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Gayatri Sarathy



"Gayatri is one to watch, an emerging superstar. She is a delight to work with and incredibly bright. She stands out for her intelligence."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Year of call: **2017**
Degree: **BA (Hons) Jurisprudence (Oxon); BCL (Distinction) (Oxon)**

Gayatri has a broad practice, with a particular focus on commercial litigation, civil fraud, competition and public law. Gayatri is regularly instructed in complex and high-value disputes, which often involve an overlap between her areas of practice. She is identified as a leading junior in the latest editions of Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 for her expertise in seven areas: Civil Fraud, Commercial Litigation, Competition, Administrative and Public Law, Group Litigation, Data Protection and Environment.

Gayatri is as comfortable in heavy commercial litigation as she is in public law. Within public law, she has specific expertise in cases involving national security issues and has been appointed as a Special Advocate. Gayatri's practice includes trial and appellate advocacy. She has appeared before the highest appellate courts, including the Supreme Court (on eight occasions) and the European Court of Human Rights. She regularly appears unled in the Commercial Court and Administrative Court.

Recent examples of her commercial practice include:

- Acting for the claimant sellers pursuing claims arising out of the termination of SPAs in respect of Brazilian mining assets: BM Brazil 1 Fundo De Investimento Em Participacoes Multistrategia v Sibanye BM Brazil (Pty) Ltd [2024] EWHC 2566 (Comm);
- Acting for the claimant investors in a substantial claim in conspiracy to defraud: GI Globinvestment Ltd v XY ERS UK Ltd [2024] EWHC 481 (Comm);
- Acting for the respondent in committal proceedings arising out of a search order: Ocado Group Plc v McKeeve [2021] EWHC 3542 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 2079; [2022] EWHC 2478;
- Acting for Motorola in an application for a US$345 million freezing injunction and enforcement proceedings: Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera [2020] EWHC 980 (Comm); [2021] QB 744; [2022] EWHC 2887 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 149 (Comm).

Recent examples of her public and competition law practice include:

- Acting for the defendants in a competition damages claim regarding alleged breaches of Brazilian competition law in the orange juice industry: Viegas v Cutrale [2021] EWHC 1340 (Comm); [2021] EWHC 2956 (Comm); [2023] EWHC 1896 (Comm);
- Acting for the Law Society in a claim regarding the provision of criminal legal aid: R (Law Society) v Lord Chancellor [2024] 1 WLR 3097;
- Acting for the Duke of Sussex in claims regarding his security provision: R (Duke of Sussex) v SSHD [2023] EWHC 1228 (Admin); [2022] EWHC 1936 (Admin); [2024] EWHC 418 (Admin);
- Acting for the claimants in a claim concerning the failure of MI5 to comply with statutory safeguards concerning the handling of personal data: Liberty v Security Service [2023] HRLR 5.

Gayatri is a member of the Attorney General's Panel of Special Advocates; the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel and the EHRC Panel of Counsel. She was nominated for Public Law Junior of the Year (2023; Legal 500 Bar Awards) and Technology, Data and Crypto Junior of the Year (2025; Legal 500 Bar Awards). Before coming to the Bar, Gayatri taught EU law, tort law and land law at the University of Oxford.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Gayatri's practice encompasses a broad range of complex multi-jurisdictional and high-value commercial claims in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division.

She is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 for commercial.

"She is incredibly bright and very responsive. Her writing is excellent, and she forms a great part of the team. She has a bright future ahead of her."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

BM Brazil 1 Fundo De Investimento Em Participacoes Multistrategia v Sibanye BM Brazil (Pty) Ltd

[2024] EWHC 2566 (Comm)

Acted for the successful Claimant sellers pursuing claims arising out of the termination of SPAs in respect of Brazilian mining assets under which in excess of US$1 billion was payable. The claim involved several interlocutory hearings concerning disclosure and other case management issues. A six week trial on liability took place between June and July 2024. A two week trial on quantum is due to take place in November 2025 (led by Andrew Green KC and Andrew Scott KC)

Kireeva v Bedzhamov

[2024] 3 WLR 1010

Acting for the intervener, Mischon de Reya LLP, in an appeal concerning the common law power to assist foreign office-holders to claim local immovables (led by Andrew Scott KC)

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G I Globinvestment Ltd & Ors v XY ERS UK Ltd & Ors

[2024] EWHC 481 (Comm)

Acting for the Claimants in a €47 million claim involving allegations of conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract. The claim has involved (a) a two-day jurisdiction challenge; and (b) a two-day strike out application. A eight week trial took place between October and December 2024 (led by Daniel Saoul KC)

Banco Sabadell, S.A. v Cerberus Global NPL Associates, LLC

[2023] EWHC 2584 (Comm)

Acting for entities in the Cerberus group resisting claims for €365 million brought by one of Spain's largest banks under investment agreements and guarantees (with Andrew Scott KC and Andrew Trotter)

The Arsenal Football Club Plc & Ors v Allianz Insurance Plc & Ors

Commercial Court, 2022 – 2024

Acting for a number of football clubs in claims brought under policies of insurance for business interruption arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The claims settled ahead of a two-week trial listed in February 2025. (led by Andrew Green KC and Hanif Mussa KC)

Ocado Group Plc v McKeeve

[2021] EWHC 3542 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 2079; [2022] EWHC 2478

