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Gavin Dingley FCIArb



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"Skilled on witnesses' cross-examination and assessment of evidence." Legal 500 London Bar 2023, Tier 4 Sports Law

PROFILE

Gavin practises as a barrister in London, from Five Paper, and as an advocate in Edinburgh, from Arnot Manderson Advocates. His work centres on business immigration, sponsor licence litigation in particular, and on commercial dispute resolution.

Since January 2023 he has been instructed in more than 40 sponsor licence, civil penalty and immigration compliance matters. He acts for sponsors in the Administrative Court and the Court of Session. He also acts for the Home Secretary, on instructions from the Government Legal Department in England and, in Scotland, as Standing Junior Counsel to the Advocate General for Scotland (2024 to 2028). Four of his sponsor licence cases have produced reported decisions since December 2025, three acting for sponsors and one for the Secretary of State.

His commercial practice covers contractual, shareholder and construction disputes, interdicts and injunctions, the enforcement of foreign judgments, corporate and personal insolvency, and international arbitration under the LCIA, ICC, DIAC and GAFTA rules. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a CEDR-accredited mediator, and sits as an arbitrator.

Gavin practises at the English Bar and the Scottish Bar, and he puts both to work for commercial clients. An English creditor with a judgment against a Scottish company, or a Scottish business chasing a debtor in England, can instruct him once. He registers the judgment, obtains the interim orders, does the diligence or brings the insolvency proceedings, and appears in court on whichever side of the border the assets sit.

In a recent example, an English local authority had a £2.2 million claim against a Scottish company whose liquidators had closed the liquidation without delivering the final account to it. With dissolution days away, Gavin obtained an interim order in Tain Sheriff Court and the company was restored to the register. He acts for the authority in the linked proceedings in England too.

EXPERTISE

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION AND SPONSOR LICENCE LITIGATION

Gavin handles sponsor licence cases from the Home Office's first letter to final hearing: responses to suspension and minded-to-revoke letters, pre-action correspondence, claims for judicial review in the Administrative Court, petitions in the Court of Session, and urgent applications for interim relief to keep sponsored workers in employment while a challenge is decided.
About half of his sponsor clients since 2023 have been care providers. The others include businesses in hospitality, food production and retail, education, energy services, recruitment, accountancy, legal services and manufacturing. He also acts on civil penalties for illegal working, in objections and in statutory appeals to the County Court, and advises employers on right-to-work checks, sponsor compliance and restructuring, including the transfer of sponsored workers under TUPE.
He lectures on sponsor licence compliance and illegal working for MBL Seminars, including on its Certificate in Business Immigration, and advises members of the Institute of Directors.

Examples of Gavin's recent sponsor licence and business immigration work include:

