

Hollie Higgins

“Her mind moves at the speed of light and she produces written work quickly and efficiently.”

– CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2024

Year of call: **2016**
Degree: **BA Jurisprudence (Oxon., First Class), LLM (Harvard Law School), BCL (Oxon., Distinction)**



Hollie has a wide-ranging practice that encompasses all of Chambers' main areas of work, with a particular focus on public, competition, employment and media law. She is appointed to the Attorney-General's Panel of Counsel (C Panel). Recent highlights of her practice include:

- Acting for Liberty in a judicial review of protest legislation (Liberty v Secretary of State for the Home Department)
- Acting for the members of Coldplay in an ongoing dispute with their former manager (David Holmes v Coldplay)
- Acting for Apple in collective competition proceedings concerning the Apple 'App Store' (Dr Kent v Apple Inc, Dr Ennis v Apple Inc)
- Acting for UBS in private and collective proceedings arising from alleged competition breaches in the FX market (Allianz v Barclays Bank and ors; O'Higgins/Evans v Barclays Bank and ors)
- Acting for Jane Street Global Trading in a judicial review of the London Metal Exchange's decision to cancel trades in the wake of Russian's invasion of Ukraine (Elliott & ors v London Metal Exchange).
- Acting for the Government in judicial review proceedings concerning the UK's climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement (Friends of the Earth v Secretary of State for International Trades and others)
- Acting in mass equal pay litigation against Asda, Boots and Morrisons including an appeal to the Supreme Court (Asda Stores Ltd v Brierley; Abdar v Morrisons ; Adams v Boots)
- Acting for the Welsh Government in two Supreme Court appeals concerning devolved powers in the context of Brexit and the Prime Minister's prorogation of Parliament (Re Scottish Continuity Bill and Miller No.2 v Prime Minister).

She is ranked as an "up and coming" junior and "rising star" in the directories in administrative & public law, media & entertainment law and employment law. Recent comments include:

- "An incredibly bright junior, who can always be relied on to deliver high quality advice."- Legal 500, 2024
- "Her mind moves at the speed of light and she produces written work quickly and efficiently."- Chambers & Partners, 2024
- "She has amazing attention to detail, supplemented by amazing analysis and a razor-sharp intellect."- Chambers UK, 2023
- "Hollie is superbly smart, approaches work as if nothing is too much trouble, and her drafting is excellent."- Legal 500, 2023

EXPERIENCE

Public & Regulatory

Hollie accepts instructions in all areas of public and regulatory work. Her works spans judicial reviews, regulatory appeals and tribunal challenges in the immigration and data protection fields. She is regularly instructed in complex appeals to the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court.

She is ranked in both Chambers & Partners (Up and Coming) and Legal 500 (Rising Star) for Administrative, Public Law and Human Rights.

“She is excellent; she is able to discuss complex issues with the experts as well as the clients, and demonstrates strong commercial awareness.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Paulley & Leadbetter v Train Operating Companies

Acting on behalf of two disabled rail passengers in a judicial review challenge to the consultation run by train operating companies regarding their proposals to close rail ticket offices around the country (led by Jude Bunting KC).

Liberty v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Acting for Liberty in a judicial review challenge to the "Serious Disruption Regulations" which expand police powers to restrict protest activity (led by Jude Bunting KC).

Jane Street Global Trading, LLC v The London Metal Exchange

Acting for the Claimant in an ongoing challenge to the lawfulness of a decision to cancel nickel trades on the London Metal Exchange in the wake of Russian's invasion of Ukraine - one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases for 2023. Led by James Segan KC.

Friends of the Earth v Secretary of State for International Trade and others

[2023] EWCA Civ 14

Acting for the Government in Divisional Court and Court of Appeal proceedings concerning the compatibility of export financing decisions to the Paris Agreement with Sir James Eadie KC.

Radiocentre Ltd v Ofcom

[2023] EWHC 1977 (Admin)

Acted for Ofcom in successfully defending judicial review proceedings regarding the launch of Radio 1 Dance on the BBC Sounds platform (led by Tristan Jones).

Here for Good v SSHD

Acted for the charity Here for Good in successfully challenging Home Office Guidance on those who would not be entitled to remain in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme because they had been absent from the UK for a period of time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Guidance withdrawn after permission granted, but before the substantive hearing (led by Charlotte Kilroy KC).

