



The Simmons & Simmons and Travers Smith teams with Steve Roberts of Kidatu

# COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR

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## SIMMONS & SIMMONS/TRAVERS SMITH IAN HAMMOND, STEPHEN PAGET-BROWN

### COMBINING EFFECTIVELY TO ENSURE A COMPREHENSIVE VICTORY

Joint winners Simmons & Simmons and Travers Smith respectively defended Grant Thornton and the Icelandic bank Kaupthing (and Jóhannes Jóhannsson, a former member of Kaupthing’s resolution and winding-up committees) against claims brought by Robert and Vincent Tchenguiz. The high-profile litigation, concerning alleged professional misconduct during the SFO’s investigation into the collapse of Kaupthing and the 2011 arrest of the brothers, was abandoned three days into what was set to be a 12-week trial. The

defendants were aiming for total vindication, which they received in a judicial commentary given by the presiding judge, Mr Justice Knowles.

Providing testimony for both firms, Jóhannsson said: ‘The excellent work of the two legal teams, their strong belief in the case of their clients, efficient cooperation, and not least their professionalism throughout the process, made in my opinion all the difference in these two legal proceedings, put their respective clients in a very strong position and ultimately ensured the successful outcome.’

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

#### HOGAN LOVELLS

##### MICHAEL ROBERTS

Successfully representing ENRC in its appeal against the SFO over legal professional privilege. The SFO had brought civil proceedings to enforce ENRC to share the findings of an internal enquiry, despite claims of legal privilege, and ENRC’s victory will have a major impact on how companies prepare internal investigations in future.

### COMMENDED

#### CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS

##### STEWART HEY

Successfully representing the joint liquidators of six Cayman Islands-registered companies of Awal Bank against claims brought by Ahmad Hamad Al-Gosaibi & Brothers (AHAB). This followed the collapse of the AHAB and the Saad Group and formed a crucial part of one of the world’s largest-ever fraud trials.

#### CLYDE & CO/FOUNTAIN COURT CHAMBERS/LEIGH DAY

##### FERGAL CATHIE, PATRICIA ROBERTSON QC, FRANCES SWAINE

Successfully defending the longest-running disciplinary prosecution brought by the SRA, involving allegations of professional misconduct against Leigh Day and three of its lawyers in representing Iraqi individuals alleging torture and unlawful killing by the British Army. Following a seven-week trial under intense press scrutiny, the prosecution was defeated, as was its subsequent appeal.

#### GOWLING WLG

##### ANDREW SMITH

Successfully representing the Candy brothers in their high-profile defence of a £132m claim brought by former business associate Mark Holyoake. In the midst of

the media storm, the legal team managed to prove the claimant’s lack of credibility and all of the claims, and subsequent appeal, were eventually dismissed.

#### RPC

##### TOM HIBBERT, ANDY MCGREGOR

Representing Bank of St Petersburg in its dispute with the oligarch Vitaly Arkhangelsky concerning defaulted loans to one of his companies, Oslo Marine Group, which he had guaranteed. After a two-year wait for judgment, the bank won on all counts, including Arkhangelsky’s counterclaim.



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