Legal500

DISPUTES HUB

Practice area definitions

This is intended to be a guideline only. Firms should refer to the Disputes Hub submissions information page for the full list of practice areas researched by jurisdiction.

Asset Tracing and Recovery –
This section will recognise service providers who focus on identifying, locating, and assisting in the recovery of assets in cases such as fraud, insolvency, divorce, and enforcement proceedings. Firms should emphasise their expertise in uncovering hidden or dissipated assets, including those held through complex corporate structures, offshore jurisdictions, or nominee arrangements. Submissions should highlight how teams combine investigative techniques with financial analysis, and how they collaborate with insolvency practitioners, litigation teams, and enforcement agencies to support successful asset recovery.

Business Intelligence and Investigations –
This section covers firms conducting due diligence, corporate investigations, and intelligence gathering in support of litigation, arbitration, enforcement proceedings, and dispute-related decision-making. Firms should outline their experience in providing background research on parties and witnesses, corporate intelligence on opposing entities, investigating fraudulent conduct, and gathering evidence in jurisdictions with limited disclosure regimes. Submissions should highlight how teams combine open-source research, human intelligence networks, and analytical capabilities, as well as their experience handling high-stakes disputes, operating across multiple jurisdictions with differing privacy regimes, and advising major law firms and corporates on contentious matters.

eDiscovery –
This section will cover service providers specialising in the identification, collection, processing, review, and production of electronically stored information (ESI) in litigation and investigations. Firms should outline their experience in handling large-scale, multijurisdictional matters involving complex data sets, advanced analytics, and technology-assisted review. Submissions should also highlight the team's technological infrastructure, expertise in data privacy and cross-border transfers, and ability to manage significant volumes of data across multiple custodians and platforms.

Forensic accounting –
This section will include players providing investigative accounting and financial analysis in the context of litigation and disputes. Services typically include examining past financial events, such as fraud investigations, transaction reconstruction, forensic audits, and analysis of financial misrepresentation. Firms should highlight their experience handling complex financial disputes across areas such as commercial litigation, shareholder disputes, professional negligence claims, and regulatory investigations. Submissions should emphasise the technical expertise of the team, their investigative approach, and their ability to present complex financial evidence clearly and effectively to courts, tribunals, or other relevant authorities.

Litigation Insurance: Brokers –
This section will include brokers who arrange after-the-event (ATE) insurance, adverse costs insurance, and other litigation risk transfer products. Firms should outline their experience advising claimants, defendants, and funders on insurance solutions for commercial disputes, arbitrations, and class actions, including instances where they work alongside litigation funders. Submissions should highlight the team's ability to structure bespoke policies for complex or high-value disputes, relationships with underwriting capacity across multiple markets, understanding of both claimant- and defendant-side risks, and expertise across different dispute types and jurisdictions.

Litigation Insurance: Underwriters –
This section covers insurers who underwrite after-the-event (ATE) insurance, adverse costs insurance, and other litigation risk products. Firms should outline their experience providing capacity for commercial disputes, arbitrations, and class actions, and describe their approach to insuring both claimant and defendant risks. Submissions should highlight how underwriters assess case merit, price risk, and provide capital to support litigation insurance policies, including instances where they work alongside funders on claimant-side matters. Firms are encouraged to detail their appetite for large or complex disputes, speed and flexibility in underwriting decisions, claims-paying record, and reputation among brokers, law firms, and litigation funders.

Litigation Funding Brokers –
This section covers intermediaries who connect claimants and law firms with litigation funders. Unlike litigation insurance brokers, who focus on arranging risk protection, funding brokers source non-recourse capital to finance the pursuit of claims. Firms should outline their experience advising on funding structures, negotiating terms with funders, and managing competitive funding processes for commercial disputes, arbitrations, and portfolios of claims. Submissions should highlight market knowledge, relationships across the funding community, ability to secure competitive terms for high-value and complex matters, and understanding of both claimant-side and law firm funding requirements.

Litigation Funders (UK-based) –
This section covers funders headquartered or primarily operating in the UK who provide non-recourse capital to claimants and law firms for commercial litigation and arbitration. Firms should outline their experience funding high-value and complex disputes, including shareholder actions, insolvency-related claims, international arbitration, competition claims, and collective proceedings. Submissions should explain how funders assess case merit, assume risk, and structure returns based on damages recovered or settlements achieved. Firms are encouraged to highlight the size of their deployable capital, sophistication of case assessment processes, track record across different dispute types and jurisdictions, and reputation among leading law firms and repeat users.

Litigation Funders (US-based) –
This section covers US-headquartered funders providing non-recourse capital for commercial litigation and arbitration. Firms should outline their experience funding complex, high-value disputes such as antitrust claims, patent litigation, international arbitration, securities litigation, and mass torts. Submissions should highlight the scale of available capital, the structure and depth of investment committees, and the funder's track record across different practice areas and jurisdictions. Firms may also wish to note any differences in risk appetite or return expectations compared to UK-based funders, as well as their international reach and relationships with major law firms and repeat claimant-side users.

PR and Communications –
This section will highlight strategic communications advisers who manage reputational risk during litigation, investigations, and disputes. Firms should outline their experience providing media strategy, crisis management, stakeholder engagement, and digital reputation services in contentious contexts. Submissions should highlight experience managing the disclosure of proceedings, responding to adverse publicity, coordinating with legal teams, and protecting client reputation throughout trials and settlements. Firms are encouraged to describe their work on high-profile or complex disputes, collaboration with litigation teams and in-house counsel, and their ability to coordinate multijurisdictional communications strategies while maintaining privilege and confidentiality.