KK and RS v SSHD (Sri Lanka Country Guidance)

[2021] UKUT 130; [2022] EWCA Civ 119

Acted for the Secretary of State for the Home Department before the Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal in a Country Guidance case concerning those categories of asylum seekers who will be at risk on return to Sri Lanka by reason of their sur place political activities (led by Naina Patel).

Koslowski v SSHD

DA/00229/2021

Successfully acted pro bono (instructed by The AIRE Centre) in a deportation appeal before the FtT and Upper Tribunal.

FOIA appeals to ICO

Acting for Dr Qureshi in challenging Government refusals to disclose documents relating to pandemic preparations prior to Covid-19 to the ICO. Numerous successful determinations obtained.

Qureshi and Greene v Secretary of State for the Health and Social Care

Acted for the claimants in a judicial review of the Minister's decision, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, to refuse to publish the full 'Exercise Cygnus' reports following the Government's 2016 pandemic preparedness test (led by Tom Hickman KC).

Local TV Network v Ofcom

Acted for Ofcom in a judicial review claim seeking to challenge its decisions as to the prominence of local TV and television programme guides (led by Kate Gallafent KC).

Miller (No.2) v Prime Minister

[2019] UKSC 41

Acted for the Counsel General for Wales in the challenge to the prorogation of Parliament (led by Michael Fordham KC).

Good Thinking Society v PSA

Acted for the Good Thinking Society in a judicial review challenge to the PSA's accreditation of the Society of Homeopaths, in light of evidence that the Society is connected with practitioners of a therapy that recommends non-vaccination of children as a means of 'curing' autism (led by Jason Pobjoy). Claim settled after permission granted, but before substantive hearing.

ENRC v Director of the SFO

Acted on behalf of ENRC in judicial review proceedings against the SFO regarding investigations into concerns of historical SFO wrongdoing (led by Michael Fordham KC).

Treasury Review of the Prudential Regulation of the Co-operative Bank

Advised the Independent Reviewer, Mr Mark Zelmer, on matters relating to his review (led by Catherine Callaghan KC).

UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill - a reference by the Attorney General and Advocate General for Scotland

[2018] UKSC 64

Acted for the Counsel General for Wales in the Supreme Court reference of the Scottish Continuity Bill, concerning the intersection of devolution and Brexit (led by Michael Fordham KC).

Competition

Hollie accepts instructions in all areas of EU law and competition disputes. She is currently acting for UBS, Apple and Three in collective proceedings in the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

Cases

Gutmann v Hutchison 3G UK Limited

Acting for Three in proposed 'loyalty penalty' collective proceedings against mobile network operators (led by Brian Kennelly KC).

Dr Kent v Apple / Dr Ennis v Apple

Acting for Apple in two sets of collective proceedings concerning Apple's conduct regarding its 'App Store' (led by Marie Demetriou KC and Brian Kennelly KC).

Sportradar AG v (1) Football Dataco Ltd (2) Betgenius Ltd

Acted for Betgenius in joined competition and private law proceedings arising from Football Data Co's grant of exclusive rights to collect and supply football betting data to it and Sportradar's scouting activities. Settled during trial (led by Ian Mill KC and Tom de La Mare KC).

Allianz Global Investors GmbH & ors v Barclays Bank Plc & ors

Acted for UBS in a damages claim against a number of global banks arising out of alleged breach of competition law concerning conduct in the FX markets (led by Brian Kennelly KC). Settlement achieved before trial.

Michael O'Higgins FX Class Representative / Evans v Barclays Bank plc & ors

[2021] CAT 16 (on appeal)

Acting for UBS in proposed collective proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal arising out of European Commission decisions concerning conduct in FX markets (led by Brian Kennelly KC and Paul Luckhurst).

BT & Ors v Ofcom

[2017] CAT

Competition Appeal Tribunal trial concerning BT's challenge to Ofcom's business connectivity market review (assisting Tristan Jones, Mark Vinnall and Daniel Cashman).

Employment

Hollie appears regularly before the Employment Tribunal and High Court, and is experienced in appellate work up to the Supreme Court. Her work spans equal pay; safeguarding; breach of confidentiality; historical sexual harassment and discrimination allegations in the workplace; 'sham contracts' and whistleblowing. She is also experienced in conducting internal investigations in the employment context. Her clients have included sporting clubs, local authorities, schools, international NGOs and multinational corporations.

