clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Natasha Simonsen



"Natasha is incredibly responsive, intelligent and impressive."
– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Year of call: **2016**
Degree: **B Ec (Soc Sci), LLB (University of Sydney), BCL (Dist.), MPhil, DPhil (Oxon) (Rhodes Scholar)**

Natasha practises in public law and human rights, regulatory and competition law; as well as related areas such as information law, commercial law, international law and sport. She is frequently instructed in high profile judicial reviews up to and including the Supreme Court, and regularly appears in appeals before the Competition and Markets Authority and Competition Appeals Tribunal.Natasha's academic background is in economics and law. She holds a BCL, MPhil and DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford and first class undergraduate degrees from the University of Sydney. Natasha's DPhil was in public international law. Prior to coming to the Bar, Natasha spent several years teaching law at the University of Oxford, King's College London and the Faculté Libre du Droit Paris. She has also previously worked as a consultant on human rights issues for various United Nations agencies and NGOs, having qualified as a solicitor in Australia.Natasha is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.Natasha is ranked in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. Recent comments include:

- "Natasha is incredibly responsive, intelligent and impressive."- Chambers UK, 2026
- "Natasha is a fantastic barrister and her attention to detail, academics and strategic approach are all far beyond her year of call." - Legal 500, 2026
- "She is incredibly bright, a brilliant drafter and delightful to work with." - Chambers UK, 2025
- "Natasha is clever, straightforward, persuasive, and a pleasure to deal with. Judges trust her and she has the advocate's skill of making everything she says appear obvious and impossible to rebut.' - Legal 500, 2025

Previous comments include:

- "Natasha is a brilliant junior. Her written submissions are sharp, concise and convincing, and she has an excellent way with clients."- Chambers UK, 2023
- "Natasha is extremely approachable and has an amazing work ethic. I am looking forward to watching the development of her career at the Bar."- Chambers UK, 2023
- "Working with Natasha is a pleasure; she is efficient, quick and well-prepared."- Legal 500, 2023

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

EXPERIENCE

Public & Regulatory

Natasha practises in all areas of public and administrative law.

In addition to her academic work on public law and human rights, Natasha has worked on a number of public and regulatory law cases before the High Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Competition and Markets Authority and Competition Appeals Tribunal, for both claimants and respondents.

Natasha is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.

"Natasha is a very clever lawyer and a very effective advocate."
— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Cases

The King (on the application of VT) (Sri Lanka) v Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory

BIOT SC 15&16/2023

The Supreme Court of the British Indian Ocean Territory found that a group of migrants were unlawfully detained on the island of Diego Garcia from their arrival in October 2021 for more than three years.

BIOT Migrants to come to the UK

A group of Tamil migrants who have been stranded on Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") for three years will be admitted to the UK, it has been announced. This follows extensive litigation in the Administrative Court in London and well as the BIOT Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

National Bank of Anguilla & Ors v Chief Minister of Anguilla & Ors, JCPC 2022/0079

Acting for the Appellants in their appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against the decision of the Anguillan courts to dismiss a claim for judicial review. The factual background is the Anguillan financial crisis of 2015 and the resolution plan implemented by the government and central bank to stabilise the banking system, but which excluded the Appellants' deposits from protection. Led by David Pievsky KC.

Advising on potential judicial review against the Financial Ombudsman Service

Advising in relation to commercial judicial review of allegedly unlawful decisions of the FOS.

R (Keighley) v Ofcom and the BBC

Acting for Ofcom in a challenge to the decision not to investigate the Claimant's complaints as to the BBC's coverage of the EU and of issues surrounding the UK's exit from the EU. Led by Jessica Boyd KC.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory v VT & Ors

[2024] BIOT CA (Civ) 3

Successfully defended the decision to grant limited bail to migrants on the British island of Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal expressed its concern about the welfare of all the migrants on the island, and particularly the children. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory v VT & Ors

[2024] BIOT CA (Civ) 1

The Court of Appeal of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down its first judgment in more than 40 years. The case concerns a number of Tamil asylum seekers who have been the island of Diego Garcia in the BIOT since September 2021. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

R (CT & Ors) v Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory

(BIOT SC 17, 18, 19 & 20/2024)

The Supreme Court of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down judgment in relation to a claim for judicial review and applications for wardship brought on behalf of a number of Tamil asylum-seekers who have been stranded on the island of Diego Garcia in the BIOT for some 2.5 years. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

VT, CT & Ors v Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory

BIOT SC/No.3/2023

The Supreme Court of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down judgment in VT, CT & Ors v Commissioner for the BIOT (BIOT SC/No.3/2023). This was an application for judicial review of the Defendant's refusal to determine claims for legal aid on behalf of ten impecunious asylum seekers who have been held on the island of Diego Garcia since October 2021. The Supreme Court held that the statutory and common law rights to legal aid in English law also apply in BIOT, contrary to the submissions of the Commissioner. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

BAA v Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (Paul Candler)

[2023] EWHC 767

The High Court (Whipple LJ and Chamberlain J) declined to grant interim relief to the Applicants, five ethnic Tamil asylum seekers. The Applicants had previously resided in refugee camps in India, from where they set out by boat in September 2021, before being rescued by the Royal Navy and taken to the island of Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT").

