

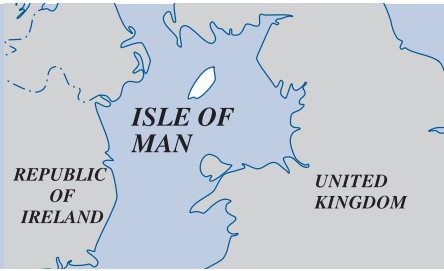
# Chambers

Europe —————

2020

## Europe's Leading Lawyers for Business

Isle of Man



## How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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## CORPORATE & FINANCE

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Simcocks	
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Eminent Practitioners	
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Vanderplank Richard Cains	
Band 2	
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Dougherty Mark R DQ Advocates	
Harding Simon Appleby	
Shepherd Tim Cains	
Spencer Alex Simcocks	
Sutherland Kyle Appleby	
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Kermeen Geoff Keystone Law (ORL) ◊	
Newby Irini Simcocks	
Quayle Steven Cains	
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Associates to watch	
Killip Adam DQ Advocates	
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

### Band 1

#### Appleby

**What the team is known for** Considered a first port of call by financial institutions for a wide range of M&A and transactional matters. Offers a strong roster of lawyers with considerable cross-border expertise, including noted strength in British Virgin Islands law. Notable expertise in real estate finance and also handles work for the aviation sector. Experienced in representing publicly traded companies, handling shareholder disputes and IPOs.

**Strengths** Sources say: "Everyone we deal with there is very helpful, approachable and good at explaining technicalities."

"They are very suitable to our requirements and very professional," reports a client, adding: "They're one of the best available in the market."

**Work highlights** Advised Santander on the Isle of Man aspects of the transfer of its banking business in the Isle of Man and Jersey.

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Faye Moffett** is recognised for her

expertise acting for banks. She is adept at handling complex transactions with cross-border elements. **Simon Harding** is called upon for assistance with a range of matters, including M&A, investments and general corporate advice. His clients include financial institutions and funds. **Kyle Sutherland** advises clients on a range of corporate matters, including asset finance and M&A. Sources appreciate that he is "very responsive." **Juan Thornley** regularly acts for major banking groups in relation to restructuring matters. A client notes that "he is always available to assist whenever required."

#### Cains

**What the team is known for** An acknowledged leader in capital markets, restructuring and aviation finance, with clients including banks, hedge funds and local companies. Provides expertise in the aerospace, entertainment and shipping markets, among others. Displays strengths in contract negotiation, financing and regulatory matters. Offers additional expertise in work involving fiduciary services companies.

**Strengths** Interviewees describe Cains as "a very strong corporate law firm" and "one of the leading firms on the island."

Sources comment: "They are a very professional, reputable firm full of advocates that can be relied upon to give good legal advice."

**Work highlights** Advised Eros International on the Isle of Man law aspects of Reliance Industries' subscription in shares in the company.

#### Notable practitioners

**Tristan Head** acts for clients in cross-border and domestic corporate deals, with significant experience in M&A. Interviewees praise him as "very user-friendly and knowledgeable." **Richard Vanderplank** is a highly experienced practitioner with notable expertise in M&A and other corporate transactions. He is now a consultant at the firm. **Tim Shepherd** handles a range of matters, including capital markets work and significant restructuring transactions. A client reports: "He is extremely good technically and highly pragmatic." **Andrew Baker** is an experienced practitioner who is noted for his corporate finance expertise. **Steven Quayle** comes recommended for his handling of asset finance matters. He offers particular expertise in the aviation sector.

### Band 2

#### DQ Advocates

**What the team is known for** Active on a range of matters including shipping, investment funds and M&A. Its client list is composed of multinational corporations and financial institutions, as well as

local businesses and high net worth individuals. Also sought after for its aviation expertise, handling a range of transactional and advisory matters in that sector. Particularly active on behalf of clients in the shipping industry.

**Strengths** "They are able to understand the issues and respond quickly," states a client, adding: "They provide excellent levels of service and I would not hesitate to recommend them."

An interviewee reports: "It is a very reliable firm that has always succeeded in meeting deadlines and producing excellent results."

**Work highlights** Advised Crédit Agricole and Sumitomo Mitsui in relation to Sea Bridge Finance, a joint venture formed to invest in senior secured ship mortgage loans.

