



ASTRAEA

Asset Recovery & Enforcement

Recovering value in complex, cross-border disputes

OVERVIEW

Astraea helps clients identify and recover value in high-stakes disputes, often involving fraud and concealed assets. We combine sophisticated legal strategy with in-house asset-tracing and intelligence capabilities, enabling us to mobilise quickly and deliver integrated, commercially focused solutions.

We deploy the full range of tools available through the UK courts, including search orders, Norwich Pharmacal orders and Worldwide Freezing Orders. We also use insolvency processes as a recovery tool, such as applications for the appointment of UK officeholders and the recognition of foreign appointments.

Alongside principal proceedings, we advise on the recognition and global enforcement of domestic and foreign arbitral awards and judgments, helping clients translate legal rights into recovery.

Many of our instructions involve tracing and targeting assets concealed across multiple jurisdictions. We work with in-house investigators and trusted local partners to identify recovery routes, develop pressure points and coordinate parallel actions. Astraea has a strong track record acting as Global Counsel, leading overall strategy and coordinating local counsel in concurrent proceedings. Senior Partner James Ramsden KC is called to the bars of key offshore jurisdictions including the BVI, Cayman Islands and Gibraltar.

Our intelligence-led approach allows us to apply calibrated legal, commercial and reputational pressure, encouraging counterparties to engage constructively.

We also act for defendants facing fraud allegations, parallel proceedings in multiple jurisdictions, or simultaneous criminal and civil exposure, bringing clear judgment to complex and fast-moving disputes.

Astraea is part of a strategic alliance with Sequor Law in the US and Hillmont Partners in Ukraine, with a particular focus on matters connected to Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The alliance gives clients access to deep, multi-regional expertise.



WHY ASTRAEA?

- Integrated legal, investigations and intelligence capabilities within one conflict-free firm.
- Senior offshore expertise across the BVI, Cayman Islands and Gibraltar.
- Experience deploying urgent UK court remedies, insolvency tools and offshore enforcement strategies.
- Global coverage through strategic alliances and trusted partners.
- Proven ability to coordinate multi-jurisdictional litigation as Global Counsel.
- Commercially focused approach designed to preserve leverage, create pressure and maximise recovery prospects.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Our enforcement and asset recovery experience includes commercial and civil fraud, private capital, sovereign enforcement, estate and inheritance disputes, and fraud defence.

Commercial and Civil Fraud

- Supported the recovery of approximately USD 50 million for a West African government by identifying high-value assets across the UAE, UK, US, Cyprus, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands and Ireland in connection with fraudulently obtained public construction contracts.
- Enabled targeted proceedings in a high-value contractual dispute by identifying previously undisclosed assets through corporate, litigation and land records research, social media analysis and discreet enquiries.
- Helped a client pursue recovery following the theft of several million pounds by an employee, including by recovering key evidence from overseas data repositories, obtaining freezing and Norwich Pharmacal orders, and identifying the perpetrator.
- Strengthened an enforcement strategy in a high-value contractual dispute by investigating alleged conspiracy and asset dissipation, mapping connections between respondents, third-party entities and associated individuals, and identifying undisclosed assets available for enforcement.

Private Capital

- Advised credit funds on enforcement options relating to a USD100 million loan facility and related security package across multiple jurisdictions.
- Acted for distressed debt specialists enforcing a loan liability acquired from a defunct Ukrainian bank, with substantial sums recovered following worldwide freezing orders against 29 defendants and Chabra respondents across multiple jurisdictions.

Sovereign Enforcement

- Informed a successful enforcement strategy against the Russian Federation by identifying overlooked UK property assets through analysis of corporate records across Russia and offshore jurisdictions.
- Acted as Global Counsel in the enforcement of a USD 500 million arbitral award against the Republic of Kazakhstan, coordinating lawyers across the US, BVI, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Gibraltar and Sweden.
- Supported an investor's claim against a state through Astraea's multidisciplinary special situations capability, drawing on human rights, forensic accounting, geopolitical and communications expertise.

Estate & Inheritance Disputes

- Advised a Saudi entity on claims to recover more than USD 100 million of bequeathed assets allegedly misappropriated by the testator's UK-based son.
- Advised GCC heirs in a dispute with a sibling concerning a multi-billion dollar estate.
- Conducted an asset-tracing investigation for a HNW individual in support of inheritance proceedings, identifying property and business assets across Europe, the Middle East and multiple offshore jurisdictions, together with evidence of tax evasion and concealed wealth.

Fraud Defence

- Advised a crypto entrepreneur and related entities on a multi-jurisdictional response to a DOJ Indictment and SEC Complaint alleging involvement in a USD 1 billion fraud. Engaged with regulators and defended related English civil proceedings supported by a Worldwide Freezing Order.
- Advised Emirati individuals on the defence of a multi-jurisdictional USD 80 million fraud action; including proceedings in England, supported by a Worldwide Freezing Order, to recognise and enforce foreign judgments.