hailshamchambers

Clerks: **020 7643 5000**

Joshua Munro

Call: 2001



Overview

Joshua is a leading junior in costs, professional negligence and commercial litigation, including insurance, insolvency and cryptocurrency disputes. For professional negligence, Legal 500 states that "'Joshua is top class!" and "He is a finder of solutions, not excuses.". For Costs, Chambers UK writes that "Joshua Munro is commercial, client-friendly and a brilliant advocate."

Costs

Joshua has a very busy costs practice in the SCCO and elsewhere. He has acted in costs litigation at all levels including the House of Lords. He is described in the *Legal 500* as having a "masterly knowledge of the case law."

Cases include:

- Smith v Wigan BC [2026] EWHC 660 (SCCO). Important decision applying O'Beirne v Hudson [2010] EWCA Civ 52 and CPR 46.13 to housing disrepair claims.

- R. v Metcalf (Peter) [2024] EWHC 1135 (SCCO) 13 May 2024. Joshua successfully represented the Appellant against the Lord Chancellor in his appeal against decisions of the Criminal Cases Unit of the Legal Aid Agency. The underlying case was one of the most complex criminal cases in English history and arose from the Hillsborough disaster.

- *EXN v East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust* [2022] 4 W.L.R. 70: Important appellate authority on relief from sanctions for failures in respect of notices of funding.
- *BlackLion Law LLP v Lyons* [2021] EWHC 417 (Comm) Joshua successfully

resisted a summary judgment application in this interesting solicitor/client dispute involving arguments as to the scope and nature of the alleged retainers.
- *Toms v Brannan* [2021] 3 C.L. 52; [2020] Costs L.R. 1497 Important case regarding CFAs and the ability to charge fees thereunder if the solicitor terminates the agreement.
- *Deepchand v Sooben* [2020] Costs L.R. 1633. Court of Appeal victory for Joshua overturning an erroneous costs order arising from a wasted costs order application. Joshua also successfully resisted the wasted costs order application in the High Court.
- *Michael Wilson & Partners Ltd v Sinclair and Another* [2020] Costs LR 387 Notable appeal regarding court's jurisdiction to set aside default costs certificates.
- *Ainsworth v Stewarts Law LLP* [2020] 1 W.L.R. 2664 Widely reported Court of Appeal authority on the court's ability to strike out overly brief points of dispute in solicitor/client matters.
- *Mann and others v Transport for London* [2018] 1 W.L.R. 5104. Court of Appeal victory for Joshua dealing with the effect of non-part 36 offers in group litigation
- *Riordan v Moon Beever* [2018] EWCH 1452 (QB) Appeal from costs judge refusing to conduct solicitor/client assessment and staying the same because of threatened professional negligence proceedings
- *Robinson v EMW* [2018] EWCH 1757 (Ch) High Court appeal victory for Joshua from decision in SCCO failing to give effect to an implied retainer
- *Davis v Wiltshire PCT* Lawtel 1 February 2016. Master Leonard in the SCCO disallowed additional liabilities claimed against Joshua's NHS client, on the basis that a switch from legal aid to CFA/ATE was not reasonable
- *Regina v Griffin* April 2015. Joshua acted for the Crown and taxpayer, successfully resisting Dave Lee Travis' claim for costs of around £350,000 relating to counts on which he was acquitted. The costs allowed were restricted to only travel and subsistence expenses. Reported in various mainstream media. Click for the report
- *Saigol v Thorney Motorsport* [2014] 4 Costs L.O. 592. Joshua acted in the Court of Appeal for the successful appellant to overturn an erroneous costs order

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Professional Liability

Joshua is well known in the market as a robust and persuasive advocate, and someone who gives thorough and commercial advice. He most frequently acts in claims against solicitors, IFAs and surveyors.

Cases include:

- Riedweg v HCC International Insurance Plc [2025] Lloyd's Rep. I.R. 75; [2025]

P.N.L.R. 9 Widely discussed and reported decision on the inter-relationship between the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Act 2010 and the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978 in the context of professional negligence claims and associated contribution claims.

