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Abe Chauhan



Year of call: **2025**
Degree: **LLB (UCL, First Class), BCL (University of Oxford, Distinction), LLM (University of Toronto, 4.0 GPA)**
Languages: **German (fluent)**

Abe accepts instructions across Chambers' areas of expertise, including public law, civil liberties and human rights, commercial law, civil fraud, international law, arbitration and EU and competition law.

Recent highlights include the following matters:

- R (Privacy International and Liberty) v Secretary of State for the Home Department - Proceedings before the Investigatory Powers Tribunal challenging the Home Secretary's decision to issue a technical capability notice requiring Apple to remove or modify certain protections from data stored by Apple users on iCloud and give the UK Government back-door access;
- Okpabi v Shell - Acting for the claimants in long-running litigation brought by thousands of individuals against Shell concerning oil escapes which have caused serious environmental damage in Nigeria;
- McLaren v Palou - A 14 day trial in the Commercial Court between McLaren and IndyCar driver Alex Palou concerning claims for breach of contract and unjust enrichment;
- PIFSS v Al-Rajaan - A civil fraud claim brought by the Kuwaiti Public Institution for Social Security against its former director general, for damages alleged to be in excess of US$1 billion (as a pupil);
- Advice concerning the UK's compliance with the ECHR in the context of a British Overseas Territory (as a pupil);
- A claim by Little Simz against her former producer for breach of contract and unjust enrichment for failure to pay loaned sums (as a pupil).

Abe studied Law with German Law at UCL and completed funded postgraduate studies in Law at the University of Oxford and the University of Toronto.

Before joining the Bar, Abe worked as a Foreign Research Associate for a boutique arbitration firm in Germany. He was also a Retained Lecturer in Law at Worcester College, Oxford. Most recently, Abe was a Bonavero Fellow at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights where he worked in the International Crimes and Accountability team with a focus on the war in Ukraine.

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Abe is committed to a pro bono practice and completed Advocate's Pupil Pledge.

EXPERIENCE

Public & Regulatory

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of public and regulatory law.

Before coming to the Bar, Abe worked as a research assistant to Professor Jeff King in support of his academic work and his role as Legal Adviser to the House of Lords Constitution Committee.

Abe has also published articles on a wide range of public law topics, including the impact of automated decision-making on judicial review challenges, and the rule of law impacts of Covid restrictions in the UK.

Cases

R (Privacy International and Liberty) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Challenge to the SSHD's decision to issue a technical capability notice requiring Apple to remove or modify certain protections from data stored by Apple users on iCloud and give the UK Government back-door access (with Ben Jaffey KC and Celia Rooney, for the Claimants).

R (Abdulaziz) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Challenge to the decision of the SSHD not to grant entry clearance to a Saudi dissident on the basis of his social media posts (with Rayan Fakhoury, for the Claimant).

Ntim v Oxford City Council

Successfully represented a homeless individual in an appeal (on judicial review principles) against the decision of the council that he is not in priority need under the Housing Act 1996.

Advice on Ofcom's Broadcasting Code

Advice on whether a broadcaster's coverage of trans issues was compliant with Ofcom's Broadcasting Code.

Advice on Parliamentary Privilege

Advice on the scope of Parliamentary privilege and other statutory protections that apply to evidence submitted to a select committee in the course of an inquiry.

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Advice on freedom of speech in higher education

Advice on the scope and effects of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, which came into force in August 2025.

Smith v The Football Association

Judicial review by a gender critical campaigner concerning the FA's role in the context of the Rainbow Laces (assisted Ravi Mehta, led by Adam Lewis KC, for the Defendant).

R (AW and others) v Director of the Serious Fraud Office

Judicial review concerning the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales (assisted George Molyneaux for the Defendant).

R (AFM) v Secretary of State for Science, Innovation & Technology

Judicial review of copyright legislation applying to music artists overseas, raising issues of treaty interpretation and justiciability of international law in domestic courts (assisted Ravi Mehta, led by Sir James Eadie KC, for the Defendant).

Cabinet Office v Information Commissioner

Appeal against a decision of the Information Commissioner to order the Cabinet Office to provide information held in civil servants' private email accounts regarding potential Covid fines (assisted Fraser Campbell KC for the Cabinet Office).