Acted for the respondent in a leading case in the law of contempt. Ocado made an application to commit a solicitor for contempt of court in respect of an instruction given by the respondent to delete a messaging app, following the service of a search order. The committal application was heard at a 6-day trial in June and July 2022. The case has involved important decisions in relation to the test for permission to bring an application for committal, the right to cross-examine witnesses in committal proceedings, the elements of contempt for interference with the administration of justice and the applicable sanctions for such contempt. The case has attracted considerable coverage in the national and legal press over the previous three years (led by Robert Weekes KC)

Public Institution for Social Security of Kuwait v Al Rajaan & Ors

Commercial Court, 2020 –

Acting for the 31st Defendant in one of the largest claims ever brought in the Commercial Court. The Claimant is a public institution authorised to operate the State of Kuwait's social-security system and pension scheme. It brings a claim in in respect of payments by various financial institutions and intermediaries that are alleged to be unauthorised secret commissions. The payments are said to have been paid over a period of approximately 20 years, in a total amount exceeding US$840 million. The case was featured as one of The Lawyer’s Top 20 cases of 2020 (led by Robert Weekes KC)

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Viegas and Sanches v Cutrale & Ors

[2021] EWHC 1340 (Comm); [2021] EWHC 2956 (Comm); [2023] EWHC 1896 (Comm)

Acting for the defendants in a competition damages claim regarding alleged breaches of Brazilian competition law in respect of orange juice production. The claim has involved interlocutory applications, including (a) security for costs; (b) a three-day jurisdiction hearing concerning jurisdiction under Brussels Recast and the Lugano Convention; and (c) a four-day strike out application concerning limitation and succession (with Brian Kennelly KC and Paul Luckhurst)

Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera

[2022] EWHC 2887 (Comm); [2023] EWHC 1393 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 149 (Comm)

Acting for the Claimant in proceedings to enforce a substantial US judgment (led by Tom Sprange KC)

VTB Bank PJSC v Mejlumyan

[2021] EWHC 3053 (Comm)

Acted as sole counsel in claim for a mandatory anti-suit injunction arising out of a pledge agreement between the parties which contained a provision for LCIA arbitration

[Company] v [Shareholder]

Ad hoc arbitration, 2021

Acted for a company in an ad hoc arbitration concerning the proper construction of a joint venture agreement following the exit of one of the shareholders from the joint venture (led by Andrew Green KC)

Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera & Ors

[2020] EWHC 980 (Comm); [2021] QB 744

Acted for the Claimant in obtaining a US$345 million freezing injunction in support of US proceedings involving the alleged theft of trade secrets against the Respondents. Appeal concerned the test for admissibility of without prejudice statements pursuant to the "unambiguous impropriety" exception (led by Tom Sprange KC)

Rowe & Ors v Ingenious Media Holdings Ltd

[2020] EWHC 1731 (Ch); [2021] 1 WLR 3189

Acted for the largest group of investors in multi-million pound fraud claims against the promoters of the 'Ingenious Group' film and video game investment schemes and other intermediaries who recommended the schemes, following decisions by HMRC as to the correct tax treatment of those schemes, and in various interlocutory applications and an appeal concerning security for costs (with Andrew Hunter KC, Sam Grodzinski KC and Tom Cleaver)

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Heritage Travel and Tourism Ltd v Windhorst

[2021] EWHC 2380 (Comm)

Acted for the Defendants in an application for summary judgment in a €172 million debt claim. The application was resisted on the basis that the Defendant had an arguable case that the settlement agreement was voided by economic duress or as an unconscionable bargain, subject to a condition precedent and/or that an acceleration clause was unenforceable as a penalty (led by Robert Anderson KC)

National Bank of Kazakhstan v Bank of New York New York Mellon SA/NV & Ors

[2020] EWHC 916 (Comm)

Acted for the Stati parties in a complex multi-jurisdictional commercial dispute concerning the enforcement of an outstanding $500m Swedish arbitration award. The claim arose out of the freezing of the US$22 billion of assets held by BNYM's London branch as custodian for NBK in response to garnishment orders obtained by creditors of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Belgian and the Netherlands. The case was featured as one of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2020. The two-week trial before Teare J in March 2020 was the first fully remote trial to be heard in the Commercial Court during the COVID-19 pandemic (led by Tom Sprange KC)

Vinler International Limited v Gabay

[2021] 1 WLUK 75

Acted as sole counsel for the successful Claimant in an application for summary judgment under CPR 24.2 in a debt claim arising from the breach of a settlement agreement

C Ltd v D

[2020] EWHC 1283 (Comm); [2020] Costs LR 955

Acted for the successful arbitrator in resisting the claimant's application for costs in relation to an application to remove the arbitrator under s.24 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (led by Tom Sprange KC)

Hore v Valmorbida

Jersey Royal Court, 2021

Advising the Claimant in a US$35 million claim for fraudulent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract, arising out of an arrangement to acquire and/or invest in valuable works of art. The case settled a week after trial (as sole English counsel, assisting Jersey advocates)

Shapoorji Pallonji v Yumn Ltd

[2021] EWHC 862 (Comm)

Acted for the Applicant in urgent injunctive proceedings in the Commercial Court relating to the calling of a performance bond issued in respect of the largest infrastructure project in Rwanda (led by Tom Sprange KC)

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Sullivan v Ruhan & Ors

[2019] EWHC 1336 (Comm)

