



THE RT. HON. THE LORD MILLETT

Born 1932

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Practice

Lord Millett practised in the Chancery Division as Junior Counsel from 1958 to 1973 and as Leading Counsel from 1973 to 1986. He was one of the standing Junior Counsel to the Department of Trade and Industry from 1967 to 1973 and in 1971 appeared for the Department before the Tribunal of Inquiry which conducted an investigation into the Department's supervision of the Vehicle and General Insurance Company and its responsibility for failing to foresee and take precautions to avert the company's collapse.

As QC he appeared in many leading cases in the House of Lords. He was a member of the Insolvency Law Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Kenneth Cork (1976-82) which led to the passing of the Insolvency Act 1986; and continued to appear for the Department of Trade and Industry in numerous commercial cases. He also appeared regularly in Singapore and Hong Kong, and from time to time before the Federal Court of Appeal in Kuala Lumpur. He appeared frequently before the Privy Council in appeals from those jurisdictions.

Lord Millett was appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 1998. As such he sat on the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, which constitutes the final court of appeal in the United Kingdom, and the judicial committee of the Privy Council, which heard appeals from a number of Commonwealth countries, including New Zealand and the Caribbean territories. In 2000 he was appointed one of the Non-Permanent members of the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong, and he sits there for four weeks a year.

Lord Millett retired from his full time judicial duties in the House of Lords in January 2004, but continues to sit on the Appellate Committee from time to time and as before in the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong.

Career

Call: 1955
Silk: 1973
Judge: High Court of England and Wales 1986
Court of Appeal 1994
Lord of Appeal in Ordinary 1998
Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong 2000

1998—04 Lord of Appeal in Ordinary
1973—86 Leading Counsel Chancery Division
1967—73 Junior Counsel to Department of Trade and Industry
1958—73 Junior Counsel Chancery Division

	1958	Chambers of Hugh Francis QC (later Chambers of John Balcombe QC)
	1957—58	Pupil of John Mills, Chancery Chambers
	1955—57	Royal Air Force
Education		Double First in Classics and Law, Harrow and Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
Awards		Second in Bar Finals, England and Wales Exhibition, Harrow Hall, University of Cambridge Open Scholarship in Classics, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
Member		Insol International Insolvency Law Review Committee (1976—82) Honorary Doctor of Laws, London University Honorary Fellow, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
Publications		Written on many articles on legal subjects in academic journals.
Personal		Lord Millett served for several years as Treasurer and for four years as President of the West London Synagogue. He has been married for forty years and has two sons (both lawyers, one a QC) and five grandchildren.
Cases		<p>Lord Millett has sat on many important cases in the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords and on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In 1999 he was a member of the 7-man Appellate Committee which decided that Senator Pinochet was not entitled to immunity from prosecution and could be extradited to Spain. He has delivered major judgments on restitution, contract law, insolvency, partnership, bills of lading, tracing the proceeds of fraud, floating charges and other forms of financial security, pension funds and other matters. As a member of the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong he has delivered several major judgments, including one on company schemes of arrangement and another on accounting for capitalisation of interest.</p> <p>Lord Millett was appointed a High Court Judge in 1986 and was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1994. He decided several leading cases both at first instance and as an appellate judge. He tried the first civil action to result from the collapse of the Maxwell Empire. He also gave leading judgments on the law of restitution, solicitors' and accountants' negligence and breach of fiduciary duty, interpretation of statutes and contracts, private international law especially cross-border insolvency) accounts and banking law.</p> <p>As QC he appeared regularly for the Inland Revenue, and was leading Counsel for the Revenue in the landmark cases of <i>Ramsay v Inland Revenue Commissioners</i> (1982) AC 300 and <i>Furniss v Dawson</i> [1984] AC 474, in which he had the unique experience of citing American tax cases to the House of Lords. He also appeared in any leading cases in the House of Lords on contract law, notably <i>Johnson v Agnew</i> [180] AC 367 and <i>Sudbrook Trading Estate v Eggleton</i> [1983] 1 AC 444.</p> <p>Since his retirement at the beginning of 2004, Lord Millett has been appointed an arbitrator in a number of important</p>

arbitrations. He was appointed by the United Kingdom government as a member of the 5-man international panel in Brussels which is conducting the arbitration between Eurotunnel and the French and British governments, and has been appointed to sit as an arbitrator in Kuala Lumpur as well as London.

If you require further information please contact clerksroom@essexcourt.net