- *Nieman v Withers* [2022] EWHC 2237 (QB). Rare trial of allegations of professional negligence against solicitors instructed in respect of settlement of financial resolution proceedings arising from divorce.*Denning v Greenhalgh Financial Services Ltd* [2017] P.N.L.R. 19 Widely reported authority on the scope of duty of Independent Financial Advisors
- *Salfiti v Seedo* [2022] EWHC 1712 (Ch). Interesting dispute involving alleged frauds in purchase of commercial property, forgeries, constructive and resulting trusts and limitation defences.
- *Andrew Fryatt v Preston Mellor Harrison (a firm)* [2015] EWHC 1683 (Ch) Joshua successfully resisted a claim, on causation grounds, against solicitors found to have made errors in conveyancing in respect of an Option to purchase land for property development
- *Joyce v Darby* [2014] 3 EGLR 49. Joshua acted for the successful appellant in the Court of Appeal on the assessment of damages for negligent conveyancing with Bernard Livesey KC
- *French v Carter Lemon Camerons* [2013] P.N.L.R. 2. Court of Appeal authority on termination of solicitors' retainers and liens

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Insurance

Joshua is well known for his knowledge of insurance law and his commercial advice in this field.

International Energy Group v Zurich [2015] 2 WLR 1471, Joshua represented International Energy Group with Antonio Bueno KC and Patrick Limb KC in the Supreme Court in a coverage dispute, the effects of which were said by the British Association of Insurers to be worth in the region of £10billion.

Joshua has particularly strong interest in coverage disputes, particularly regarding liability policies, professional indemnity policies, all forms of construction insurances including all-risks, and all types of legal expenses insurances, BTE and ATE.

Commercial Law

Joshua was head of chambers' well regarded Commercial Litigation Group for over 10 years. Joshua has strong expertise and interest in a wide range of commercial disputes. This covers litigation and arbitration. It often involves contractual and property disputes.

Recent cases include:

- Nwikpo v Tap n Go [2026] EWHC 147 (Ch). Joshua acted in the trial of claims as to the ownership of equity and tokens in a digital finance company that bridges traditional banking and blockchain technology, providing integrated fiat payment and cryptocurrency settlement services.
- *Salfiti v Seedo* [2022] EWHC 1712 (Ch). Interesting dispute involving alleged frauds in purchase of commercial property, forgeries, constructive and resulting trusts and limitation defences.
- *J Browne Construction Ltd v Chapman Construction Services Ltd & others* [2016] EWHC 152 (QB). Joshua successfully acted for the Claimant company in this dispute involving English reservoirs. The court found that the Defendant company was in breach of a labour sub-contract, which breach had been unlawfully procured by the contract managers. Back-dating of documents by the Defendant's witnesses was proven at trial
- A USD$750million misfeasance claim against Joshua's clients was struck out in 2015. The case arose from the liquidation of an off-shore bank (with Antonio Bueno KC)
- Several current claims involving investments procured by fraud or negligent advice
- *Scurfield v Revenue and Customs Commissioners* [2011] UKFTT 532(TC) Tax relief on pension
- *M&J Marine Engineering v Shipshore Limited LMCLQ* 2010, 3(Aug) Supp . International sale of goods, measure of damages for non-delivery

Joshua is licensed to practice in the Isle of Man and has cases there involving insolvency, investment trusts, alleged frauds, remedies against company directors, sale and purchase agreements.

Cryptocurrency

Joshua has an interest in the crypto industry, the blockchain and new monetary systems. He has acted in several cases involving cryptocurrencies including the following:

- Nwikpo v Tap n Go [2026] EWHC 147 (Ch). Joshua acted in the trial of claims as to the ownership of equity and tokens in a digital finance company that bridges traditional banking and blockchain technology, providing integrated fiat payment and cryptocurrency settlement.
- Craig Wright v Peter McCormack [2022] EWHC 3343 (KB) Dispute involving questions as to the invention and foundation of Bitcoin.
- Wirex v Cryptocarbon Global Ltd, Cryptocarbon UK Ltd and Bee-One UK Ltd. [2022] EWHC 1161 (IPEC) Joshua acted for the Defendants in a trade mark infringement claim regarding a UK registered trade mark for "Cryptoback," a crypto rewards scheme.