#### Notable practitioners

**Mark Dougherty** advises financial institutions on banking and capital markets transactions. He offers significant expertise in handling matters related to the shipping sector. **Adam Killip** acts for clients in a range of corporate matters, including M&A and insolvency issues. "He is extremely knowledgeable, very easy to understand and prompt in his responses," according to clients.

#### Simcocks

**What the team is known for** Offers considerable strength in a broad range of financing transactions for borrowers and lenders, including project and acquisition lending, and asset securitisation. Provides expertise in the insurance, trusts and funds fields. Clients include local, national and international companies. Regularly receives instructions from significant institutions in the financial services and banking sector.

**Strengths** An interviewee comments: "They're a safe pair of hands and they will always deliver. They're very user-friendly and personable."

#### Notable practitioners

**Alex Spencer** advises clients on M&A, financing and refinancing transactions. "He is excellent. He adds value to transactions and delivers in accordance with timelines while being genuinely helpful," comments a source. **Irini Newby** maintains a wide-ranging practice, spanning M&A and employment matters. She is described as "highly knowledgeable and very approachable."

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Sally Cranshaw** provides particular expertise in corporate matters such as M&A and refinancing. "She's very good technically, takes the time to get to the nub of the transaction and is very committed and user-friendly," remarks an interviewee.

**Geoff Kermeen** is well regarded for his corporate matters, as well as handling capital markets work practice. He advises clients on M&A and financing

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Dispute Resolution
<b>Leading Firms</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Appleby
Cains
<b>Band 2</b>
Long and Humphrey
<b>Band 3</b>
Callin Wild
DQ Advocates
Simcocks
<b>Senior Statespeople</b>
<b>Senior Statespeople:</b> distinguished older partners
Caine Seth <i>Cains</i>
<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Clucas Peter <i>Cains</i>
Cope Christopher <i>Appleby</i>
Long Robert <i>Long and Humphrey</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Christian Gillian <i>Keystone Law (ORL)</i> ◇
Clough Kathryn <i>Callin Wild</i>
Davies Charles <i>Appleby</i>
Hill Giles <i>DQ Advocates</i>
Holligon Mark <i>Appleby</i>
Samani Chiva <i>Athena Law (ORL)</i> ◇
Wild Jonathan <i>Callin Wild</i>
<b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>
Corkish (née Collister) Claire <i>Appleby</i>
<b>Associates to watch</b>
Cubbon Tara <i>DQ Advocates</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

### Band 1

#### Appleby

**What the team is known for** Fields a formidable team of litigation experts with a deep level of experience advocating for clients before the Isle of Man courts. Offers noted strengths in representing insurers, particularly in connection with defending high-value personal injury claims. Also acts on behalf of a series of prominent UK banks. Frequently called upon to handle claims stemming from fraud allegations, including obtaining freezing injunctions. **Strengths** “We are delighted to be a client of Appleby,” reports one client, continuing: “The service levels are always excellent and always delivered with high levels of professionalism. The availability of the team is constant, which provides comfort in the most pressing of times.”

Another client says: “They performed very well in court. They took a good strategic view in terms of what the outcome we wanted was and the best way of getting it.”

**Work highlights** Acted for the State Trading Corporation of India on a contentious insolvency matter.

#### Notable practitioners

**Christopher Cope** is a highly regarded commercial litigator with experience in a range of disputes, including shareholder and fraud claims. **Charles Davies** acts in a range of corporate, commercial and insurance disputes, as well as trust litigation. “He is

very good,” reports one commentator, adding: “He is very thorough in everything he does.” Department head **Mark Holligon** is an experienced commercial litigator with notable expertise in cross-border insolvency disputes. According to one interviewee, “he is always prepared to have new ideas in response to complex problems. He never gives up and always looks to explore other avenues.” **Claire Corkish** is a litigator whose practice covers commercial disputes, including fund and insolvency cases. Her clients include financial institutions and real estate funds.

#### Cains

**What the team is known for** An acknowledged leader in complex commercial dispute work, including shareholder litigation, trust matters, freezing orders and professional negligence claims, with additional strength in white-collar criminal proceedings. Also provides experience in doleance and regulatory matters. Offers adept handling of professional negligence allegations.