Mithani v ICO and JAC

Acting for the Judicial Appointments Commission (instructed by the Government Legal Department) in relation to an application for information concerning competitions for judicial appointment.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Garrard v ICO and HMT

Acting for HM Treasuring (instructed by the Government Legal Department) in relation to an application for information concerning relocation of a multinational corporation's headquarters to the UK.

R (Radiocentre Ltd) v Ofcom and the BBC (as Interested Party)

[2023] EWHC 1977 (Admin)

Acting for the BBC as Interested Party in a judicial review challenge to the BBC's launch of Radio 1 Dance (an online stream of dance music available via the BBC Sounds app) (led by Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

R (Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2022] UKSC 11

Acted for the Claimant in an application for judicial review of the introduction of voter identification requirements in local government elections (led by Anthony Peto KC in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, and by Michael Fordham KC, as he then was, at first instance).

R (Reprieve & Ors) v Prime Minister

[2020] EWHC 1695 (Admin)

Acting for the Claimants in this judicial review challenge to the Prime Minister's decision not to order an independent judge-led inquiry into UK complicity in torture and rendition (led by Ben Jaffey QC). Judgment was handed down by the Divisional Court on a preliminary issue (the appropriate standard of disclosure in closed material proceedings concerning national security) and an application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal is outstanding. The substantive hearing is listed in January 2020.

Advising a regulator on competition law aspects of proposed commercial activities

Advising a regulatory body on competition law constraints upon its commercial activities (led by Jessica Boyd KC).

Cadent Gas Ltd and Ors v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

CMA, 28 October 2021

Acted for GEMA in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals before the CMA, led by Gerry Facenna KC.

R (Citizens UK and Ors) v Prime Minister

Acted for the claimant NGO in a judicial review challenge to the failure to investigate allegations of Russian interference in UK democratic elections.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

R (Wales and West Utilities Ltd) v CMA

[2022] EWHC 2940 (Admin)

Acting for the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority as the Interested Party in a challenge to the CMA's decision in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals (with Daniel Cashman). Decision under appeal.

R (Wild Justice) v Ofwat

[2022] EWHC 2608 (Admin); [2023] EWCA Civ 28

Acted for the successful Defendant in an application for judicial review of Ofwat's compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (led by Hanif Mussa KC).

Advising techUK on data protection and data sharing

Advising techUK and some of its member entities on data protection obligations and the legal gateways to data sharing, including in relation to the Data Protection Acts and the GDPR

R(Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2020] EWCA Civ 723; [2019] EWHC 641 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant, Mr Coughlan, in a judicial review of the government's pilot schemes for voter identification in the May 2019 local government elections. The Claimant contended that the voter ID scheme was ultra vires the Representation of the People Act 2000 and did not reflect the constitutional significance of the right to vote. Natasha was led by Michael Fordham QC (as he then was) in the High Court proceedings in March 2019, and by Anthony Peto QC in the Court of Appeal in April 2020. An application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court remains outstanding.

R (ENRC) v Director of the Serious Fraud Office

(Administrative Court, 2019)

Acted for the claimant in this application for judicial review of the decision of the SFO to suspend an independent investigation (with Michael Fordham QC, Jason Pobjoy and Hollie Higgins).

Judicial review of the Government's refusal to hold an inquiry into UK complicity in torture and rendition

Natasha is instructed (led by Ben Jaffey QC) to act for Reprieve, David Davis MP and Dan Jarvis MP in an application for judicial review of the Government's decision not to order an independent judge-led inquiry into UK complicity into torture and rendition post 9/11.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

R (Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2019] EWHC 1967 (Admin)

Acted for the Defendant (led by David Pievsky) in an application for judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to transfer governance from the claimant Fire Authorities to the local Police and Crime Commissioners. The Court found in favour of the Defendants and refused permission to appeal.

Christchurch Borough Council v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

[2018] EWHC 2126 (Admin)

Acted for the Claimant in an application for judicial review of a proposal for local government reorganisation in Dorset under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

ARM Investors Help Group v Financial Services Compensation Scheme

High Court, 2017

Application for judicial review of a decision of the FSCS denying compensation to victims of mis-selling of ARM bonds (assisting Ben Jaffey QC)

Advising on potential JR of Financial Ombudsman Service

(Led by Andrew Green QC) advised a prospective commercial claimant on the prospects of successfully challenging a determination of the Financial Ombudsman Service

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 Vinall and Daniel Cashman).

