

Saunak Irani-Nayar

Year of Call: 2021
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Commercial

Saunak Irani-Nayar is a Commercial barrister specialising in insolvency and bankruptcy, securities and finance litigation, as well as contractual, business-to-business, property, and consumer credit disputes. His practice spans high-value commercial claims, possession and enforcement proceedings, and matters involving statutory compliance under the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

He appears regularly in both the High Court and County Court at every stage of proceedings, from pre-action advice and interim relief through to multi-day trials and appeals, and is equally comfortable working as sole counsel or as part of a larger counsel team.

Saunak brings particular expertise to cases at the intersection of commercial and employment law. Recent instructions include acting as sole counsel in the High Court in a substantial claim concerning alleged misuse of confidential information in the recruitment consultancy sector, involving breach of contract and fiduciary duty, breach of confidence, conspiracy, copyright infringement, and inducement of breach of contract.

He frequently acts for defendant banks and financial institutions at interim hearings and trials, with experience in possession claims, assignments, hire-purchase agreements, recovery of goods, compliance and enforceability of statutory notices, s.75 connected lender liability, and s.140A unfair relationships under the CCA 1974.

Recent and Ongoing Work

- Advising / acting for a private client in a high-value insurance dispute concerning a lost luxury watch, where the insurer sought to void the policy ab initio based on alleged post-inception non-disclosures of a US federal indictment.
- Recently advising in a complex broker negligence dispute concerning underinsurance following a major commercial property damage claim. The matter centred on the assessment of a broker's duty of care regarding building valuations, the application of averaging clauses, and the scope of advisory responsibilities under the principles of Infinity Reliance.
- Advising a BVI-registered company on terminating a senior employee’s contract and recovering a £1 million unsecured loan, including analysis of consumer credit risks, enforcement strategy, and protection of recovery against property sale.
- Advising in a contractual dispute concerning alleged breaches of an associate agreement and restrictive covenants in a professional services business, including drafting pre-action correspondence addressing termination, goodwill, and enforcement of post-termination restraints.
- Appearing before the Circuit Commercial Court (KBD) in an urgent dispute for delivery up of a vehicle under a hire agreement and the 1977 Act, including claims for wrongful interference and breach of guarantee obligations.
- Acting on ongoing matters involving title disputes over horses, purchase and sale issues under the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and Sale of Goods Act 1979, and claims of veterinary negligence.

Saunak read Economics at the University of Cambridge (BA, MA), where he was awarded several scholarships and prizes for

academic excellence. He ranked first in his year on the GDL, achieving one of the highest marks ever recorded on the course, and subsequently placed second on the BPTC. He was called to the Bar as the top-ranking student of his year at Middle Temple.

Recommendations

"I would like to pass on my relief (and gratitude) at having him in front of me for the last 2 days. He had clearly read the papers and, when putting his case, was succinct, realistic and sympathetic (when it was appropriate to be so in light of the delicacy of the subject matter). His cross-examination was well structured and covered the ground clearly and with precision. Bravo. I look forward to seeing more of him and have already sung his praise to others."

Judge, appeared before

"I have had the pleasure of Saunak's support on a number of matters over recent weeks, at a time when our team has been facing a considerable amount of pressure, and there was a need to simply 'get on with it'. Saunak has delivered clear, detailed and articulate advice; and, perhaps just as importantly, that advice has been delivered on time. I have found Saunak to be responsive, reliable and approachable. I would be happy to recommend him."

Solicitor

"I have worked with Saunak on a few matters now and he has been such a pleasure to work with. It is clear that he is a bright spark, well poised and eager to learn and we would be happy to continue working with him. The judge today stated that Saunak's submissions were 'eloquent' and 'rather persuasive' and commended Saunak's hearing preparation which resulted in us being awarded our costs."

Solicitor

"I just wanted to commend the work that Saunak has done over the last few days on a trial. It has been a really good experience working with him - client service has been excellent, his knowledge and adaptability - very good, and his willingness to "dig in" - very impressive; I have been really impressed with the work he has done and the outcome he delivered and am very thankful to him."

Solicitor

Academic qualifications

- University of Cambridge, MA (Hons) Economics, 2.i
- GDL, University of Law (Distinction, ranked 1st in year)
- BPTC, Inns of Court College of Advocacy (Outstanding, ranked 2nd in year)

Scholarships

- Prize for Best Overall Performance (GDL)
- Fearon and Co. Prize, top of year in Contract and Land Law (GDL)
- Top of year in each of Tort, Equity & Trusts, EU and Criminal Law papers (GDL)
- Maitland Chambers Prize, top of year in Civil Litigation (BPTC)
- Guildhall Chambers Prize, top of year in Drafting (BPTC)
- Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancey Prize, top student of his call to the Bar by his Inn (Middle Temple)

- Astbury Scholarships for BPTC and GDL (Middle Temple)
- Certificate of Honour for Outstanding on BPTC (Middle Temple)
- Finalist, National Speed Mooting Competition

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Attorney General's "Junior Junior" Panel

Professional bodies

- The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)