**Strengths** Clients describe the team as “top class,” saying: “They are very competent and experienced with a clear focus on providing effective, useful advice.” Another client says: “When it comes to more complex matters, from our experience Cains are the go-to firm who give us confidence with their professionalism and expertise. They are excellent and one of the leading firms when it comes to trust matters.”

**Work highlights** Acted for PwC in obtaining the direction of the Isle of Man Court upon the payment of interest to creditors of Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander, a Manx bank, which was placed into insolvent liquidation in 2008.

#### Notable practitioners

**Seth Caine** is a vastly experienced and highly regarded litigator with experience across commercial disputes, insolvency, trusts and civil fraud. One client reports: “He provided an excellent service and his negotiation skills were a particular asset.” Another client says that he is “acknowledged as one of the leading trust lawyers on the Isle of Man and held in very high regard by the Manx courts.” **Peter Clucas** is sought after for his expertise in commercial and insolvency disputes, regulatory enforcement, shareholder actions and trust matters. “Peter is an absolute credit to his profession,” reports one client, while another adds that he is “very professional, experienced, very responsive and has good attention to detail.”

### Band 2

#### Long and Humphrey

**What the team is known for** Experienced dispute resolution practitioners with strengths in a range of commercial litigation, mediation and arbitration. Advises on matters including civil fraud, shareholder disputes, asset tracing and trust claims.

#### Notable practitioners

**Robert Long** is sought after for his expertise in commercial disputes, including insolvency and asset tracing. He regularly acts for banks and financial service providers.

### Band 3

#### Callin Wild

**What the team is known for** Well-regarded disputes team fielding Manx advocates with broad expertise in commercial litigation, insolvency and asset recovery. Clients include fund managers, construction companies, liquidators and high net worth individuals.

**Strengths** One interviewee reports: “Their litigation team is very highly regarded and one you’d want to go to for a complex matter. They really add value to heavyweight litigation.”

A client describes this as “a very good team with hard-working, efficient and versatile partners.”

Another client says: “They are professional and client-centred and attentive to our needs.”

#### Notable practitioners

**Kathryn Clough** enjoys a strong reputation for her commercial litigation and insolvency practice. One client reports: “She is approachable and knowledgeable, has good attention to detail and is an excellent litigator.” **Jonathan Wild** is sought after for his expertise in cross-border litigation. He is experienced across a range of areas including asset recovery and fund disputes.

#### DQ Advocates

**What the team is known for** Handles a broad range of disputes including corporate, insolvency, professional negligence and insurance-related claims. Offers additional capabilities in alternative dispute resolution, with regular advice in relation to mediation, arbitration and adjudications. Strong recent focus on work involving liquidation settlements. Also demonstrates capable handling of breach of duty claims.

**Strengths** A client calls the group “extremely good,” adding: “We are lucky to have such a highly skilled team on the island.”

**Work highlights** Acted for Lloyds Bank obtaining a bankruptcy adjudication against an individual for a debt of GBP3 million.

#### Notable practitioners

“Great advocate” **Giles Hill** is sought after for his expertise advising financial services providers, companies, trustees and directors in complex litigation. A source says: “He is very good. He’s pragmatic and practical.” Senior associate **Tara Cubbon** has a well-regarded corporate and commercial litigation practice, with particular expertise in insolvency and trust matters. One interviewee reports: “She has a great ability to convey information in a straightforward way to clients.”

#### Simcocks

**What the team is known for** Acts for both claimants and defendants in a wide variety of commercial litigation. Client roster includes private individuals, NGOs, financial institutions and multinational companies. Experienced in handling multi-jurisdictional cases with various international elements. Particular depth of experience in handling insurance-related disputes.

#### Notable practitioners

Chris Arrowsmith is a key contact.

## Other Ranked Lawyers

**Gillian Christian** advises clients on domestic and international disputes covering commercial and insolvency litigation. A market source says that *“she’s a very good lawyer who is very good on her feet,”* while clients add that *“she is commercial and prompt with her advice.”*

**Chiva Samani** advises clients on a range of complex disputes, with particular expertise in trusts and commercial litigation. A client says: *“The way in which she operates is very clinical, analytical and very thoughtful. She’s very good.”*