Acting for sponsors

- ***R (My Voyage Care Solutions Ltd) v SSHD [2026] EWHC 2523 (Admin)*** – For a provider of supported accommodation for looked-after children and care leavers, seeking interim relief against revocation for underpaying a sponsored worker under the mandatory ground in Annex C1(aa) (instructed by MQ Solicitors). In response to the application the Secretary of State confirmed that sponsored workers' permission would not be cancelled or shortened, and that curtailed leave would be reinstated, pending the claim; HHJ Keyser KC held that this was in substance a suspension and refused the injunction.
- ***R (Dilpasand Commercial Road One Ltd) v SSHD [2026] 4 WLUK 408*** – For a restaurant whose licence was revoked after Home Office requests for payslips went to its spam folder unanswered, on procedural fairness, revocation in place of a lesser sanction, and mistake of fact (Judge Dight).
- ***R (Geocare Services Ltd) v SSHD [2025] EWHC 3446 (Admin)*** – For a domiciliary care provider seeking permission and interim relief against revocation with immediate effect, after HMRC salary data did not match the salaries on its certificates of sponsorship (Lang J).
- ***R (Champneys Henlow Ltd) v SSHD AC-2024-LON-003867*** – For a national hotel and spa group challenging the revocation of its licence in the Administrative Court; the revocation decision was overturned (instructed by Good Law International).
- ***Stable Steps Ltd t/a Stable Steps Care v SSHD (2024)*** – For a care provider whose licence was suspended after a Home Office investigation; the suspension was lifted (instructed by Silverdale Solicitors).
- ***R (Operation Holdings Ltd t/a Goldcare Homes) v SSHD [2019] EWHC 3884 (Admin)*** – For a care home operator challenging revocation on genuine vacancy and occupation code grounds (instructed by Gulbenkian Andonian). The revocation stood, but the Secretary of State's finding that the sponsor had acted dishonestly was quashed.
- ***Petition of Gidi Grill Ltd Court of Session (2025)*** – Judicial review of the revocation of the petitioner's sponsor licence on 8 August 2025. The petition was presented and first heard within a fortnight of the decision, and interim orders were secured, with expenses (instructed by TC Young).
- ***Petition of Pride of Bengal Highland Ltd Court of Session (2025)*** – Judicial review of the revocation of the petitioner's sponsor licence on 16 September 2025; interim orders were secured, with expenses (instructed by TC Young).
- ***Care sector claims (2025 to 2026)*** – A run of Administrative Court claims for domiciliary and residential care providers challenging immediate revocation, several with applications for interim relief.
- ***Food production and retail (2026)*** – Pre-action challenges and claims for food manufacturing, wholesale and retail businesses following revocation.Acting for the Secretary of State
- ***R (IZ Energy Services Ltd) v SSHD [2026] EWHC 2561 (Admin)*** – For the Secretary of State against an energy services sponsor with 19 sponsored workers, whose licence was revoked for late and partial payment of wages and for sponsoring the director's brother (instructed by the Government Legal Department). At the Secretary of State's request David Elvin KC decided permission at the interim relief

hearing and refused both. He accepted that R (TJ Trading Express Ltd) v SSHD [2025] EWHC 1274 (Admin) turned on procedural unfairness and created no free-standing discretion to disapply mandatory grounds, and that, as each ground of revocation stood alone, the outcome would highly likely have been the same.

- ***R (Brooke House College Ltd) v SSHD AC-2024-LON-001521*** – Resisted an independent international school's application for interim relief after a Home Office compliance visit (instructed by the Government Legal Department).
- ***Care provider claims (2025 to 2026)*** – Defending further revocation challenges brought by care providers (instructed by the Government Legal Department).
  Civil penalties and illegal working
- ***Celebrations Events 1 Ltd v SSHD Central London County Court*** – For the Home Office, resisting an employer's appeal against a £200,000 civil penalty for illegal working.
- ***PC Turner v Home Office Westminster County Court*** – For the employer; a consent order was agreed with no penalty and no costs, following an investigation into three workers.
- ***Sandymount House Rhosneigr Ltd v SSHD Caernarfon County Court*** – For the employer; a consent order was agreed with no penalty and no costs, following an investigation into two workers.Advisory and compliance
- Advising an international IT company on its immigration compliance, and a European accountancy firm on routes for staff on its entry to the UK market (instructed by Walker Morris).
- Advising a manufacturer on the transfer of sponsored workers under TUPE, and an aviation finance business on the permissions of its sponsored staff.
- Advising a football agent on compliance issues for a Premier League player after an interview at the UK border (instructed by Giambrone Law).
- Advising an ultra-high-net-worth family on renewing investor visas despite significant gaps in residence.

COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In England Gavin appears in the High Court and the County Court in contractual and property disputes and in claims arising from investment fraud. In Scotland he appears in the Court of Session and the sheriff courts in commercial actions, interdicts, diligence on the dependence, petitions to enforce foreign judgments, trust petitions and construction disputes.
Several of these disputes cross the border, and he advises on where to sue and how to enforce the result in the other jurisdiction. He is increasingly instructed in Scottish group litigation.