Acted as sole counsel for the Second and Third Defendants in a £38 million claim arising out of a joint venture for the purchase of a freehold interest in London commercial property, involving claims of fraudulent misrepresentation and unlawful means conspiracy. Successfully resisted an application for default judgment, raising issues of service out of the jurisdiction in the Isle of Man and Switzerland

McGarahan v Dickens Developments UK LLP & Ors

[2018] EWHC 3589 (QB)

Acted for the Claimant in a claim arising out of joint venture for development of residential property in South East London, involving claims in breach of trust, dishonest assistance and inducing breach of contract. Successfully obtained a substantial proprietary freezing injunction against all the Defendants following a contested one-day application (led by Robert Weekes KC)

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Gayatri is frequently instructed in high value multi-jurisdictional fraud disputes, including matters involving freezing orders and search orders in England and abroad, and committal for contempt.

She is ranked as a 'Up & Coming' in Chambers and Partners and as a 'Leading Junior' in the Legal 500.

"Gayatri is intelligent, detail-focused and meticulous in her preparation."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

G I Globinvestment Ltd & Ors v XY ERS UK Ltd & Ors

[2024] EWHC 481 (Comm)

Acting for the Claimants in a €47 million claim involving allegations of conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract. The claim has involved (a) a two-day jurisdiction challenge; and (b) a two-day strike out application. A eight week trial took place between October and December 2024 (led by Daniel Saoul KC)

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Commercial Court, 2020 –

Acting for the 31st Defendant in one of the largest claims ever brought in the Commercial Court. The Claimant is a public institution authorised to operate the State of Kuwait's social-security system and pension scheme. It brings a claim in in respect of payments by various financial institutions and intermediaries that are alleged to be unauthorised secret commissions. The payments are said to have been paid over a period of approximately 20 years, in a total amount exceeding US$840 million. The case was featured as one of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2020 (led by Robert Weekes KC)

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Ocado Group Plc v McKeeve

[2021] EWHC 3542 (Ch); [2022] EWHC 2079; [2022] EWHC 2478

Acted for the respondent in a leading case in the law of contempt. Ocado made an application to commit a solicitor for contempt of court in respect of an instruction given by the respondent to delete a messaging app, following the service of a search order. The committal application was heard at a 6-day trial in June and July 2022. The case has involved important decisions in relation to the test for permission to bring an application for committal, the right to cross-examine witnesses in committal proceedings, the elements of contempt for interference with the administration of justice and the applicable sanctions for such contempt. The case has attracted considerable coverage in the national and legal press over the previous three years (led by Robert Weekes KC)

Agency for Policy Co-ordination on State Property & Ors v Sukhbaatar & Ors

[2020] EWHC 3179 (Comm)

Acted for the successful Applicants in obtaining an ex parte freezing injunction on behalf of the Government of Mongolia against the former Prime Minister of Mongolia, Batbold Sukhbaatar, in support of Mongolian proceedings concerning corruption and bribery relating to the State of Mongolia's mining assets (led by Steven Elliott KC)

Motorola Solutions Inc v Hytera & Ors

[2020] EWHC 980 (Comm); [2021] QB 744

Acted for the Claimant in obtaining a US$345 million freezing injunction in support of US proceedings involving the alleged theft of trade secrets against the Respondents. Appeal concerned the test for admissibility of without prejudice statements pursuant to the "unambiguous impropriety" exception (led by Tom Sprange KC)

Rowe & Ors v Ingenious Media Holdings Ltd

[2020] EWHC 1731 (Ch); [2021] 1 WLR 3189

Acted for the largest group of investors in multi-million pound fraud claims against the promoters of the 'Ingenious Group' film and video game investment schemes and other intermediaries who recommended the schemes, following decisions by HMRC as to the correct tax treatment of those schemes, and in various interlocutory applications and an appeal concerning security for costs (with Andrew Hunter KC, Sam Grodzinski KC and Tom Cleaver)

Hore v Valmorbida

Jersey Royal Court, 2021

Advising the Claimant in a US$35 million claim for fraudulent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract, arising out of an arrangement to acquire and/or invest in valuable works of art. The case settled a week after trial (as sole English counsel, assisting Jersey advocates)

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[Spanish Company] v [Belgian Company]

LCIA Arbitration, 2020

Acted for the Applicants in an application for an anti-suit injunction and other related measures before the LCIA Tribunal to prevent the commencement of foreign proceedings (led by Tom Sprange KC)

Sullivan v Ruhan & Ors

[2019] EWHC 1336 (Comm)

Acted as sole counsel for the Second and Third Defendants in a £38 million claim arising out of a joint venture for the purchase of a freehold interest in London commercial property, involving claims of fraudulent misrepresentation and unlawful means conspiracy. Successfully resisted an application for default judgment, raising issues of service out of the jurisdiction in the Isle of Man and Switzerland

McGarahan v Dickens Developments UK LLP & Ors

[2018] EWHC 3589 (QB)

Acted for the Claimant in a claim arising out of joint venture for development of residential property in South East London, involving claims in breach of trust, dishonest assistance and inducing breach of contract. Successfully obtained a substantial proprietary freezing injunction against all the Defendants following a contested one-day application (led by Robert Weekes KC)

Public & Regulatory

Gayatri frequently acts and advises on public and regulatory matters. Her clients include individuals, regulators, government departments, NGOs, and companies.