She is ranked in both Chambers & Partners (Band 6) and Legal 500 (Rising Star) for Employment Law.

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Cases

Adams v Boots

Acting for the Claimants in mass equal pay litigation against Boots (led by Karon Monaghan KC).

Abdar v Morrisons

Acting for the Claimants in mass equal pay litigation against Morrisons (led by Karon Monaghan KC).

Fintech confidential information dispute

Acting for a fintech company in proceedings issued against 3 of its co-founders of breach of confidentiality and fiduciary duties (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC).

City whistleblowing and race discrimination claim

Acted for a major global insurance group and two directors defending claims of whistleblowing, constructive dismissal and race discrimination (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC).

Sex discrimination claim against City firm

Acting for a financial services firm in defending sex discrimination and victimisation claims (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC).

Asda Stores Ltd v Brierley

[2021] UKSC 10; [2021] 4 All ER 305

Acted for Asda in their appeal before the Supreme Court on the ability of retail workers to compare themselves with distribution workers for the purposes of their equal pay claim (led by Lord Pannick KC and Ben Cooper KC)

Employment (Bullying at Work) Act 2014

Advising on the construction of new legislation in Gibraltar prohibiting 'bullying' in the context of employment (led by Lord Pannick KC).

Maternity discrimination claim

Acted pro bono for the claimant in a maternity discrimination claim against her former employer and their insurers (joined pursuant to the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010). 5-figure settlement achieved before preliminary hearing.

Best & ors v AKW Medi-care Limited & ors

Successfully acted for the Respondents in a 5-day preliminary hearing on the question of employer identity, where corporate directors had been employed by a group holding company but performed work for the subsidiaries. Case raised issues of 'sham' and implied contracts.

Wilson v CFBT

Acted for a School in successfully defending a claim of sexual discrimination and sexual harassment across a 10-year period.

Safeguarding issues for international NGO

Acted for an international NGO in defending a claim of wrongful dismissal. The claim raised issues of territorial jurisdiction and safeguarding in conflict areas.

Disability discrimination

Acted for an employee claiming disability discrimination and unfair dismissal against a government department. Settled for a significant 5-figure sum before trial.

Media & Entertainment

Hollie accepts instructions in all areas of media and entertainment. Her clients have included record companies, music publishers, artists and the BBC.

She is ranked in Chambers & Partners (Up and Coming) for Media and Entertainment Law.

Cases

David Holmes v Coldplay

Acting for the members of the band Coldplay in a dispute with their former manager (led by Ian Mill KC).

Cayman v Blue Mountain & ors

[2022] EWHC 1469 (IPEC)

Successfully acted for a number of music publishing companies in a copyright ownership dispute in respect of over 80 Bob Marley songs (led by Ian Mill KC).

Radiocentre Ltd v Ofcom

[2023] EWHC 1977 (Admin)

Acted for Ofcom in successfully defending judicial review proceedings regarding the launch of Radio 1 Dance on the BBC Sounds platform (led by Tristan Jones).

Local TV Network v Ofcom

Acted for Ofcom in a judicial review claim seeking to challenge its decisions as to the prominence of local TV and television programme guides (led by Kate Gallafent KC).

SIS v The Racing Partnership

Acted for The Racing Partnership in a Supreme Court appeal raising questions as to the law of unlawful means conspiracy and breach of confidence in the context of sporting data (led by Ian Mill KC). Settled before hearing.

Parliamentary Copyright

Advised on the regime surrounding film and sound recordings of Parliamentary proceedings – in particular, the implications of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998, the notion of 'parliamentary copyright' and the notion of contempt of Parliament (led by Lord Pannick KC and Tom Hickman KC).

Sport

Hollie has a wide-ranging practice in sports law, covering employment and contractual disputes, data and IP exploitation and regulatory matters. Many of her instructions are confidential. She is the co-author of the chapter "Discrimination in Sport" in Sport: Law and Practice, 4th ed.

Cases

McLaren v Alex Palou & ors

Acting for Alex Palou in Commercial Court proceedings arising from his decision to continue racing with Chip Ganassi Racing.

Confidential investigation

Hollie was instructed by a football club to conduct a confidential investigation in the context of an employment dispute.

Financial Fair Play

Hollie has advised on matters relating to the Financial Fair Play rules.