Advice on Tobacco and Vapes Bill

Advice on compliance of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill with EU law implemented through the Northern Ireland Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement (assisted Celia Rooney, led by Tim Otty KC for the Claimant).

Complaint against judicial officeholder

Judicial review against the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office regarding a finding that comments made by a judicial officeholder during a hearing did not amount to misconduct (assisted Ravi Mehta for the Defendant).

Regulator judicial review

Group challenge to legislation and interpretative guidance by a regulatory body raising issues of family law and human rights (assisted Ravi Mehta).

Health and Safety Executive FOI

FOI request concerning environmental data that the regulator had a statutory power to access (assisted Ravi Mehta for the Defendant).

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Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of human rights law. He is passionate about human rights advocacy and casework.

Before coming to the Bar, Abe volunteered at the Haringey Migrant Support Centre where he drafted exceptional case funding applications for clients. More recently, as a researcher in the Oxford Pro Bono Publico, Abe also assisted in preparing a report for Human Rights Watch on data protection obligations under international human rights law.

Cases

R (Abdulaziz) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Challenge to the decision of the SSHD not to grant entry clearance to a Saudi dissident on the basis of his social media posts (with Rayan Fakhoury, for the Claimant).

Advice on ECHR Compliance

Advice concerning the UK's compliance with the ECHR in the context of a British Overseas Territory (assisted George Molyneaux, led by Lord Pannick KC).

R (Privacy International and Liberty) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Challenge to the SSHD's decision to issue a technical capability notice requiring Apple to remove or modify certain protections from data stored by Apple users on iCloud and give the UK Government back-door access (with Ben Jaffey KC and Celia Rooney, for the Claimants).

Commercial

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law.

Before coming to the Bar, Abe worked as a research assistant for various private law academics and was involved to updates to practitioners' texts in unjust enrichment (Goff & Jones), trusts (Underhill & Hayton) and company law (Gower).

Cases

McLaren v Palou

Commercial Court proceedings for breach of contract and unjust enrichment against Indy 500 driver Alex Palou (with Paul Goulding KC and Celia Rooney for the Claimant).

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AXA France IARD SA v Santander Cards UK Ltd

Claim for over £600m in respect of historic mis-selling of payment protection insurance, concerning issues of indemnity, contribution and statutory liability (assisted Fraser Campbell KC, led by Andrew Green KC, for the Claimant).

Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Others

One of the largest and most complex fraud disputes ever heard in the Commercial Court, with an alleged value in excess of US$1 billion, brought by the Kuwaiti Public Institution for Social Security against its former director general and many other Defendants (assisted Harry Adamson, led by Tom Weisselberg KC, for the First and Second Defendants).

Re: a Telecommunication Company

Claim for a £8 million bonus by a former employee of a telecommunications company (assisted Fraser Campbell KC for the Defendant).

Re: Ministry of Defence Contract

Advice for the Ministry of Defence concerning a contractual dispute about the level of performance deductions due following failures to provide certain services (assisted Shane Sibbel).

Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad & Others

A claim for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to inherited shares in a Saudi company, raising complex issues of Saudi company law (assisted Shane Sibbel, led by Robert Weekes KC, for the Claimant).

Re: a Company

Application under the Arbitration Act 1996 for determination of a preliminary point of law in an LCIA arbitration which concerns the findings of an earlier bilateral investment treaty arbitration (assisted Shane Sibbel, led by Tim Otty KC).

Confidential Financial Services Advice

Complex advice on a UK financial services regime (assisted Harry Adamson).

Dinwoodie v Fisher

Appeal against money judgment following the Claimant's successful claim for breach of joint venture fiduciary duties, arising from his wrongful exclusion from the joint venture companies and the transfer of their assets to entities controlled by the Defendant (assisted Shane Sibbel for the Claimant/Respondent).

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Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of civil fraud, asset recovery & injunctive relief law.

Cases

Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Others

One of the largest and most complex fraud disputes ever heard in the Commercial Court, with an alleged value in excess of US$1 billion, brought by the Kuwaiti Public Institution for Social Security against its former director general and many other Defendants (assisted Harry Adamson, led by Tom Weisselberg KC, for the First and Second Defendants).