She is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel (since 2021) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Panel (since 2024). She was nominated for Public Law Junior of the Year (2023; Legal 500 Bar Awards).

She is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

"Gayatri is an absolute pleasure to work with. She is extremely clever and approachable, her drafting is excellent and her advice is always well considered."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

R (Law Society) v Lord Chancellor

[2024] 1 WLR 3097

Acting for the Claimant in a claim challenging the Lord Chancellor's failure to implement certain recommendations of Sir Christopher Bellamy's Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid regarding the provision of criminal legal aid (led by Tom de la Mare KC)

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R (Duke of Sussex) v SSHD

[2023] EWHC 1228 (Admin); [2022] EWHC 1936 (Admin); [2024] EWHC 418 (Admin)

Acting for the Claimant in claims concerning the arrangements for the provision of State security. An appeal is listed to be heard in April 2025 (led by Shaheed Fatima KC)

R (PSCU & Ors) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 823 (Admin)

Acted for Freedom from Torture in challenge to the UK Government's refugee pushback policy on the basis that it was ultra vires and incompatible with the 1951 Refugee Convention and Articles 3 and 4 ECHR, involving applications for disclosure and public interest immunity before the Divisional Court (acting as sole counsel). The Government withdrew the policy shortly before the hearing listed in May 2022 (with Raza Husain KC and Jason Pobjoy)

R (Friends of the Earth) v Secretary of State for International Trade / UKEF

[2023] 1 WLR 2011

Acting for Friends of the Earth in a claim concerning the compatibility of the Government's decision to provide up to USD 1.15 billion in export finance and support in relation to a liquefied natural gas project in Mozambique (with Jessica Simor KC, Zachary Douglas KC and Kate Cook)

R (Cumbria CC) v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

[2022] EWHC 388 (Admin)

Acted as sole counsel for the Defendant in successfully resisting a renewed application for permission to bring judicial review proceedings against a decision to split the county of Cumbria into two unitary councils

R (HM) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 695 (Admin); [2022] EWHC 2729 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in a successful claim challenging the Defendant's operation of a blanket policy to seize, retain and extract data from the mobile phones of migrants arriving by small boat (with Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

R (Elan-Cane) v SSHD

[2020] EWCA Civ 363; [2023] AC 559

Acted for Christie Elan-Cane in a judicial review concerning the legality of the UK Government's policy of refusing to issue non-gender-specific "X" passports to UK nationals (with Kate Gallafent KC and Tom Mountford)

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R (Motor Insurance Bureau & Ors) v Secretary of State for Transport

Administrative Court, 2021 –

Acted for the Motor Insurance Bureau and insurers in a claim arising out of the Government's protracted failure properly to implement Motor Insurance Directive, as interpreted by Case C-162/13 Vnuk v Zavarovalnica Triglav d.d. [2016] RTR 10. The case settled after the Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance) Act 2022 received Royal Assent (with Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

(1) Liberty (2) Privacy International v (1) Security Service (2) SSHD

[2023] HRLR 5

Acting for the Claimants in a claim concerning (i) serious defects in two of MI5's systems for holding data; (ii) MI5's failure to disclose (fully and frankly) the absence of safeguards for holding data to SSHD and Judicial Commissioners when applying for warrants and directions that permit MI5 to carry out secret surveillance; and (iii) SSHD's failure to investigate these matters when informed of certain "risks", in the context of deciding whether to issue such warrants. The claim was heard at a 5-day trial in July 2022 (with Tom de la Mare KC, Ben Jaffey KC, Daniel Cashman and David Heaton)

R (Fratila) v SSWP

[2021] 3 All ER 1043; [2022] 3 All ER 1045

Acted for the Claimants in claim challenging the lawfulness of an amendment to social security rules preventing reliance upon leave to remain arising from "pre-settled status" to meet the qualifying residence tests which are a condition of entitlement to Universal Credit (with Tom de la Mare KC and Tom Royston)

CG v Department for Communities in Northern Ireland

Court of Justice of the European Union (Grand Chamber), C-709/20

Acted for CG in a request for a preliminary ruling concerning whether Northern Irish legislation preventing reliance upon leave to remain arising from "pre-settled status" to meet the qualifying residence tests for entitlement to Universal Credit were contrary to Article 18 TFEU (with Richard Drabble KC, Tom de la Mare KC and Tom Royston)

R (Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2022] 1 WLR 2389

Acting for the Runnymede Trust, OBV and Voices4Change (intervening) in an appeal concerning the imposition of compulsory identification requirements for prospective voters in local government elections, which has been the subject of "voter ID" pilot schemes purportedly authorised under s.10 of the Representation of the People Act 2000 (led by Matthew Ryder KC)

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R (BVN) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 1159 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in a claim concerning the lawfulness of the Secretary of State's policy on the circumstances in which a potential victim of trafficking has given consent to withdraw from the NRM and the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State to impose bail conditions following the grant of High Court bail. Successfully obtained interim relief before the High Court on two occasions (led by Chris Buttler KC)

G (A child), Re

[2022] AC 544

Acted for UNHCR (intervening) an appeal concerning the relationship between international refugee law and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (led by Raza Husain KC)

Re Symbio Energy Limited

Ofgem Enforcement Decision Panel, 2021

Acted as sole counsel for Ofgem before the Enforcement Decision Panel in successfully resisting an appeal against its decision to impose a financial penalty on Symbio Energy Limited pursuant to s.27A of the Electricity Act 1989

