspects of the matter. He has a great mind*.**"** - 2025