Examples of Gavin's recent commercial work include:

England and Wales

- ***Yu v Chen & Mandarin Club Ltd KB-2022-004848*** – For the claimant in a damages claim arising from a fraudulent citizenship-by-investment scheme (instructed by Good Law International).
- ***Hughes Jay & Panter Ltd v Roxborough Heights Management (RTM) Ltd (2024)*** – For the applicant on a summary judgment application in the County Court in a dispute over a sublease worth about £750,000.
- For a design consultancy in a commercial claim against a former client (instructed by Druces).
  Scotland
- ***OEG Cables Ltd v Tate & Ors (2025)*** – Commercial action in the Court of Session arising from a share purchase agreement, raising forum and whether interim relief was appropriate (instructed by Ledingham Chalmers).
- ***Joint Talent Solutions Ltd v Blair & Nola Consulting Ltd (2024)*** – Interdict in the Court of Session for a company against a former employee and director, to restrain damage to company property and

defamatory statements; the case raised forum, restrictive covenants and the reach of the Scottish court's jurisdiction (instructed by Sheridans).

- ***Subsea Technology and Rentals Ltd v Ondine Ltd (2024)*** – Petition to arrest a vessel in Glasgow harbour, owned by an Irish company, for a debt owed by its Scottish parent (instructed by Stronachs).
- ***In the matter of Anthony Harry Greener (2025)*** – Court of Session action for reduction of a judgment for a substantial sum obtained in England and Wales, on the ground that the proper procedure had not been followed (instructed by TC Young).
- ***Robertson v Advantage Insurance Co Ltd [2026] SCGLA 120*** – For the pursuer at debate on whether a credit hire agreement was unenforceable because the hire company lacked FCA authorisation; Sheriff Reid allowed a proof before answer (instructed by Jones Whyte).
- ***Enforcement of a Californian judgment (2026)*** – Petition for decree conform in the Court of Session, with arrestment on the dependence and hearings under section 15K of the Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987.
- ***Construction (2025 to 2026)*** – A Court of Session construction action taken through several rounds of adjustment and amendment and into expert determination.
- ***Pensions and property (2026)*** – A Court of Session trust petition concerning commercial property held within a self-invested pension scheme.
- ***Group litigation (2025 to 2026)*** – Junior counsel for pursuers in the KSL Hair group litigation in Glasgow Sheriff Court.

INSOLVENCY

Gavin acts in corporate and personal insolvency in Scotland and in England. In Scotland his work includes notes in the process of a liquidation, the recall of sequestration and the position of the trustee, appeals to the Sheriff Appeal Court, and petitions in the Court of Session to restore dissolved companies to the register. In England he acts for creditors in claims arising from a company's liquidation. Where an English bankruptcy or liquidation reaches Scottish property or a Scottish company, or the other way round, he can advise on both systems and appear in either.

He also deals with diligence and enforcement in Scotland, including arrestment on the dependence, charges for payment, and the registration and reduction of English judgments in the Books of Council and Session. Examples of Gavin's insolvency work include:

- Liquidation of a construction supplier (2026) – For a local authority with a claim of about £2.2 million against a company wound up in Tain Sheriff Court. On a note in the liquidation, the authority challenged the former liquidators' release because the final account and the notice under rule 5.33 of the Insolvency (Scotland) (Receivership and Winding up) Rules 2018 had never been delivered to it. After the court's interim order the company, which had been due to be dissolved, was restored to the register. He also acts for the authority in related proceedings in England against the company, an associated company and an accountancy firm.
- Sequestration recall appeal Sheriff Appeal Court (2026) – For the Accountant in Bankruptcy, as trustee, in an appeal arising from the recall of a sequestration on an HMRC petition, on whether section 30(5)(a) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016 requires the sheriff to provide for the trustee's outlays and remuneration on or before recall. Permission to appeal was granted in June 2026 (instructed by Anderson Strathern).
- Restoration of a dissolved company Court of Session (2026) – For HMRC, through the Office of the Advocate General, on a petition under section 1031 of the Companies Act 2006 to restore a dissolved Scottish company to the register so that a corporation tax enquiry into a group refinancing could continue.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Gavin acts as counsel in arbitrations under the LCIA, ICC, DIAC, ASA, GAFTA and LMAA rules, often for parties based in Turkey and the Gulf, and in arbitration claims in the Commercial Court: challenges under sections 67 to 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996, anti-suit relief, and enforcement of awards under the New York Convention.

