



Vannin Capital hires second lawyer from Freshfields

Tom Jones • Wednesday, 20 January 2016 (5 days ago)

Funder Vannin Capital has made its second hire from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, adding **Jeffery Commission** as senior counsel in Washington, DC.



Jeffery Commission

Vannin says the Canadian's hire is part of its continued expansion, following the opening of offices in London, Paris, Sydney and Jersey.

Commission, who was a senior associate at Freshfields in DC, says it was "the growing appetite for third party funding in ICSID and UNCITRAL arbitrations" that convinced him to join the Vannin team. He brings 15 years of experience as counsel in investment

arbitrations and international commercial arbitrations, including under ICSID, ICSID Additional Facility, UNCITRAL, ICC, LCIA, and Netherlands Arbitration Institute rules.

In recent years, Commission has been heavily involved in Freshfields' investment arbitration work, as a key member of the teams in three ICSID arbitrations (two against Venezuela and one against Macedonia), an ICSID Additional Facility case against Canada and the UNCITRAL case of *Rurelec v Bolivia*.

In 2010, he prepared the second edition of the Guide to ICSID Arbitration (edited by Jan Paulsson, Lucy Reed and Nigel Blackaby) and in 2015 was among those who updated the investment treaty arbitration chapter of the sixth edition of *Redfern & Hunter on International Arbitration*. He is co-author of 'Procedural Issues in International Investment Arbitration', to be published by Oxford University Press later this year.

A graduate of McGill University and University College of London, Commission joined Freshfields in 2008 and has worked in its London, New York and Washington, DC, offices. Before Freshfields, he worked in the New York office of Shearman & Sterling and Linklaters and, in 2005, spent a year as a research assistant to arbitrator and UCL academic Philippe Sands QC.

Vannin chairman Dan Craddock says: "Jeffery's reputation and expertise in running bilateral investment treaty claims is so strong that we have known of him for years. The combination of that together with his commercial acumen

and unwavering dedication to his clients made him a 'must-have' for Vannin.”

Nigel Blackaby, Freshfields' DC-based global co-head of international arbitration, says: “Jeffery has been an important member of our arbitration team for many years and he will be sorely missed. He is a 'lawyer's lawyer' who loves the intellectual discipline of arbitration but combines that passion with warmth and a dry Canadian sense of humour.”

Blackaby adds that Commission's skill will be tested in his "exciting new role for one of the leading funders".

"Funders are at the cutting edge of what we do and their innovative approaches demand a deep understanding of the asset they are financing," he says. "Jeffery's legal acumen and commercial approach will serve him well in that regard. We know our paths will cross frequently so this is *au revoir* and not farewell."

Alex Yanos, a former Freshfields partner who now practises at Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New York, says: "Jeffrey has phenomenal analytical skills and is a brilliant tactician. His cross-examinations were both surgical and relentless. These skills will suit him well in his new career. At the same time, he will be a tremendous asset to Vannin because he is a team builder – he was beloved by all at Freshfields – and has a natural gift for client development. Vannin is fortunate to have him."

Philippe Sands QC, who practises from Matrix Chambers in London, says: “I know Jeffery to be smart and creative, a principled lawyer of great integrity. Whatever he turns his mind to will be done to the highest standards of professionalism, and with a wry grin.”

Vannin hired **Yasmin Mohammad** from Freshfields as senior counsel in its Paris office in 2014. It also hired former Latham & Watkins lawyer **Iain McKenny** in 2013.