Insolvency

Joshua is regularly instructed in insolvency disputes, particularly those that involve allegations of fraud. He has acted in claims involving transactions at an undervalue, examinations of debtors, wrongful trading, and misfeasance.

Recent Cases include:

Gable Insurance AG (In Liquidation) v Lord William Dewsall 2024-2025, ICC

Joshua appeared in front of several ICC Judges in respect of petitions for the bankruptcy of Lord Dewsall, who allegedly defrauded Joshua's client, an insurance company in liquidation.

Halliday Lighting Limited v Leicester Road Football Club Limited 2025

Joshua acts for the petitioning creditor in this dispute before ICC Judge Briggs.

Riedweg v HCC International Insurance Plc [2025] P.N.L.R. 9

In a negligence claim against a property valuer which subsequently went into liquidation, the valuer's professional indemnity insurer was refused permission to bring an additional claim for a contribution against the solicitors who acted in the underlying transaction. The purpose of the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Act 2010 was to provide a mechanism for a claimant to pursue an insurer directly in respect of its insured's liability, and for the claimant to stand in the insured's place for that purpose. The insurer's liability was to indemnify the insured against its liability to a third party; it did not become liable to the third party for the damage caused by its insured.

Wood v Desai [2025] P.N.L.R. 7

A payment made under a professional indemnity insurance policy to a company, which later went into liquidation, belonged to the company beneficially, and was not held for the benefit of the parties who had brought proceedings against the company for professional negligence.

Past cases include actions in the Isle of Man and the Bahamas and include allegations of substantial frauds involving banks and trust funds.

Competition and Group Actions

Joshua has acted for many years in the CAT and High Court in group litigation.

Highlights include:

The "Dieselgate" litigation/ Re Pan NOx Emissions Litigations/ Various Claimants v Mercedes-Benz Group AG et al [2024] EWHC 1222 (KB); [2024] EWHC 695 (KB)

Complex allegations of tampering with emissions data involving multiple trials and interlocutory hearings. Joshua acts for Renault.

Viegas v Cutrale [2024]

Claims for damages for breaches of Brazilian competition law by a group of claimants alleging an unlawful cartel of orange juice producers.

Jukes et al v Facebook [2021]

Joshua assisted the Claimants in their group action in respect of Facebook’s alleged failure to protect their personal data.

RBS Rights Issue Action Group Litigation [2014]

The Action Group claimed RBS and its directors - Fred Goodwin, Tom McKillop, Johnny Cameron, and Guy Whittaker - misled shareholders by misrepresenting the underlying strength of the bank and omitting critical information in its £12 billion Rights Issue prospectus issued in 2008.

What others say

"Joshua is a leading light with genuine gravitas, who more than holds his own against silks." *Legal 500, 2026*

"A superb advocate and a risk taker, Joshua is exceptionally likeable." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"He's a deep thinker and is really measured; when you receive his advice you know that he has thought about it." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Joshua is responsive, commercially-minded barrister whose advocacy skills are impressive." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"His advice is fearless and commercially very sound. Clients find him very easy to engage with." *Legal 500, 2025*

"Joshua gives measured advice and is a very competent and assured advocate." *Legal 500, 2025*

"Commercial, client-friendly and a brilliant advocate." *Chambers UK, 2023*

"Josh gives clear and competent advice and is very reliable." *Chambers UK, 2023*

"Joshua Munro is commercial, client-friendly and a brilliant advocate." *Chambers UK, 2023*