Examples of Gavin's arbitration work as counsel include:

- ICC arbitration Dubai seat, English law – For an Omani company in a dispute over a large infrastructure project in the Middle East (instructed by Wordley Partnership).
- LCIA arbitration London seat, English and Turkish law – For a Turkish company in a dispute over a pharmaceutical distribution agreement (instructed by Greymore).
- DIAC arbitrations Dubai seat, English law – For a UAE company in two disputes over the licensing and distribution of confectionery in the Emirates (instructed by Ibrahim N. Partners).
- ICC and GAFTA arbitrations Paris and London seats – For Turkish companies in disputes over the procurement of agricultural products and the import and export of grain (instructed by Giambrone Law).
- ASA arbitration Zurich seat, Swiss law – For an individual in a multi-party arbitration about a fraudulent citizenship-by-investment scheme (instructed directly).
- Arbitration Edinburgh seat, Scots law – For a Scottish company in a dispute over the transport of foundry equipment (instructed by Clyde & Co).
- LCIA arbitrations – Opinion on a series of arbitrations under supply contracts with Bolivian and Honduran counterparties (instructed by BSA Law, Muscat).
- XD v Sports Governing Body CL-2022-000196 – For an international athlete applying in the Commercial Court to set aside an award under sections 68 and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (instructed by Dentons).

PUBLIC LAW AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

As Standing Junior Counsel to the Advocate General for Scotland, Gavin defends the Home Secretary and other UK Government departments in the Court of Session, including petitions against Upper Tribunal decisions under section 11A of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. He holds SC security clearance. In England the Government Legal Department instructs him off-Panel in the Administrative Court, the Upper Tribunal and the Court of Appeal on detention, cancellation of leave, asylum support and modern slavery support. In education law he is instructed by different London Boroughs in special educational needs and school provision disputes.

Examples of Gavin's public law work include:

Immigration, asylum and detention

- RM v SSHD [2026] EWCA Civ 1416 – For the Secretary of State, alone, in a second appeal on the First-tier Tribunal's assessment of credibility and the Upper Tribunal's rejection of a concession made on the Secretary of State's behalf (Lieven, Falk and Elisabeth Laing LJJ).
- Petition of Warnakulasuriya [2026] CSOH 102 – For the Secretary of State on the natural justice exception in section 11A(4)(c)(ii) of the 2007 Act; the petition was dismissed (Lady Tait).
- Petition of du Plessis [2026] CSOH 7 – For the Secretary of State in a challenge to the deportation of a South African national under Exceptions 1 and 2; the petition was refused (Lord Braid).
- R (MSB) v SSHD [2026] EWHC 2150 (Admin) – For the Secretary of State on the duty to provide asylum support accommodation under sections 95 and 96 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; permission was granted on one ground and the claim dismissed (Alan Bates, sitting as a Deputy High

Court Judge).

- R (Thadeu) v SSHD [2025] EWHC 736 (Admin) – For the Secretary of State on the cancellation of leave to enter under paragraph 9.8.8 of the Immigration Rules and subsequent detention.
- R (EXC) v SSHD [2024] EWHC 935 (Admin) – For the Secretary of State on re-entry to support under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract.