[Applicants] v Russian Federation

European Court of Human Rights, 2020 –

Acting for Applicant companies and individuals in an application to the European Court of Human Rights for breaches of Article 6, Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 and Article 18 by the Russian Federation (with Shaheed Fatima KC and Paul Luckhurst)

Villiers v Villiers

[2020] 3 WLR 171

Acted for the successful Respondent, Mrs Villiers, in an appeal concerning an application for maintenance under s.27 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, raising issues of whether the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulation 2011 is ultra vires s.2(2)(b) of the European Communities Act 1972 and whether the court has the power to grant a stay of a maintenance application on grounds of forum non conveniens (with Timothy Scott KC and Alexis Campbell KC)

R (the3million & Ors) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2021] EWHC 245 (Admin)

Acted for the3million in a judicial review concerning the legality of the Government's conduct during the 2019 European Parliamentary Elections (led by Gerry Facenna KC)

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Big Brother Watch & Ors v United Kingdom

European Court of Human Rights (Grand Chamber), App Nos. 24960/15, 62322/14 and 58170/13, 25 May 2021

Acted for 10 Human Rights NGOs (including Liberty, Privacy International and Amnesty International) in a reference to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights challenging the UK's legislation governing the surveillance of communications and the UK-USA intelligence sharing regime, following the disclosures by Edward Snowden (led by Ben Jaffey KC)

R (Privacy International) v Investigatory Powers Tribunal

[2020] AC 491

Acted for Privacy International in an appeal concerning whether the ouster clause in s.67(8) RIPA 2000 excluded all judicial review of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (led by Dinah Rose KC, Jeffrey Jowell KC, Ben Jaffey KC and Tom Cleaver)

R (Lau Luen Huang) v Secretary for Justice

Hong Kong Court of First Instance, 2019

Advising the Claimant in a judicial review concerning proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 503), which repealed the express prohibition against extradition to Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau preserved by the "One Country, Two Systems" constitutional settlement for Hong Kong (with Lord Pannick KC and Tim Parker)

R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2019] 4 WLR 151

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue supplementary badger control licences, concerning the assessment of ecological risks under regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations and the effect of the CJEU's decision in Case 323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta (led by Paul Luckhurst)

R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2020] Env LR 1

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue badger control licences, concerning the proper interpretation of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) citation (led by Paul Luckhurst)

WA (Pakistan) v SSHD (UNHCR intervening)

[2019] EWCA Civ 302

Acted for UNHCR (intervening) in an appeal concerning the compatibility of the country guidance in MN (Ahmadis: Country Conditions: Risk: Pakistan) [2012] UKUT 389 (IAC) with the principle in HJ (Iran) v SSHD [2010] UKSC 31, and the responsibility of tribunals to apply that principle to their factual findings, irrespective of the positive case advanced by the applicant (with Michael Fordham KC and Shane Sibbel)

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Competition

Gayatri has considerable experience in competition law and has acted in a number of high-value claims in the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

She is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 for competition.

"Gayatri's abilities belie her years of experience. She is so good despite being so junior."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

Alex Neill Class Representative Ltd v Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe Ltd & Ors

[2023] CAT 73

Acting for the Proposed Defendants collective action proceedings in relation to allegations concerning the system for selling games and add-on content on the PlayStation Store. The claim is alleged to have caused losses in the region of £5 billion (with Daniel Beard KC and Charlotte Thomas)

Gutmann v Apple Inc & Ors

[2023] CAT 35; [2023] CAT 67

Acting for the Proposed Defendants in £850 million proposed collective action proceedings in relation to allegations concerning the technical performance of certain iPhone models and operating systems (with Lord Wolfson KC and Daniel Piccinin KC)

Group Litigation

Gayatri has been instructed on a number of cases involving group litigation, including commercial group actions, competition collective proceedings, GLOs, mass data protection litigation, and public law test claimant litigation.

She is ranked as 'Band 4' in Group Litigation in Chambers and Partners.

"Gayatri is an amazing barrister and great to work with. She is able to give her views and advise quickly and concisely without losing sight of the client experience."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

Gutmann v Apple Inc & Ors

[2023] CAT 35; [2023] CAT 67

Acting for the Proposed Defendants in £850 million proposed collective action proceedings in relation to allegations concerning the technical performance of certain iPhone models and operating systems (with Lord Wolfson KC and Daniel Piccinin KC)

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Alex Neill Class Representative Ltd v Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe Ltd & Ors

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[2020] EWHC 1731 (Ch); [2021] 1 WLR 3189

Acted for the largest group of investors in multi-million pound fraud claims against the promoters of the 'Ingenious Group' film and video game investment schemes and other intermediaries who recommended the schemes, following decisions by HMRC as to the correct tax treatment of those schemes, and in various interlocutory applications and an appeal concerning security for costs (with Andrew Hunter KC, Sam Grodzinski KC and Tom Cleaver)

Various Claimants v WM Morrison Supermarkets Plc

[2020] 2 AC 989

Acted for the successful Appellant, Morrisons, in a case arising out of the disclosure of payroll data of 100,000 employees on to the Internet by a rogue employee. The appeal concerned whether: (i) Morrisons is vicariously liable at common law for the disclosure; and (ii) if so, whether such liability is excluded by the Data Protection Act 1998 (led by Lord Pannick KC)

Mobile Telephone Voicemail Interception Litigation

Business and Property Courts, 2020 –

Acting for News International in ongoing managed litigation brought by celebrities and other prominent individuals alleging breach of privacy rights by "phone hacking"

EU Law

Gayatri has considerable experience in all areas of EU law. She is particularly familiar with, and has frequently advised on, issues arising out of the UK's departure from the EU.