"Joshua is top class! He has detailed and extensive knowledge in this area and can quickly identify strengths and weaknesses which not only guides our strategy and

advice to clients, but also gives us confidence that we are giving the client first-class legal, commercial and practical advice. His advice/opinions are persuasive, and his pleadings are accurate and succinct. Joshua is very easy to work, very user-friendly and has an excellent bedside manner with clients. " *Legal 500, 2023*

"Client friendly, concise advice and statements of case, natural advocate." *Legal 500, 2023*

“Joshua is exceptionally talented, knowledgeable and confident. Both professional and approachable, which is a rare combination.” *Chambers UK, 2022*

“He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in these cases. He takes matters seriously, prepares very well in advance and remains focused on the case.” “Joshua gives masterclass performances in court” and “gives the instructing solicitor confidence and assurance.” *Chambers UK, 2022*

“Joshua has a good knowledge of all matters costs and is able to explain complex issues to the client in a very straightforward and understandable manner.” *Legal 500, 2022*

“His legal analysis is excellent, and he delivers practical advice in a readily approachable way.” *Legal 500, 2022*

“Very analytical and patient, he provides brilliant, sensible advice.” *Legal 500, 2021*

‘”Joshua is collaborative, hardworking and sharply intelligent. An absolute delight to work with, able to establish a firm bond with clients, be they hardened professionals or laypeople. Tactically astute, nimble on his feet and an excellent technical lawyer.” *Legal 500, 2021*

“A leading junior and a very capable barrister. The paperwork and pleadings he’s produced show he clearly knows what he’s talking about when it comes to costs.” *Chambers UK, 2021*

“Knowledgeable and very good on his feet, he’s a man who gives the instructing solicitor a lot of reassurance. You feel confident that you’ll get the best outcome possible with him on board.” *Chambers UK 2021*

“He’s very convincing: unlike others, who have a theatrical style, he is very calm and also very nice.” *Chambers UK, 2020*

“He’s very knowledgeable, approachable and client-friendly.” *Chambers UK, 2020*

“He very obviously knows what he is talking about and is very level-headed and practical in his thinking.” *Chambers UK, 2020*

“He is good on costs disputes and very client-friendly.” *Chambers UK, 2020*

“An excellent advocate with a sharp mind” *Legal 500, 2020*

“Highly rated” *Legal 500, 2020*

“Very hard-working, knowledgeable, responsive and easy to deal with” *Chambers UK, 2019*

“He is unflappable””Very analytical and offers eminently sensible advice” *Chambers UK, 2019*

“Consistently wins on costs matters” *Legal 500, 2019*

“Excellent” *Legal 500, 2019*

“Really knows his stuff and is very analytical. He provides brilliant, sensible advice” “A brilliant advocate. He is exceptional at trial” “He is clear, robust and willing to back his argument. He is also very personable and good at dealing with difficult clients” *Chambers UK, 2018*

“Very bright and very industrious” “Approachable, reliable, consistent and accurate” *Legal 500, 2017*

“He’s a firm and persuasive advocate who shows attention to detail and has a really good manner with the court.” *Chambers UK, 2017*

“He has an acute sense of the limits of any case and has a great ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses in it.” *Legal 500, 2016*

“He fights his client’s case tooth and nail.” “He’s an engaging, warm individual with good client care skills.” *Chambers UK, 2016*

“A fluent and engaging advocate whose legal research and analysis is of a high order.” *Legal 500, 2015*

“He always fights his client’s corner robustly and tenaciously.” *Legal 500, 2015*

“Mr Munro…as he puts it, with beguiling advocacy…” per Hughes LJ in Kynaston v Carroll [2011] EWCA Civ 1699 at para [5]. “Deals with key points quickly, gives sound advice and is realistic.” *Chambers UK, 2014*

Recent Cases

Nwikpo v Tap n Go [2026] EWHC 147 (Ch). Joshua acted in the trial of claims as to the ownership of equity and tokens in a digital finance company that bridges traditional banking and blockchain technology, providing integrated fiat payment and cryptocurrency settlement.