Education

- R (a child) v London Borough of Lewisham (2026) – For the Council in a claim by a child challenging the school placement named in an education, health and care plan, including the response to an urgent application for a mandatory placement and funding injunction, led on the First-tier Tribunal as a suitable alternative remedy (instructed by Clarke Willmott).
- Settling the London Borough of Lewisham's response to a pre-action letter alleging failure to arrange suitable education under section 19 of the Education Act 1996, with an Article 8 ECHR ground (instructed by Clarke Willmott, 2026).

SPORT AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Gavin has appeared before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in five football disputes over transfers, loans and solidarity payments and in an anti-doping appeal, before Sport Resolutions in selection and safeguarding appeals, and in disciplinary proceedings for and against governing bodies including the RFU and UK Sport. He competed at a high level before coming to the Bar. He sits on the panels of England Boxing, the FIVB and the IBA, and was Judicial Chair of Swim England until August 2026.

In professional regulation he acted for the appellant in XYZ v Disclosure and Barring Service [2025] EWCA Civ 191, [2025] 1 WLR 4531, on whether the DBS and the Upper Tribunal are bound by findings of fact made by the Teaching Regulation Agency. He is on the List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law (Category B).

Ten of Gavin's leading sports cases:

- ***XD v Sports Governing Body CL-2022-000196*** – For an international athlete in the Commercial Court, applying to set aside an arbitration award under sections 68 and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (instructed by Dentons).
- ***Al Ahly Sporting Club v Huddersfield Town AFC CAS 2022/A/8771*** – For Huddersfield Town before a CAS sole arbitrator, on whether a bonus clause in a player loan agreement could be enforced after FIFA extended the football season because of the Covid-19 pandemic (instructed by Schweele Law Office).
- ***Gil Vicente Futebol Clube v FK Rad CAS 2020/A/7442*** – For FK Rad, the Serbian selling club, in an appeal on the validity of a transfer agreement and the player's employment contract, in which bad faith and fraud were alleged; award of 11 January 2022 (instructed by Schweele Law Office).
- ***Pardeep Singh v Indian Weightlifting Federation and National Anti-Doping Agency of India CAS 2021/A/8247*** – For the athlete in an appeal against an anti-doping rule violation, on no significant fault or negligence.
- ***Solidarity contribution appeals CAS 2022/A/8616 and CAS 2022/A/8689*** – For the respondent clubs in two appeals on whether solidarity payments were due when a player moved from an African club to a European club (instructed by Schweele Law Office).
- ***FA Rule K arbitration (2021)*** – Counsel in an arbitration between two EFL clubs over a sell-on fee in a transfer agreement. He has also advised in a Rule K arbitration between a Premier League club and an EFL club on a sell-on fee and training compensation.
- ***David Wetherill v UK Sport (2022)*** – For a Paralympic table tennis player in disciplinary proceedings

brought by UK Sport; he was cleared of all charges after a contested hearing.

- ***Hydes v English Bridge Union (2021)*** – For an international bridge player charged with cheating. His appeal against a four-year ban was allowed and a fresh hearing ordered, and in later proceedings an interim playing suspension was successfully challenged.
- ***RFU v Thomas Varndell (2025)*** – Independent counsel for the RFU against a former professional player who admitted 18 charges of acting as an agent while unregistered, contrary to RFU Regulation 8.5.1; the panel imposed a nine-month suspension from agency activity.
- ***Olympic and Paralympic selection appeals*** – For athletes before Sport Resolutions, including two appeals against non-selection for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and a Winter Team GB athlete's appeal over continued funding on the World Class Performance Programme (SR/090/2020).

FURTHER INFO

ARBITRATOR AND MEDIATOR

Gavin has received more than 30 appointments as arbitrator, adjudicator, expert and tribunal member. As sole arbitrator he has decided contract disputes of up to £1 million, including on appointment by the SCC (Stockholm seat) and in an ad hoc London arbitration between a Turkish individual and a US company, as well as commercial rent arbitrations under the Covid-19 scheme on appointment by the Dispute Resolution Ombudsman and consumer finance disputes under the Ciarb Business Arbitration Scheme.
He is on the arbitrator panels of the SCC, AIAC, WIPO, SCCA, MIAC and the Bar Council, and accepts appointments as a CEDR-accredited mediator in civil and commercial disputes.