Before coming to the Bar, Gayatri taught EU law to undergraduate students at Oriel College and Regent's Park College, University of Oxford.

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Cases

R (Fratila) v SSWP

[2021] 3 All ER 1043; [2022] 3 All ER 1045

Acted for the Claimants in claim challenging the lawfulness of an amendment to social security rules preventing reliance upon leave to remain arising from "pre-settled status" to meet the qualifying residence tests which are a condition of entitlement to Universal Credit (with Tom de la Mare KC and Tom Royston)

CG v Department for Communities in Northern Ireland

Court of Justice of the European Union (Grand Chamber), C-709/20

Acted for CG in a request for a preliminary ruling concerning whether Northern Irish legislation preventing reliance upon leave to remain arising from "pre-settled status" to meet the qualifying residence tests for entitlement to Universal Credit were contrary to Article 18 TFEU (with Richard Drabble KC, Tom de la Mare KC and Tom Royston)

R (the3million & Ors) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2021] EWHC 245 (Admin)

Acted for the3million in a judicial review concerning the legality of the Government's conduct during the 2019 European Parliamentary Elections (led by Gerry Facenna KC)

(1) MN; (2) IXU v SSHD (The AIRE Centre and Anti-Slavery International intervening)

[2021] 1 WLR 1956

Acted for Anti-Slavery International (intervening) in an appeal concerning the appropriate standard of proof for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking and whether the "balance of probabilities" threshold is consistent with Article 4 ECHR and Article 5 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to protect persons within its jurisdiction from being subjected to modern slavery or human trafficking (led by Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

Villiers v Villiers

[2020] 3 WLR 171

Acted for the successful Respondent, Mrs Villiers, in an appeal concerning an application for maintenance under s.27 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, raising issues of whether the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulation 2011 is ultra vires s.2(2)(b) of the European Communities Act 1972 and whether the court has the power to grant a stay of a maintenance application on grounds of forum non conveniens (with Timothy Scott KC and Alexis Campbell KC)

R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2019] 4 WLR 151

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue supplementary badger control licences, concerning the assessment of ecological risks under regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations and the effect of the CJEU's decision in Case 323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta (led by Paul Luckhurst)

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R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2020] Env LR 1

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue badger control licences, concerning the proper interpretation of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) citation (led by Paul Luckhurst)

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Gayatri frequently acts and advises on matters concerning civil liberties and human rights in a domestic and international context.

Cases

R (PSCU & Ors) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 823 (Admin)

Acted for Freedom from Torture in challenge to the UK Government's refugee pushback policy on the basis that it was ultra vires and incompatible with the 1951 Refugee Convention and Articles 3 and 4 ECHR, involving applications for disclosure and public interest immunity before the Divisional Court (acting as sole counsel). The Government withdrew the policy shortly before the hearing listed in May 2022 (with Raza Husain KC and Jason Pobjoy)

R (HM) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 695 (Admin); [2022] EWHC 2729 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in a successful claim challenging the Defendant's operation of a blanket policy to seize, retain and extract data from the mobile phones of migrants arriving by small boat (with Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

Wieder and Guarnieri v United Kingdom

(2024) 78 EHRR 8

Acted for the Applicants in a claim concerning whether the interception of the Applicants' communications and/or related communications data falls within the UK's jurisdiction for the purposes of Article 1 of the Convention (led by Ben Jaffey KC and David Heaton)

R (BVN) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 1159 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in a claim concerning the lawfulness of the Secretary of State's policy on the circumstances in which a potential victim of trafficking has given consent to withdraw from the NRM and the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State to impose bail conditions following the grant of High Court bail. Successfully obtained interim relief before the High Court on two occasions (led by Chris Buttler KC)

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(1) Liberty (2) Privacy International v (1) Security Service (2) SSHD

[2023] HRLR 5

Acting for the Claimants in a claim concerning (i) serious defects in two of MI5's systems for holding data; (ii) MI5's failure to disclose (fully and frankly) the absence of safeguards for holding data to SSHD and Judicial Commissioners when applying for warrants and directions that permit MI5 to carry out secret surveillance; and (iii) SSHD's failure to investigate these matters when informed of certain "risks", in the context of deciding whether to issue such warrants. The claim was heard at a 5-day trial in July 2022 (with Tom de la Mare KC, Ben Jaffey KC, Daniel Cashman and David Heaton)

Big Brother Watch & Ors v United Kingdom

European Court of Human Rights (Grand Chamber), App Nos. 24960/15, 62322/14 and 58170/13, 25 May 2021

Acted for 10 Human Rights NGOs (including Liberty, Privacy International and Amnesty International) in a reference to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights challenging the UK's legislation governing the surveillance of communications and the UK-USA intelligence sharing regime, following the disclosures by Edward Snowden (led by Ben Jaffey KC)

