

Simon Cook

Partner

+44 0(20) 7448 1002

scook@sullivanlaw.com



Simon has experience in a wide variety of banking and finance transactions, including structured trade finance, trade finance, commodity finance, insurance-backed finance, project finance, invoice discounting facilities, warehouse finance, supply chain finance, ECA finance and borrowing-base facilities.

He has advised on transactions across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the CIS. His work in the structured trade arena covers a range of financings acting for both lenders and borrowers notably in the oil, telecoms, soft commodities and metals sectors. He has particular experience in Africa and in the Middle East, where he was based for four years. Simon also acts for industry bodies including the International Trade and Forfeiting Association (ITFA).

Participating in structured trade finance and project finance conferences and seminars throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa, he has spoken at structured trade finance conferences and seminars and general finance in London, Paris, Lisbon, Geneva, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, South Africa, Zambia, Uganda, Ghana, Nairobi and Dubai, as well as on PPP in South Africa, on project finance and structured trade finance at Afrexim's annual structured finance conferences in Egypt, Ghana, Zambia and South Africa.

A member of ITFA's Executive Board, in 2024 Simon was re-appointed its Head of Education. In November 2025, Simon was re-appointed as one of just eight full voting members on the African Regional Committee, of which he was also a founding member in 2017.

Simon is recognised in the 'Hall of Fame' by *The Legal 500 UK*, 2026 for Trade Finance and included in Tier 1 by *Chambers UK*, 2026 for Commodities: Trade Finance. He is also included in *Best Lawyers UK*, 2025 for his work in commodities.

Education

- The College of Law (CPE)
- University of Bristol (M.A.)
 - Ancient History
- University of Bristol (B.A.)

Capabilities

- Trade & Export Finance
- Corporate
- Finance
- International & Cross-Border Finance
- Real Estate, Alternative & Offshore Investment Funds
- Tax
- Africa
- United Kingdom

- (Hons) in Ancient History

Bar & Court Admissions

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales

Professional Qualifications

- Head of Education, Executive Board, International Trade and Forfeiting Association (ITFA) (2021)
- Voting Member, ITFA's African Regional Committee (2017-2024)

Awards & Honors

- *Chambers Global*, Africa-wide Banking & Finance (Notable Practitioner, 2026; Leading Lawyer, 2024, 2025)
- *Best Lawyers in the United Kingdom*, Commodities (2020-2025)
- *Chambers UK*, Commodities: Trade Finance (UK-wide) (2013-2026)
- Recognised in the "Hall of Fame" by *The Legal 500 UK* (2025-2026)
- Recommended by *The Legal 500 UK* (2015-2026)
- Legal Media Group/Euromoney's *ExpertGuides* (2020)

Additional Publications

- The Second Edition of "A Practitioner's Guide to Trade and Commodity Finance" was published in 2021 by Sweet & Maxwell, a division of Thomson Reuters. Edited by Geoffrey Wynne, the guide covers all aspects of trade and commodity finance, from pre-export and structured trade finance to the rise of supply chain finance as part of the techniques involved in receivables finance. Simon Cook contributed chapters on documentary letters of credit and documentary letter of credit facilities; taking security in emerging markets; receivables finance: forfaiting, factoring and invoice discounting; receivables finance: supply chain finance; and on the perfection and enforcement of security.