

Sophia Purkis Partner

T: +44 (0)20 3036 7275
M: +44 (0)7506 927722
F: +44 (0)20 3036 7775
E: spurkis@fladgate.com



Overview

Sophia Purkis is a partner in the Dispute Resolution department at Fladgate.

Sophia specialises in the resolution of commercial and personal disputes, particularly those involving allegations of fraud, misfeasance and/or breach of duty or trust. She is an experienced trial lawyer having represented clients in leading fraud cases and is well versed in applying for and defending applications for injunctive relief including freezing and search orders. That having been said, Sophia seeks where possible to resolve matters at the earliest opportunity and is experienced in using alternative forms of dispute resolution and mediation.

Sophia acts for individuals, companies and organisations and for both claimants and defendants to claims. Many of her clients have businesses or live abroad and she has acted in many complex multi-jurisdictional disputes.

Sophia is consistently ranked as a leading lawyer by Chambers UK and Legal 500 who have praised her as being “*an outstanding litigator; totally committed to her clients and [having] superbly tuned antennae for the nuances of a complex fraud case and a vast talent for absorbing the detail of a case*”.

Sophia is also recognised as a Thomson Reuters Superlawyer.

Sophia is a committee member of the London Solicitors Litigation Association and the vice chairman (civil) of the Fraud Lawyers Association.

She writes regularly for the legal press.

She qualified in 1998 becoming a partner in 2003. She joined Fladgate in June 2012.

Expertise

Dispute Resolution

- Banking & Financial Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Contentious Trusts
- Fraud & Asset Recovery
- Professional Negligence
- Regulatory, Governance & Investigations

Industry

Professional Practices

Private Wealth

Owner Managed Businesses

International

Financial Institutions

Location

Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5DG

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 3036 7000
F: +44 (0)20 3036 7600
E: fladgate@fladgate.com
DX: 37971 Kingsway

Experience

- In a multi-party action, representing a former partner of an established firm of solicitors in claims for breach of FSMA, negligence and dishonest assistance arising out of technology investment schemes which were designed to be tax efficient.
- Representing a company against a former director and shareholder who were using the company's confidential information to establish a rival business.
- Acting in many claims brought by employers against employees alleged to have misappropriated company funds.
- Obtaining injunctive relief to prevent companies' employees from being harassed by protestors or rival businesses, including undertaking investigations to identify the perpetrators.
- Acting for a defendant to a claim for breach of fiduciary duty and receipt of secret profits brought by a large multinational company in which corresponding proceedings were issued in Latvia, Jersey and the BVI, including representing him in committal proceedings for alleged breach of a freezing order, including in cross-appeals to the Court of Appeal.
- Acting for companies and individuals in claims involving the mis-selling of financial products, particularly investment schemes.
- Acting for a company to defend a claim for fraudulent misrepresentation arising out of the potential grant of a financial indemnity bond and in its claim for breach of a warrant to issue shares.
- Representing an African Bank against claims for breach of a shareholders' agreement, including responding to and successfully defending an application for a mandatory injunction to transfer shares.
- Representing the settlor of a trust in claims to set aside the trusts on the grounds of mistake and/or its being void for uncertainty of terms and against the firm of solicitors who established the trust in proceedings in Jersey and England.
- Acting for an Indian pharmaceutical company in its claim for breach of contract and misrepresentation against a doctor based in Costa Rica whose service the company had engaged to test its products.

Testimonials

'Sophia Purkis is a well-known talent in the field'.

Legal 500, 2020

'Sophia Purkis is exceptionally bright, does not just process matters but reads and considers as well as strategises'.

Legal 500, 2020

Sophia Purkis of Fladgate LLP "has an overwhelming ability to grasp and use detail to guide strategy and always positions her clients in the best place." She is noted for handling cases that cross over between fraud and professional negligence.

Chambers 2016

Location

Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5DG

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 3036 7000
F: +44 (0)20 3036 7600
E: fladgate@fladgate.com
DX: 37971 Kingsway

Sophia Purkis of Fladgate LLP advises claimants and defendants in relation to large-scale civil fraud claims, often in conjunction with parallel criminal proceedings. “She knows that field and is smart, inventive and creative”, comments an interviewee.

Chambers UK 2017

“Fladgate LLP’s ‘wide-ranging’ [fraud & asset recovery] practice acts primarily for corporate clients. Led by the ‘tactical and effective’ Sophia Purkis, the team handles a number of high-value claims and is involved in ongoing FX investigations.”

Legal 500 2016

Fladgate LLP’s [contentious trusts] team is ‘excellent’ at handling high-net-worth family finances. Sophia Purkis is rated for her ‘very quick and clear responses’ and is recommended alongside the ‘very competent’ Teresa Cullen.

Legal 500 2016

“Sources say that Sophia Purkis is ‘particularly good at long and strategically difficult cases’, and has an ‘incredible ability to stay on top of large amounts of detail’.”

Chambers 2014

“Sophia Purkis is ‘a superb strategic thinker’ who ‘can make the best of a difficult case’.”

Legal 500 2014

“Civil fraud specialist Sophia Purkis has ‘...an utterly comprehensive grasp of detail in the most factually complex and documentarily voluminous matters’.”

Legal 500 2011

“Sophia Purkis of Fladgate LLP handles civil fraud work, with considerable experience in complex cross-border work. Market sources say: ‘She is extremely experienced, very easy-going, really into the detail and a very strategic thinker.’”

Chambers UK 2018

“Fladgate LLP’s ‘excellent partner-led litigation team’ wins plaudits for its ‘great commercial approach and solid judgement’, and is ‘a strong contender in the civil fraud market’. The firm is noted for its strong international focus with multiple foreign desks; examples include acting for a Swiss claimant in a matter regarding unpaid returns by a bank and alleged conspiracy to defraud, and advising PCP Capital Partners in alleged fraudulent misrepresentations made by Barclays, into which the client had invested £3bn in Middle Eastern money. Simon Ekins heads the practice, and Sophia Purkis ‘fights tenaciously for her clients’ and has a long track record of successes.”

Legal 500 2017

“The ‘professional’ team at Fladgate LLP has ‘good commercial awareness’. The

Location

Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5DG

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 3036 7000
F: +44 (0)20 3036 7600
E: fladgate@fladgate.com
DX: 37971 Kingsway

group acts for high-net-worth individuals and companies in claims against solicitors, accountants and construction professionals, and handles defence work for clients including Deloitte and the Medical Defence Union. Janet Keeley, Sophia Purkis, Jonathan Hibberts and Digby Hebbard are noted.”

Legal 500 2017

Location

Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5DG

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 3036 7000
F: +44 (0)20 3036 7600
E: fladgate@fladgate.com
DX: 37971 Kingsway