


## Christopher Birks

SENIOR ASSOCIATE | LONDON

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 CHRISTOPHER.BIRKS@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +44 20 7597 6255

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CLIENT SERVICES CONTACT STEVIE MUNRO

 STEVIE.MUNRO@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +44 20 7597 6442



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### Christopher is a senior associate in the Litigation and Arbitration team.

Christopher specialises in complex commercial disputes, regularly acting in both international arbitration and cross-border litigation. He has extensive experience with court applications in support of arbitration proceedings, as well as the enforcement of arbitral awards. His enforcement expertise encompasses a deep understanding of sovereign immunity, private international law and asset tracing techniques

In addition to his contentious practice, Christopher has advised businesses on a range of commercial and regulatory issues.

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## Track record

### Acting for an Italian company

Acting for an Italian company in ICSID arbitration proceedings against the Arab Republic of Egypt relating to a waste management project.

### Acting for an Asian investor

Acting for an Asian investor in enforcing a high-value arbitral award against an African State.

### Acted for a Belgian partnership

Acted for a Belgian partnership in defending an application in the Queen's Bench Division for a third party debt order in respect of several works of art.

### Acted on behalf of an aircraft leasing group

Acted on behalf of an aircraft leasing group in a Commercial Court dispute with a Southeast Asian airline group arising out of the non-payment of sums due under various leases and guarantees. The claim involved connected insolvency proceedings before the Paris Commercial Court.

### Acted on behalf of a contractor

Acted on behalf of a contractor in an eleven-party dispute in the Technology and Construction Court arising out of faulty electrical work in an industrial fire suppression system.

### Acted for a manufacturer

Acted for a manufacturer in a high-value CIArb commercial arbitration involving connected proceedings in the United States.

### Advised an Australasian aircraft maintenance company

Advised an Australasian aircraft maintenance company on the merits of an American contractual counterparty's invocation of a force majeure clause on the grounds of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions on international travel.

### Defended a South American freight carrier

Defended a South American freight carrier in Circuit Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the degradation of perishable cargo in transit.

### Seconded to aviation claims handling team

Seconded to the aviation claims handling team of a top insurance company.

### Advised on the judicial sale of property

Advised on the scope and procedure for an application for judicial sale of property belonging to a West African government. Engaged with issues of bailment and sovereign immunity.

Acted for a syndicate of insurers

Acted for a syndicate of insurers in a Commercial Court coverage dispute arising out of damage to an aircraft engine.

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## Admissions

England & Wales, 2018

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## Education

University of St Andrews, MA (Hons) International Relations

King's College London, MA Intelligence & International Security

University of Law, Graduate Diploma in Law

University of Law, Legal Practice Course

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## Languages

English

French

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## Key dates

Year joined: 2022

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