

Global Investigations

In the current economic climate businesses are increasingly discovering anomalies in their finances or contracting arrangements that raise the suspicion of fraudulent activity by employees or directors. Companies require practical guidance from experts who can provide advice on how to co-ordinate global investigations into suspicions of fraud and make use of the court's powers to take appropriate action, and recover the proceeds of fraud.

The increase in globalisation and the ease of cross-border transactions means that most sophisticated frauds now involve multiple jurisdictions, and co-ordination of transnational investigations, and international recovery action, is key. Businesses are also increasingly facing regulatory investigations, money laundering and corruption issues, which arise in parallel with the discovery of fraudulent activity.

Our service

We are unique amongst our peers in having a dedicated practice for global investigations arising from fraud. The team is highly experienced in commercially complex, high value fraud cases and global recovery action.

We understand the issues that can arise from investigation and data capture, which vary across the globe. Our team is supported by specialist data protection lawyers. We also understand the impact of differing "privilege" rules between jurisdictions.

Once the investigation precipitates legal action, we can help you consider the most appropriate course. We have very significant experience of obtaining worldwide freezing orders which assist recovery action. Such orders are almost unique in that they operate in personam to freeze all the defendant's assets whether legally or beneficially owned wherever the asset is located in the world. We can also obtain a disclosure order which requires defendants to provide details of their assets including their value and location, and passport orders preventing them from travelling pending resolution of the claim.

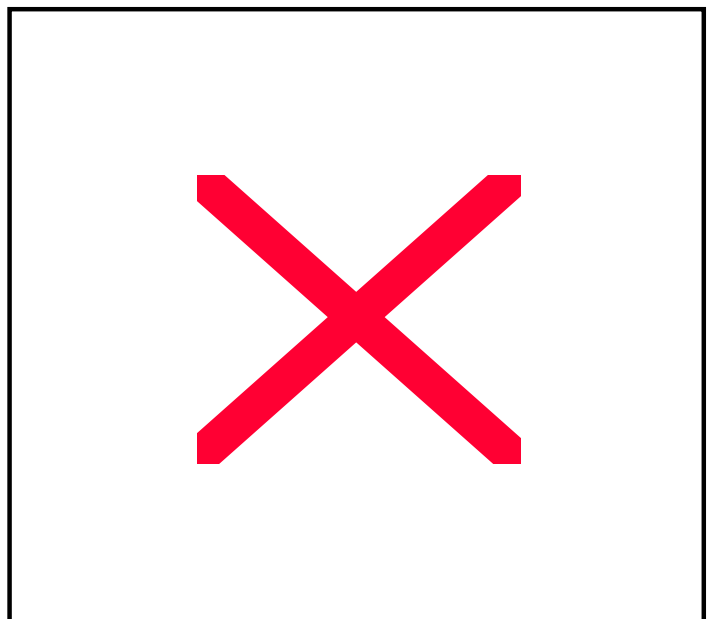
We are experts in coordinating asset tracing and the enforcement of freezing orders worldwide, with particular experience in Europe and well known tax havens around the globe.

We can also advise in relation to related criminal and regulatory action. We have an expert understanding of the interplay between multiple parallel proceedings arising in fraud cases - civil, criminal, regulatory and disciplinary—which are often multijurisdictional.

What started out as a decorative light designed to sit in a pot plant is now a practical solution for every household. It takes vision to understand potential and maximise an opportunity.

Our recent experience

- We acted for a leading European private equity investment company in relation to a claim against the former board of directors of a company acquired by our client. The claim was worth in excess of €100m. Following a global investigation we obtained a worldwide freezing order in the English Courts in support of proceedings in Italy, and co-ordinated enforcement of that order in four jurisdictions including the US.
- We acted for French manufacturer with worldwide operations in relation to a €5.2m employee fraud in Hungary. We worked on the investigation, and subsequent recovery. proceedings in the UK and Hungary, which also involved assets in the British Virgin Islands. The case involved consideration of local data protection issues, and interaction with parallel criminal proceedings in Hungary.
- We acted for a global oil company in an investigation in Romania, the UK and France relating to potential fraud and breach of trade restrictions
- We acted for a UK subsidiary of a Hong Kong based business trading in the frozen fish market in relation to a fraud by its former employee and a sham company. The claim was for losses of US\$7m. We advised on the investigation of the employee and obtained a worldwide freezing order against the employee and his associates within days of being instructed. The claim raised novel legal issues in relation to tracing assets, and also involved interplay with parallel criminal proceedings. Our client recovered all of its losses.



Why choose us

Experience of high profile, complex cases

Experience is a key factor in dealing with global investigations and recovery in fraud cases, particularly when they involve multiple jurisdictions. Once a suspicion of fraud arises, investigation action must be undertaken quickly, and action taken to preserve assets before they can be dissipated. Our team are emergency relief and rapid response specialists and the majority of claimant cases involve freezing orders, search orders, passport orders or other similar relief. We are recognised in the leading legal directories for our experience in this field.

A multi-jurisdictional capability

With contacts in most key jurisdictions, we are ideally placed to support and coordinate investigations and enforcement action arising from fraud related issues. We have considerable experience of working with lawyers across Europe and other key jurisdictions in the Middle East, the Far East and in the US, and we are familiar with the practices and procedures. Our understanding of parallel proceedings A single factual matrix often gives rise to a series of related parallel proceedings - civil, criminal, regulatory and disciplinary - in a number of jurisdictions, simultaneously. We understand the complex interplay between different forums and different jurisdictions, and provide a "one-stop-shop" to service your investigation and recovery needs on a global basis

"Tony Lewis 'navigates the muddy waters of commercial fraud with authority. He has an uncanny ability to foresee counter parties' next move, and adds immeasurable value by being totally on top of the process'."

**Quotation from
Legal 500, 2010**

"Civil fraud and asset tracing expert Tony Lewis wins commendation for the quality of his work. Sources say he is "excellent at keeping huge cases on track and effectively handling client expectation"."

**Quotation from
Chambers UK, 2011**

Contacts



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