R (Elan-Cane) v SSHD

[2020] EWCA Civ 363; [2023] AC 559

Acted for Christie Elan-Cane in a judicial review concerning the legality of the UK Government's policy of refusing to issue non-gender-specific "X" passports to UK nationals (with Kate Gallafent KC and Tom Mountford)

G (A child), Re

[2022] AC 544

Acted for UNHCR (intervening) an appeal concerning the relationship between international refugee law and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (led by Raza Husain KC)

R (Fratila) v SSWP

[2021] 3 All ER 1043; [2022] 3 All ER 1045

Acted for the Claimants in claim challenging the lawfulness of an amendment to social security rules preventing reliance upon leave to remain arising from "pre-settled status" to meet the qualifying residence tests which are a condition of entitlement to Universal Credit (with Tom de la Mare KC and Tom Royston)

R (the3million & Ors) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2021] EWHC 245 (Admin)

Acted for the3million in a judicial review concerning the legality of the Government's conduct during the 2019 European Parliamentary Elections (led by Gerry Facenna KC)

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[Applicants] v Russian Federation

European Court of Human Rights, 2020 –

Acting for Applicant companies and individuals in an application to the European Court of Human Rights for breaches of Article 6, Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 and Article 18 by the Russian Federation (with Shaheed Fatima KC and Paul Luckhurst)

(1) MN; (2) IXU v SSHD (The AIRE Centre and Anti-Slavery International intervening)

[2021] 1 WLR 1956

Acted for Anti-Slavery International (intervening) in an appeal concerning the appropriate standard of proof for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking and whether the "balance of probabilities" threshold is consistent with Article 4 ECHR and Article 5 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to protect persons within its jurisdiction from being subjected to modern slavery or human trafficking (led by Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

R (Lau Luen Huang) v Secretary for Justice

Hong Kong Court of First Instance, 2019

Advising the Claimant in a judicial review concerning proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 503), which repealed the express prohibition against extradition to Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau preserved by the "One Country, Two Systems" constitutional settlement for Hong Kong (with Lord Pannick KC and Tim Parker)

WA (Pakistan) v SSHD (UNHCR intervening)

[2019] EWCA Civ 302

Acted for UNHCR (intervening) in an appeal concerning the compatibility of the country guidance in MN (Ahmadis: Country Conditions: Risk: Pakistan) [2012] UKUT 389 (IAC) with the principle in HJ (Iran) v SSHD [2010] UKSC 31, and the responsibility of tribunals to apply that principle to their factual findings, irrespective of the positive case advanced by the applicant (with Michael Fordham KC and Shane Sibbel)

Di Caprio & Ors v Italy

App Nos 39742/14, 51567/14, 74208/14 and 21215/15, European Court of Human Rights, 2020 –

Acting for the intervener, ClientEarth, in a high profile dispute concerning systematic environmental pollution in the South of Italy. The cases raises significant issues concerning the standing of individuals and organisations not resident in an area directly affected by pollution and the positive obligations of States proactively to address such pollution (led by Ravi Mehta)

Data Protection, Freedom of Information & Privacy

Gayatri has considerable experience advising on issues relating of data protection, freedom of information and privacy. She is regularly instructed to advise on data protection issues under domestic law and EU law.

"Gayatri is excellent. She is extremely clever, her drafting is very good, and she is well considered in her advice and strategically aware. Her work is always top-notch."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

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She is ranked as a 'Leading Junior' in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

Cases

Wieder and Guarnieri v United Kingdom

(2024) 78 EHRR 8

Acted for the Applicants in a claim concerning whether the interception of the Applicants' communications and/or related communications data falls within the UK's jurisdiction for the purposes of Article 1 of the Convention (led by Ben Jaffey KC and David Heaton)

Mobile Telephone Voicemail Interception Litigation

Business and Property Courts, 2020 –

Acting for News International in ongoing managed litigation brought by celebrities and other prominent individuals alleging breach of privacy rights by "phone hacking"

R (HM) v SSHD

[2022] EWHC 695 (Admin); [2022] EWHC 2729 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in a successful claim challenging the Defendant's operation of a blanket policy to seize, retain and extract data from the mobile phones of migrants arriving by small boat (with Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy)

(1) Liberty (2) Privacy International v (1) Security Service (2) SSHD

[2023] HRLR 5

Acting for the Claimants in a claim concerning (i) serious defects in two of MI5's systems for holding data; (ii) MI5's failure to disclose (fully and frankly) the absence of safeguards for holding data to SSHD and Judicial Commissioners when applying for warrants and directions that permit MI5 to carry out secret surveillance; and (iii) SSHD's failure to investigate these matters when informed of certain "risks", in the context of deciding whether to issue such warrants. The claim was heard at a 5-day trial in July 2022 (with Tom de la Mare KC, Ben Jaffey KC, Daniel Cashman and David Heaton)

Big Brother Watch & Ors v United Kingdom

European Court of Human Rights (Grand Chamber), App Nos. 24960/15, 62322/14 and 58170/13, 25 May 2021

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Various Claimants v WM Morrison Supermarkets Plc

[2020] 2 AC 989

Acted for the successful Appellant, Morrisons, in a case arising out of the disclosure of payroll data of 100,000 employees on to the Internet by a rogue employee. The appeal concerned whether: (i) Morrisons is vicariously liable at common law for the disclosure; and (ii) if so, whether such liability is excluded by the Data Protection Act 1998 (led by Lord Pannick KC)

R (Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

2020

Acted for Open Rights Group in a successful challenge concerning the Secretary of State's failure to conduct a DPIA prior to the deployment of NHS Test & Trace (led by Matthew Ryder KC)

Re: Technological Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020

Advising Open Society Foundations on the legal framework on the right to privacy and protection of personal data applying to the smartphone contact tracing and other data driven proposals that were part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of the opinion is available here.