Sportradar AG v (1) Football Dataco Ltd (2) Betgenius Ltd

Acted for Betgenius in joined competition and private law proceedings arising from Football Data Co's grant of exclusive rights to collect and supply football betting data to it and Sportradar's scouting activities. Settled during trial (led by Ian Mill KC and Tom de La Mare KC).

SIS v The Racing Partnership

Acted for The Racing Partnership in a Supreme Court appeal raising questions as to the law of unlawful means conspiracy and breach of confidence in the context of sporting data (led by Ian Mill KC). Settled before hearing.

NF Football Investments Ltd & anr v Al-Hasawi & anr

[2018] EWHC 2884

Acted in the successful appeal regarding the proper interpretation of 'entire agreements clauses' within an SPA concerning the sale of a football club and the exclusion of liability for misrepresentation (led by Adam Baradon).

Commercial

Hollie accepts instructions in all areas of commercial litigation. She is currently acting for UBS in Commercial Court and Competition Appeal Tribunal proceedings arising from alleged manipulation of global FX markets.

Cases

McLaren v Alex Palou & ors

Acting for Alex Palou in Commercial Court proceedings arising from his decision to continue racing with Chip Ganassi Racing.

John Lobb Limited v John Lobb SAS

[2022] EWHC 2306 (Ch)

Acted for a family owned luxury footwear business in an appeal concerning the rights to the "John Lobb" trademark (led by Ian Mill KC).

Sportradar AG v (1) Football Dataco Ltd (2) Betgenius Ltd

Acted for Betgenius in joined competition and private law proceedings arising from Football Data Co's grant of exclusive rights to collect and supply football betting data to it and Sportradar's scouting activities. Settled during trial (led by Ian Mill KC and Tom de La Mare KC).

SIS v The Racing Partnership

Acted for The Racing Partnership in a Supreme Court appeal raising questions as to the law of unlawful means conspiracy and breach of confidence in the context of sporting data (led by Ian Mill KC). Settled before hearing.

Robinson v Robinson

Acting for the three individual respondents in an unfair prejudice dispute concerning the management of a family-run business.

X v Y (LCIA arbitration)

Acted for a global company in a £60million breach of contract claim brought by one of its franchisees (led by Tom Weisselberg KC).

Bedford Row v Just Cash Flow

Acted for the defendant in Commercial Court proceedings concerning the proper construction of a sponsor agreement for the issuance of corporate bonds (led by Andrew George KC).

NF Football Investments Ltd & anr v Al-Hasawi & anr

[2018] EWHC 2884

Acted in the successful appeal regarding the proper interpretation of 'entire agreements clauses' within an SPA concerning the sale of a football club and the exclusion of liability for misrepresentation (led by Adam Baradon).

Mobius Networks Limited v City of London Corporation

Acted (unled) in a multi-day trial against a QC, winning six figure damages. Case raised issues of breach of contract and telecoms regulation.

Telecom2 v BT

Acted unled on behalf of a communications provider in a High Court contractual dispute against BT, securing settlement shortly before trial.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- BA Jurisprudence, University of Oxford (First Class, 4th in year)
- LLM, Harvard Law School (Honors in every course).
- BCL, University of Oxford (Distinction).

Publications

- Sport: Law and Practice, 4th ed. (co-author of the chapter "Discrimination in Sport")

Prizes and awards

- Buchanan Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn, 2016)
- Walter Wigglesworth Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn, 2016)
- Lord Mansfield Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn, 2015)
- City Law School Excellence Scholarship (City Law School, 2015)
- BCL Prize for International and European Employment Law (University of Oxford, 2015)
- Wadham Senior Scholarship for academic achievement (Wadham College Oxford, 2014)
- Oxford-HEFCE Scholarship for postgraduate study (University of Oxford, 2014)
- Dean's Scholar Prize for Laws of War (Harvard Law School, 2014)
- Dean's Scholar Prize for Human Rights in the UN Treaty Bodies (Harvard Law School, 2014)
- John E. Thayer Award (Harvard Law School, 2013)
- Scholar of Worcester College, Oxford (2011-2013)
- Hogan Lovells' Prize for Exceptional Academic Performance in Second Year Legal Studies (Worcester College Oxford, 2012)
- Slaughter and May Prize for Roman Law (University of Oxford, 2011).

Pro Bono Legal Work

Hollie is committed to pro bono work and regularly accepts instructions via Advocate or other NGOs.

Before coming to the bar, Hollie was a Lecturer in Roman Law at Worcester College, Oxford.

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