

Robert Parson

Partner

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Robert has over 30 years' experience advising banks, non-bank financiers, funds, fintechs, credit insurers, commodity producers and traders on complex cross-border financing arrangements across the commodity and trade industry. He represents clients in financing and monetising the international production, storage, movement and distribution of raw materials and manufactured goods, and is recognised for his work in structured trade and inventory finance, as well as the use of financial instruments such as letters of credit, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other secure payment arrangements in international trade.

With an established reputation in the field of digital trade, including the creation of digital platforms and the use and enforceability of electronic trade documents and payment instruments, Robert is also known for his deep knowledge of shipping-related advisory work and trade-related disputes, including high-profile letters-of-credit litigation.

Robert is a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and the ICC Banking Commission Legal Committee. He writes and speaks frequently on topics relevant to digital trade and commodity and trade finance.

Before joining Sullivan, Robert was a partner in another global law firm in London.

Education

- The College of Law, Chester
- University of Sheffield (LL.B.)

Bar & Court Admissions

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales

Awards & Honors

- *Chambers UK*, Commodities: Trade Finance (UK-wide) (2025-2026)
- Recognised in the "Hall of Fame" by *The Legal 500 UK* (2025-2026)

Capabilities

- Trade & Export Finance
- Corporate
- Finance
- Financial Services
- Fintech & Blockchain
- International & Cross-Border Finance
- United Kingdom

Viewpoints

May 2026

Fraud Prevention in Trade Finance – Lessons Learned and Lessons Forgotten

Finance and Credit Law and Trade Treasury Payments

April 2026

TTP and Sullivan Breakfast Club – Fighting Fraud in Trade

April 6, 2026

Crisis in the Gulf: Sullivan & Worcester on Trade Under Pressure

TXF

March 13, 2026

Conflict in the Gulf – Oil Price Volatility and Credit Escalation Clauses in Documentary Letters of Credit

Videos

April 22, 2026 | Can We Beat the Fraudsters In Our Trade Finance Transactions?

Geoffrey Wynne and Robert Parson participated in a roundtable discussion "Can We Beat the Fraudsters In Our Trade Finance Transactions?" at the first 2026 Sullivan and Trade Treasury Payments' (TTP) co-hosted Breakfast Club on Wednesday, April 22, at The Lansdowne Club in London. This event follows the success of the first two TTP / Sullivan Breakfast Clubs in 2025.

With trade fraud escalating, the alarm is ringing louder than ever. Despite a heightened industry awareness of risk, recent high-profile cases have exposed persistent structural weaknesses in the global ecosystem — from duplicated documents to inconsistent data and opaque cross-border processes.

Watch the panel session »