[Technology Company] v [State]

2020

Advising technology company in relation to a proposed challenge to controversial legislation introduced by a foreign State to address the spread of fake news or false information (led by Timothy Otty KC)

R (Privacy International) v Investigatory Powers Tribunal

[2020] AC 491

Acted for Privacy International in an appeal concerning whether the ouster clause in s.67(8) RIPA 2000 excluded all judicial review of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (led by Dinah Rose KC, Jeffrey Jowell KC, Ben Jaffey KC and Tom Cleaver)

Arbitration

Gayatri has worked on a number of arbitrations under the LCIA and ICC Rules. She has also been instructed in matters involving the enforcement of arbitral awards and anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunctions in aid of arbitral proceedings.

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Cases

VTB Bank PJSC v Mejlumyan

[2021] EWHC 3053 (Comm)

Acted as sole counsel in claim for a mandatory anti-suit injunction arising out of a pledge agreement between the parties which contained a provision for LCIA arbitration

[Company] v [Shareholder]

Ad hoc arbitration, 2021

Acted for a company in an ad hoc arbitration concerning the proper construction of a joint venture agreement following the exit of one of the shareholders from the joint venture (led by Andrew Green KC)

[Company] v [State]

Commercial Court, 2021 –

Acting for the award creditors in an application to enforce an ICSID award of US$300m+ (led by Andrew Scott KC)

C Ltd v D

[2020] EWHC 1283 (Comm); [2020] Costs LR 955

Acted for the successful arbitrator in resisting the claimant's application for costs in relation to an application to remove the arbitrator under s.24 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (led by Tom Sprange KC)

[Spanish Company] v [Belgian Company]

LCIA Arbitration, 2020

Acted for the Applicants in an application for an anti-suit injunction and other related measures before the LCIA Tribunal to prevent the commencement of foreign proceedings (led by Tom Sprange KC)

National Bank of Kazakhstan v Bank of New York New York Mellon SA/NV & Ors

[2020] EWHC 916 (Comm)

Acted for the Stati parties in a complex multi-jurisdictional commercial dispute concerning the enforcement of an outstanding $500m Swedish arbitration award. The claim arose out of the freezing of the US$22 billion of assets held by BNYM's London branch as custodian for NBK in response to garnishment orders obtained by creditors of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Belgian and the Netherlands. The case was featured as one of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2020. The two-week trial before Teare J in March 2020 was the first fully remote trial to be heard in the Commercial Court during the COVID-19 pandemic (led by Tom Sprange KC)

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Environment

Gayatri regularly advises on issues of environmental law in the public and EU context.

She is ranked as a 'Up & Coming' in Chambers and Partners.

"Gayatri is an extremely good barrister who is a delight to work with and is very convincing in her advocacy."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

R (Friends of the Earth) v Secretary of State for International Trade / UKEF

[2023] 1 WLR 2011

Acting for Friends of the Earth in a claim concerning the compatibility of the Government's decision to provide up to USD 1.15 billion in export finance and support in relation to a liquefied natural gas project in Mozambique (with Jessica Simor KC, Zachary Douglas KC and Kate Cook)

Di Caprio & Ors v Italy

App Nos 39742/14, 51567/14, 74208/14 and 21215/15, European Court of Human Rights, 2020 –

Acting for the intervener, ClientEarth, in a high profile dispute concerning systematic environmental pollution in the South of Italy. The cases raises significant issues concerning the standing of individuals and organisations not resident in an area directly affected by pollution and the positive obligations of States proactively to address such pollution (led by Ravi Mehta)

R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2019] 4 WLR 151

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue supplementary badger control licences, concerning the assessment of ecological risks under regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations and the effect of the CJEU's decision in Case 323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta (led by Paul Luckhurst)

R (Langton) v (1) SSEFRA; (2) Natural England

[2020] Env LR 1

Acted for Natural England in a judicial review of the decision to issue badger control licences, concerning the proper interpretation of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) citation (led by Paul Luckhurst)

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

BA (Hons) Jurisprudence (Oxon); BCL (Distinction) (Oxon)

Prizes and Scholarships

- Conference Scholarship (ALBA, 2018)
- Phoenicia Scholarship (Bar European Group, 2018)
- Eastham Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn, 2017)
- Prize for Civil Advocacy (University of Law, 2017)
- Prize for Employment Law and Practice (University of Law, 2017)
- Winner, Lord Slynn of Hadley Cup (UKELA, 2017)
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Accommodation Award, Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn, 2016)
- Provost's Award for Excellence (University of Law, 2016)
- Winner, Frances Patterson Shield (UKELA, 2016)
- Winter Williams Prize for European Business Regulation (University of Oxford, 2015)
- Francis Taylor Building Prize for Environmental Law (University of Oxford, 2014)
- Isaiah Berlin Prizes for Administrative Law and Jurisprudence (Corpus Christi College, 2013)
- Scholar of Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford (2011 - 2014)

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Bar European Group
- Administrative Law Bar Association

VAT registration number: 305881891

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board