Re: a Bond Issuance Scheme

Advice in relation to a worldwide freezing injunction against various defendants involved in a fraudulent bond issuance scheme that involved the dissipation of valuable assets using a large network of shell companies (assisted Shane Sibbel).

Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad & Others

A claim for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to inherited shares in a Saudi company, raising complex issues of Saudi company law (assisted Shane Sibbel, led by Robert Weekes KC, for the Claimant).

China Evergrande Group v Ding Yumei

Application for injunctive relief in the English courts by a Chinese property development company, which is seeking to recover approximately $6 billion in Hong Kong proceedings and ancillary English proceedings brought against various defendants, including the Group's founder and his former spouse (assisted Celia Rooney for the Claimant).

Public International Law

Abe has a strong academic background in public international law.

He was the Newton Rowell Fellow in Public International Law at the University of Toronto where he assisted with preparing the PIL course for JD students.

Abe has also been involved in international law casework. As a Bonavero Fellow at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights in Berlin, Abe conducted research into potential environmental war crimes being committed in Ukraine.

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Cases

Advice on ECHR Compliance

Advice concerning the UK's compliance with the ECHR in the context of a British Overseas Territory (assisted George Molyneaux, led by Lord Pannick KC).

Advice on the WTO Treaties

Advice on the application of the WTO treaties and relevant free trade agreements to a Crown Dependency (with Sir James Eadie KC).

Arbitration

Prior to commencing pupillage, Abe worked as a foreign research associate at a boutique arbitration firm in Munich, where he worked on international commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

Cases

Re: a Company

Application under the Arbitration Act 1996 for determination of a preliminary point of law in an LCIA arbitration which concerns the determination of an earlier bilateral investment treaty arbitration (assisted Shane Sibbel, led by Tim Otty KC).

Arbitration under the Irish Arbitration Act 2010

Contractual dispute arising out of a financing arrangement (assisted Shane Sibbel).

Group Litigation

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of group litigation law.

Cases

Alame & Others v Shell plc and The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd

Long-running litigation brought by thousands of individuals concerning oil escapes which have caused serious environmental damage in Nigeria (led by Phillippa Kaufmann KC and Anneliese Day KC, for the Claimants).

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EU & Competition

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of EU and competition law.

Cases

Alcatel Lucent SASD v Amazon Digital UK Ltd & Ors
Dispute regarding RAND terms for a licence to standard essential and non-essential patents (assisted James Segan KC and Ravi Mehta for the Defendant).

Media & Entertainment

Abe accepts instructions in all areas of media & entertainment law.

Cases

Ajikawo v Cover
Claim by rapper Little Simz against her former producer for breach of contract and unjust enrichment for failure to pay loaned sums (assisted Celia Rooney, led by Tom Weisselberg KC, for the Claimant).

Re: a partnership
Claim for account of profits following a break-down in the relationship of two business partners providing music management services to DJs (assisted Fraser Campbell KC).

Advice on Band Legacy Issues
Advice for surviving members of a well-known band concerning copyright ownership over the band's musical catalogue (assisted Shane Sibbel, led by Ian Mill KC).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- Bar Vocational Studies (Inns of Court College of Advocacy);
- Master of Laws (University of Toronto);
- Bachelor of Civil Law (University of Oxford);
- LLB Hons Law with German Law (University College London).

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Scholarships and Awards

- Peter Duffy Scholarship (Bar European Group);
- Prince of Wales Scholarship (Gray's Inn);
- Viscount Sankey Award (Oxford);
- Newton Rowell Fellowship in Public International Law (Toronto);
- Canada Memorial Foundation Scholarship (Toronto);
- Jesus College/Faculty of Law BCL Scholarship (Oxford);
- Dean's List (UCL).

Publications

- 'Towards the Systemic Review of Automated Decision-Making Systems' (2020) 25 Judicial Review 285-295.
- 'Coronavirus Measures in England: the Intensification of Executive Supremacy' (2020) (special issue) Catalan Journal of Public Law 234-245 (co-author with Professor Jeff King).

VAT registration number: 505 1903 22

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