

Article

Alex Potts QC introduces the Conyers' disputes team in the Cayman Islands

Authors: Alex Potts, QC

When the opportunity to re-join Conyers at the beginning of 2020 came up (just before COVID-19!), it seemed like a perfect fit for me – in large part because of Conyers' focus on insurance and reinsurance business (in all of its aspects).

For twenty years now, I have specialised in resolving insurance and reinsurance disputes, in Court, in international arbitration, and in mediation.

I have been fortunate to work on many 'Bermuda Form' disputes governed by New York, English, or Bermuda law, as well as D&O, life, ILS, professional liability, fraud, corporate governance, and regulatory enforcement disputes involving the US, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, and London insurance markets.

I have also advised on many insurance and reinsurance contracts, transactions, and structures, and regulatory issues.

I am now thrilled to have joined such an excellent team at Conyers.

In addition to Conyers' market-leading insurance practice in the Cayman Islands office (and our offices in Bermuda, the BVI, London, Singapore and Hong Kong), we now have five disputes partners and six associates on the ground in the Cayman Islands, with considerable experience of insurance and reinsurance disputes (as well as corporate, trusts, funds, and banking disputes).

Please let me take a moment to introduce our disputes partners.

Ben Hobden has been involved in some of the largest pieces of commercial litigation, and contentious insolvencies, in the Cayman Islands Courts over the past 8 years, many of them involving insurers in some shape or form. Ben has been actively involved in *Madoff*-related litigation, the *Torchlight Fund* proceedings involving a private equity fund, and D&O liability claims arising out of *Tangerine Investment Management's* collapse. Ben has considerable experience of prosecuting and defending complex, and high-value, professional liability claims, and he has recently been involved in a number of Court applications to appoint receivers over segregated portfolios in the insurance space.

Jonathon Milne has extensive experience of complex commercial litigation, insolvency, and insurance claims in multiple common law jurisdictions. Jonathon was actively involved in the *Primeo Fund* litigation (including at Privy Council level) and he has worked on various other fraud and professional negligence claims. Jonathon is currently leading a Conyers team on a very substantial corporate governance dispute that is pending before the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, involving a captive insurance company and complex actuarial analysis. Jonathon also appeared as Counsel before the Grand Court recently on a winding-up petition brought against a NASDAQ-listed client, winning a high-profile case against one of London's most experienced QCs.

Erik Bodden is one of our rising stars. Erik has extensive experience of corporate and commercial disputes before the Cayman Islands Courts. Erik is actively involved in various shareholder, D&O disputes, and employment disputes, involving Cayman Islands' insurance companies, insurance managers, and insurance brokers. Erik has considerable experience of property disputes and insurance claims, and professional liability, trusts and partnership disputes.

Robert Lindley is not only an active litigator, but also Head of Conyers' Private Client and Trust practice in the Cayman Islands. Robert regularly advises trustees and fiduciary service providers on contentious and non-contentious matters, including trustee liability, indemnity and insurance issues. He has considerable experience in the establishment of trusts and other asset holding vehicles involving insurance companies and stakeholders in the insurance sector. Robert also regularly appears before the Cayman Islands courts on trust-related Court applications.

Ben, Jonathon, Erik, Robert, and I look forward to assisting Conyers' clients on a wide range of insurance and reinsurance-related matters in the months and years to come.

While our primary goal is to help our clients to resolve any disputes as efficiently and commercially as possible, we are equally at home representing our clients' interests in Court, in arbitration, in mediation, and in negotiation.

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