



Boris Berezovsky – v – Roman Abramovich

Media Briefing

Overview

- In December 2008, Addleshaw Goddard (AG) was instructed by the Russian oligarch, Boris Berezovsky, to act for him in Commercial Court proceedings against the owner of Chelsea Football Club, Roman Abramovich.
- The Addleshaw Goddard team is large and multi-partnered and being led by Litigation partners Mark Hastings and John Kelleher. One Essex Court's Laurence Rabinowitz QC, is also representing Mr Berezovsky.
- The Trial began on Monday 3 October, and is the first case to be heard in the new Rolls Building.
- Addleshaw Goddard is also acting for Mr Berezovsky in several other high profile proceedings in the High Court, which are high value, complex cases.
- In October 2010, Addleshaw Goddard agreed a Conditional Fee Arrangement (CFA) with Mr Berezovsky, reinforcing its position as a market leader in litigation funding. Never before have CFAs been entered into in respect of cases as significant as these.

The Proceedings

Mr Berezovsky's claim relates to his investments with the late Badri Patarkatsishvili and Mr Abramovich in the Russian oil company Sibneft and the Russian aluminium company, Rusal.

Mr Berezovsky says that he had an interest in approximately 21.5 per cent of Sibneft, but that Mr Abramovich used threats to coerce him into selling this interest at a considerable undervalue, causing him very significant losses. According to Mr Berezovsky, Mr Abramovich's intimidation included a threat to cause Mr Berezovsky's interest in Sibneft to be expropriated, and a further threat that, if Mr Berezovsky did not sell, Mr Abramovich would use his influence to seek to ensure that Mr Berezovsky's friend, Nikolay Glushkov, would not be released from prison.

In respect of Rusal, Mr Berezovsky says that Mr Abramovich was holding 50 per cent of this company on trust for himself and for Mr Berezovsky and Mr Patarkatsishvili equally, and had agreed not to sell any shares without their consent. It is Mr Berezovsky's case that Mr Abramovich, however, acting in breach of trust and contract, sold half of this 50 per cent stake to Oleg Deripaska in September 2003, thereby rendering his shares much less valuable than before. He seeks to recover this loss as compensation for the alleged breaches.

Mr Abramovich disputes Mr Berezovsky's claim and denies that Mr Berezovsky ever had an interest in Sibneft or Rusal, together with the matters described above.

Additional Information

- Mr Berezovsky's claim against Mr Abramovich is currently the highest value claim (of any description) being litigated in the world – the total value of the claim is estimated to be in excess of US\$5 billion.



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- On 31 March 2010, after a hearing in the Commercial Court, Mr Abramovich's application to strike out the proceedings and/or for summary judgment was rejected by Mr Justice Colman.
- On 23 February 2011, after a hearing in the Court of Appeal, Mr Abramovich was unsuccessful for the second time in attempting to strike out Mr Berezovsky's case.

For more information :



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