Smith v Wigan BC [2026] EWHC 660 (SCCO). Important costs decision applying O’Beirne v Hudson [2010] EWCA Civ 52 and CPR 46.13 to housing disrepair claims.

Riedweg v HCC International Insurance Plc [2025] Lloyd's Rep. I.R. 75; [2025] P.N.L.R. 9 Widely discussed and reported decision on the inter-relationship between the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Act 2010 and the Civil Liability

(Contribution) Act 1978 in the context of professional negligence claims and associated contribution claims.

Craig Wright v Peter McCormack [2022] EWHC 3343 (KB) Dispute involving questions as to the invention and foundation of Bitcoin.

Salfiti v Seedo [2022] EWHC 1712 (Ch). Interesting dispute involving alleged frauds in purchase of commercial property, forgeries, constructive and resulting trusts and limitation defences.

Nieman v Withers: [2022] EWHC 2237 (QB). Rare trial of allegations of professional negligence against solicitors instructed in respect of settlement of financial resolution proceedings arising from divorce.

EXN v East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust [2022] 4 W.L.R. 70: Important appellate authority on relief from sanctions for failures in respect of notices of funding.

Deepchand v Sooben [2020] Costs L.R. 1633. Court of Appeal victory for Joshua overturning an erroneous costs order arising from a wasted costs order application. Joshua also successfully resisted the wasted costs order application in the High Court.

Mann and others v Transport for London [2018] 1 W.L.R. 5104. Court of Appeal victory for Joshua dealing with the effect of non-part 36 offers in group litigation.

Riordan v Moon Beever [2018] EWCH 1452 (QB) Appeal from costs judge refusing to conduct solicitor/client assessment and staying the same because of threatened professional negligence proceedings.

Robinson v EMW [2018] EWCH 1757 (Ch) High Court appeal victory for Joshua from decision in SCCO failing to give effect to an implied retainer.

Andrew Fryatt v Preston Mellor Harrison (a firm) [2015] EWHC 1683 (ch) Joshua successfully resisted a claim, on causation grounds, against solicitors found to have made errors in conveyancing in respect of an option to purchase land for property development.

Regina v Griffin [2015]. Joshua acted for the Crown and taxpayer, successfully resisting Dave Lee Travis' claim for costs of around £350,000 relating to counts on which he was acquitted. The costs allowed were restricted to only travel and subsistence expenses. .

Saigol v Thorney [2014] 4 Costs L.O. 592, CA. Joshua's successful appeal against adverse costs order arising from non-part 36, time-limited offer.

Haynes v Department for Business, Innovation and Skills [2014] 3 Costs L.R. 475 Interpretation of multi-party costs orders.

Joyce v Darby [2014] EWCA Civ 677, CA. Joshua's successful appeal regarding damages for negligent conveyancing.

French v Carter Lemon Camerons [2013] P.N.L.R. 2, CA. Solicitors' liens over papers.

Tulisa Contoslavos v TNT Magazine [2013] EWHC 4026 (QB). Joshua acted for the X Factor star and successfully recovered costs of an injunction against the magazine for her.

Minkin v CKFT [2012] 3 All E.R. 1117. Joshua acted for the successful appellant in the Court of Appeal in a case described by the Law Society Gazette as a "landmark" decision on costs consequences following alleged wrongful termination of solicitors' retainers.

Gossage v Bishton [2012] EWCA Civ 717, CA

Letts v Royal and Sun Alliance Plc [2012] 3 Costs LR 591, HC

Scurfield v HMRC [2011] UKFTT 532 (TC)

Lake v Hunt Kidd LLP [2011] 6 Costs L.R. 948

Halliwells v NES [2011] P.N.L.R. 30

Further Information

Education: Joshua took the highest First in his year at Oxford University for BA Hons in English and Modern Languages before studying for the Bar on the CPE and BVC.

Personal: Joshua is interested in all things Italian, including art, music, literature, food & wine, and visits Italy whenever possible. He speaks fluent Italian.

Joshua Munro generally provides his services via Joshua Munro Limited, a company registered in England.

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