

RBS SHAREHOLDERS ACTION GROUP: Legal Team

The legal team is led by Steven Baker, a litigation partner at Olswang LLP, and Philip Marshall QC of Serle Court Chambers. Both are highly regarded in the commercial disputes sector and they have worked successfully together previously blending complementary skills.

Steven's principal area of expertise is acting in complex commercial disputes in the financial services, technology, communications and energy sectors. He is recommended for commercial litigation, and international arbitration in the 2010 and 2011 editions of the leading law directories, Chamber & Partners and the Legal 500. Chambers & Partners describe him as an "*incisive and perceptive*" litigation solicitor whilst Legal 500 states that his "*unflappable presence is a boon in any big case*" and that he "*is thorough, well-respected and effective, and his judgement is excellent.*" He has been involved in some of the most complex disputes in the English High Court and has substantial experience in the efficient and cost effective project management of such disputes.

Steven is currently acting in a number of matters arising from the global financial collapse in 2008, including several involving very high value structured financial products. Amongst other matters, he has also recently successfully managed substantial and complex claims on behalf of Skype in its 'bet the company' \$2 billion dispute with its founders, and for Winterthur (UK) Holdings Limited in a high value commercial court dispute with RBS involving allegations of breach of warranty arising out the sale of the Churchill Group to RBS.

Steven will be leading a team of experienced litigators from Olswang, including at least one other partner and a substantial number of other associates. The team will be configured so as to ensure that a case of this size and complexity is properly and efficiently managed.

Olswang itself is a leading commercial law firm with offices in London, Berlin, Munich, Paris, Madrid, Brussels and Singapore. It comprises 105 partners and 287 associate solicitors and other professional staff. Its commercial litigation practice is well respected in the market and ranked as highly regarded in the leading directories, Chambers & Partners describing it as a "*young and dynamic team*" which "*punches above its weight.*"

Philip Marshall QC is classified in Chambers & Partners as one of "*the Stars of the Bar.*" He focuses particularly on commercial fraud, banking, insolvency, company law and commercial litigation and is highly recommended for such in the leading directories. For fraud cases, he "*is highly regarded for his 'confident and robust advocacy coupled with first rate analytical skills'*" and is regarded as "*..one of the best – it's like sending in the Marines!*" He is also known more generally as "*..a formidable cross-examiner*" and "*tough and combative*".

Philip is currently acting for JSCA BTA Bank in the high profile international fraud claim for in excess of \$1 billion against, amongst others, its former Chairman Mukhtar Ablyzov. He has also acted recently in other major fraud and complex commercial disputes such as *Lexi Holdings v Luqmnan* (international fraud claim for in excess of \$1 billion), *AWG v Morrison* (multi-million pound fraud claim against directors regarding profit forecast following takeover of Morrison by AWG) and *Rabobank v National Westminster Bank* (fraud, misrepresentation and unlawful interference claims arising out of banking syndicate in respect of losses exceeding £200 million).

Philip himself will be supported not only by the Olswang team but also by junior Counsel from his Chambers, Serle Court. That Chambers is highly regarded for fraud and banking work.