Qualifications

- Foreign Arbitrators Diploma, SCC
- CEDR – Accredited Mediator
- Certificate in Sports Arbitration, Asian International Arbitration Centre
- FCIArb – Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration
- LLM (International Law) – SOAS, University of London
- ISISC Diploma – International Institute of Higher Studies Criminal Science, Italy
- Graduate Entry LLB (Hons) – City, University of London
- BA (Hons), Politics – University of Exeter
- Durham School

Scholarships and Prizes

- Honourable Society of Inner Temple Rachel Lawrence Pupillage Scholarship
- Sir Joseph Priestly Scholarship

- ICLR Pupillage Scholarship – Shortlisted
- International Marcianum MootCourt Competition – Winner, representing Inner Temple
- The International Bar Association Scholarship (International Criminal Law)
  Sir Geoffrey Nice Bursary
- The Times/One Essex Court Law Awards – Winner (2ndPlace)
- SOAS Academic Postgraduate Scholarship Award for LLM
- The International Bar Association Scholarship, Vienna Annual Conference
- The International Bar Association Magna Carta Essay Competition -Winner
- Human Rights Lawyers' Association Bursary
- Clifford Chance Intelligent Aid Essay Competition – Finalist
- Holman Fenwick & Willan LLP – Global Lawyer Essay Competition – Finalist
- Dean's Award Scholarship
- Honourable Society of Inner Temple BPTC Major Exhibition Scholarship
- Honourable Society of Inner Temple CPE Major Exhibition Scholarship

Memberships

- Rising Arbitrators Imitative (RAI)
- International Sports Lawyers Association
- LawInSport
- African Arbitration Association.
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Health & Safety lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers.
- Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association (ANZSLA)
- International Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

Publications

Estoppel in International Arbitration – Jus Mundi, June 2021
https://jusmundi.com/en/document/wiki/en-estoppel

SOAS Law Journal, December 2017

Title: Playing musical chairs with international justice: evaluating the appointment of judges ad hoc in proceedings before the International Court of Justice'

Keep Calm Talk Law Blog, February 2016
"Raising the Dead – Lord Janner"
http://www.keepcalmtalklaw.co.uk/rising-from-the-dead-the-trial-of-lord-janner/

Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, Blog 19th April 2016 Title: ‘Scrutiny on apparent extrajudicial killings following the shooting of ‘Abd al-Fatah al- Sharif’
https://lphr.org.uk/blog/legality-apparent-extra-judicial-killings-fatal-shooting-abd-al-fatah- al-sharif/

The Times, November 2015

Title: Does Europe need a new legal framework to tackle mass migration?https://www.oeclaw.co.uk/images/uploads/documents/2._Gavin_Dingley_Essay.pdf

Human Rights Lawyers’ Association Journal 2015 ‘Case Comment: Karsten Kaltoft’
https://www.hrla.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/The-Young-Human-Rights-Lawyer- 2015-1-YHRL.pdf

The International Bar Association Human Rights Committee Newsletter, 2015 ‘Selecting a clause from the Magna Carta, discuss how it is still relevant today’

Additional Information

Prior to joining Chambers Gavin worked as a Legal Assistant in Australia for one of the country’s leading Silks, Julian Burnside OA Q.C. During his time in Australia Gavin helped draft submissions in several applications before the Federal Court and assisted with legal research in a High Court challenge of Australia’s immigration rules. Moreover, Gavin was also involved in helping drafting representations to the International Criminal Court concerning Australia’s treatment of Refugees.

Gavin also worked with the Zambian Law Development Commission where he conducted research and held focus groups for a review of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. In addition, he helped investigate alleged human rights abuses by the Zambian Prison Service and assisted with drafting memorandum.

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