



Investigations & White-Collar Crime

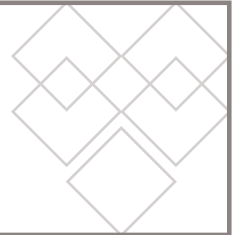
2022



PROFILED:

IAN HARGREAVES

Covington & Burling LLP



COVINGTON



Investigations &
White-Collar Crime



IAN HARGREAVES

Partner

Covington & Burling LLP

London, UK

T: +44 (0)20 7067 2128

E: ihargreaves@cov.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Ian Hargreaves advises on major fraud – both civil and criminal elements, asset tracing and recovery, bribery and corruption, money laundering, modern slavery, and investigations and compliance work. He has experience in corporate and commercial governance, risk management, commercial disputes, and cyber crime including ransom demands and phishing claims. He has led some of the highest profile civil cases in the English Commercial Court and acted against and negotiated with prosecutors such as the SFO and NCA. His clients include high-net-worth individuals, corporates, financial institutions, large pharma companies, significant tech companies, banks, consumer companies, energy companies, sports bodies, clubs and individuals.

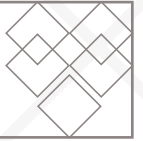
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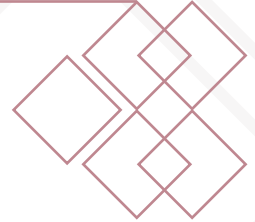


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Q&A WITH IAN HARGREAVES



Looking back, have you fulfilled the ambitions and aspirations you set for yourself early in your career?

◆ Largely I have fulfilled my career aspirations and ambitions, though there is still some time and way to go, and my ambitions have not dimmed over time. In this career you need determination, drive, good judgment and the skills of the very best diplomat. Living through the hardship of Thatcher's 1980s and experiencing the consequences of the miners' strike gave me that extra incentive to prove people wrong and fight hard. To progress you also need great mentors and teachers and I was very lucky to have several at my previous firms; some of the best litigators you could ever imagine learning from, some of whom are sadly no longer with us.

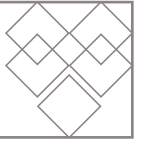
What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

◆ Most firms say this, but quality is key. It can be far more beneficial and cost effective to keep existing clients rather than having to find new ones. Clients will always demand a quality service. Accuracy, responsiveness and no surprises are always important. This is what I instil in my team. The firm is collegiate – partners are not remunerated on the amount of chargeable work they are doing but rather on the wider value they provide to the partnership, including passing on work to the experts. Utilising our global problem solving and public policy teams which are spread across the globe can also achieve results, using their contacts and diplomacy skills and ability to horizon-scan due to their prior involvement in the workings of several governments and government departments.

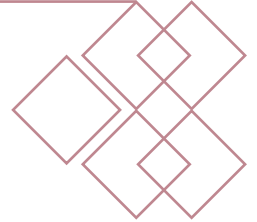


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Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?



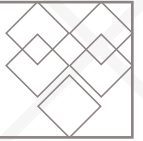
◆ Crystal ball gazing is difficult at the best of times but predicting the future after Brexit, the coronavirus (COVID-19), the cost of living crisis and the current state of UK politics, together with the ongoing impact of global economic pressures, make predictions hard to fashion. It should be an exciting time with greater harmonisation and cooperation across global regulators and prosecutors, but there is paralysis in UK politics where it is difficult to see who is steering the ship and therefore a lack of progressive and effective legislation. Our practice is now truly global, and we are facing an incredibly volatile geopolitical future which has been heightened by the unlawful invasion of Ukraine. Those working in litigation and corporate crime should get busier, especially when considering the significant growth in work being driven by the development and implementation of global laws on issues such as modern slavery, whistleblowing and the juggernaut that is environmental, social and governance. ■

“IT SHOULD BE AN EXCITING TIME WITH GREATER HARMONISATION AND COOPERATION ACROSS GLOBAL REGULATORS AND PROSECUTORS, BUT THERE IS PARALYSIS IN UK POLITICS WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHO IS STEERING THE SHIP. ”



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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Representing an individual being blackmailed because of a third party obtaining sensitive tapes.
- ◆ Assisting a client concerning a threat of debarment in relation to UK government contracts.
- ◆ Acting for a company which had all its systems encrypted by a third party seeking a ransom payment in return for decrypting the systems. Working with the FBI and NCA and negotiating with the threat actors to seek a resolution to the business-critical paralysis of the client's systems.
- ◆ Advising a large tech company relating to attacks on it by organised crime groups and the laundering of proceeds of crime.
- ◆ Acting for two entities which are the victims of a significant alleged fraud relating to issues in Germany.
- ◆ Advising a client subjected to a fraud in West Africa – the causes of action being tort of deceit and unlawful means of conspiracy, and working with forensic investigators to trace the stolen assets.

