



Tara Archer -Glasgow is a highly experienced and sought after dispute resolution lawyer with over 25 years of experience. She is an equity partner in the firm of Higgs & Johnson, chair of the Dispute Resolution Practice Group and leads the firm's Asset Recovery Unit. She has appeared as lead counsel in complex cases in all courts in the Bahamas and before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council situated in England.

What is a common misconception about asset recovery you wish to dispel?

That it may not be a beneficial process. A lot of people view asset recovery as a complicated and expensive journey where the cost may outweigh any perceived benefits. Admittedly, it can be a costly and complex exercise. However, if you select an experienced legal team who can put together a recovery strategy there is always potential for a full recovery. You may also be able to recover the legal costs incurred because of the process.

What keeps you grounded in your role?

Working with a great legal team keeps me grounded in my role as chair of Litigation at the firm and as an asset recovery specialist. I have worked with some team members for more than ten years. We understand and are all prepared to do the work necessary to obtain a successful result for the client. We also have new members on the team who bring innovative ideas to the senior team members, and we work cohesively.

How do you manage effective cooperation with parties across different jurisdictions?

I have practised in this area for more than twenty-five years. As such, I have had the benefit of developing solid relationships with various industry leaders globally. Therefore, whenever assistance is needed in a particular jurisdiction, I can readily connect with key contacts there. These connections assist in facilitating and guiding what is necessary, in a particular jurisdiction, for the effective tracing and recovery of assets.

How do you ensure you are keeping up to date with contemporary market trends?

I invest time every year in continuing education. This can be in the form of enrolling in an executive management course, attending legal and business conferences and staying abreast of the news. A good example was when I was assisting businesses and various creditors of a crypto exchange in liquidation; I enrolled and completed a block chain and crypto application course at the MIT Management Sloan School to ensure that I understood all aspects of the challenge.

You have a number of diverse professional memberships. How does engaging in these communities enhance your practice?

Working in the asset recovery space requires you to think and move quickly in different jurisdictions. Being a part of diverse professional communities provides me with an opportunity to gain knowledge and to form relationships with industry leaders. The collaboration with the members of various professional communities such as accountants, law enforcement, CEOs, and judges; assist in the formation of innovative ideas that bring great value to my practice. Often in asset recovery cases you will have to put together a multidisciplinary team to carry out the recovery strategy.

What is the most memorable case you have been involved in during your career?

I have been blessed with being able to be involved in many memorable cases. However, one case that stands out is an admiralty case, our team represented a U.S.-based financial institution engaged in ship financing. The client had loaned several million dollars to a U.K.-registered defendant company, which defaulted under the financing agreement. The vessel in question was a Panamanian-registered ship. During the U.S. court process, the defendant chartered the vessel to another company for transporting over two hundred vehicles. When our client sought to enforce its rights, the vessel mysteriously disappeared. We strategically traced its whereabouts in Haiti, exercised self-help to bring it into Bahamian waters, and obtained a Bahamian Order of arrest. Despite attempts by third parties to sell the vessel through a judicial sale in Haiti, we proved that there was no valid transfer of title. Ultimately, a proper judicial sale allowed our client to recover its debt successfully.

What role do you see AI playing in asset recovery in the next few years?

AI is already being utilized and transforming how practitioners operate in the asset recovery space. The AI tools will be used to streamline data collection, identify patterns of fraudulent activity, and help with identifying hidden assets. Its review tools can look through large volumes of documents in a short time frame. AI will play a major role and will make asset recovery more viable in a significant number of cases that may have been considered hopeless.

What advice would you give to the new generation of lawyers looking to kick-start their careers?

Work hard, have integrity and always do what is necessary to be the one with a valid suggestion or the answer.

WWL says: *"One of the most prominent names in the field"*

"Her knowledge is outstanding and does not cease to impress me" "No matter what we are faced with, she is able to find the successful strategy"