Privacy International v Security Services

Investigatory Powers Tribunal, 2017

Challenge to the lawfulness of the Security Services' collection and retention of bulk data (assisting Thomas de la Mare QC, Ben Jaffey QC and Daniel Cashman)

UKRS Training Limited v NSAR Limited

[2017] CAT 14

Trial of preliminary issue as to whether a railway training accreditation body is an "undertaking" for the purposes of s 18 of the Competition Act 1998 (assisting Tristan Jones)

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Volkswagen Emissions Group Action

High Court, 2017

Group action by consumer who purchased or leased vehicles manufactured by VW, Audi, Škoda and SEAT which contained "defeat devices" to reduce NOx emissions during engine testing (assisting Thomas de la Mare QC and Ben Jaffey QC)

Camelot UK Ltd

Successfully defended Camelot UK Ltd (the administrator of the National Lottery) in a claim for judicial review.

Assisting on potential claims against the Secretary of State for Health

Assisting on potential claims against the Secretary of State for Health in respect of the conduct of the Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency.

Competition

Natasha has a busy competition law practice which includes follow-on and standalone claims in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Competition Appeals Tribunal, as well as advisory work.

Cases

Trucks Second Wave Claims

Acting for one of the claimants in Second Wave of the Trucks litigation. Led by Jessica Boyd KC.

FX Litigation

Acting for one of the defendant banks in this CPO claim in relation to foreign exchange trading. Led by Daniel Beard KC and Sarah Ford KC.

Google Ad Tech CPO

Acting for Google (led by Meredith Pickford KC) in its response to two applications for opt-out collective proceedings orders in relation to ad tech.

Northern Powergrid v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Instructed as junior counsel for Ofgem (led by Daniel Beard KC) in an appeal to the Competition and Markets Authority brought by Northern Powergrid against Ofgem's RIIO-ED2 price control decision.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

R (Radiocentre Ltd) v Ofcom and the BBC (as Interested Party)

[2023] EWHC 1977 (Admin)

Acting for the BBC as Interested Party in a judicial review challenge to the BBC's launch of Radio 1 Dance (an online stream of dance music available via the BBC Sounds app) (led by Monica Carss-Frisk KC).

R (Wales and West Utilities Ltd) v CMA

[2022] EWHC 2940 (Admin)

Acting for the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority as the Interested Party in a challenge to the CMA's decision in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals (with Daniel Cashman). Decision under appeal.

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

Acting for JPMorgan Chase 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 Daniel Beard KC).

Cadent Gas Ltd and Ors v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

CMA, 28 October 2021

Acted for GEMA in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals before the CMA, led by Gerry Facenna KC.

Michael O'Higgins FX Class Representative / Evans v Barclays Bank plc & ors [2021] CAT 16 (on appeal)

Acting for JPMorgan Chase in proposed collective proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal arising out of European Commission decisions concerning conduct in FX markets (led by Sarah Ford KC).

Advising a regulator on competition law aspects of proposed commercial activities

Advising a regulatory body on competition law constraints upon its commercial activities (led by Jessica Boyd KC).

Advising on a prospective claimant CPO

Advising on and acting in an application for an opt-out collective proceedings order in the Competition Appeals Tribunal in a high value and complex claim.

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 Vinall and Daniel Cashman).

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Peugeot SA & Ors v NSK Ltd & Ors

Competition Appeal Tribunal & High Court, 2016-17

Follow-on damages claim by purchasers of automobile bearings after the European Commission imposed a €953 million fine in respect of a 7-year cartel (assisting Thomas de la Mare QC, Naina Patel, Tristan Jones and Celia Rooney)

UKRS Training Limited v NSAR Limited

[2017] CAT 14

Trial of preliminary issue as to whether a railway training accreditation body is an "undertaking" for the purposes of s 18 of the Competition Act 1998 (assisting Tristan Jones)

Deutsche Bahn AG & Ors v MasterCard Inc & Ors

Competition damages claim relating to the setting of interchange fees, including applicable law and limitation issues (assisting Kieron Beal QC and Tristan Jones)

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Natasha accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' civil liberties and human rights practice. She has appeared in a number of high profile judicial reviews for both claimants and respondents. She has worked on cases concerning human rights and civil liberties in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal, the High Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European Court of Human Rights.

"Natasha is incredibly passionate and will leave no stone unturned."
— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Natasha has published widely on human rights and civil liberties, and taught human rights law at undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Oxford from 2012-2016.

Natasha is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.

Cases

BIOT Migrants to come to the UK

A group of Tamil migrants who have been stranded on Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") for three years will be admitted to the UK, it has been announced. This follows extensive litigation in the Administrative Court in London and well as the BIOT Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory v VT & Ors

[2024] BIOT CA (Civ) 3

Successfully defended the decision to grant limited bail to migrants on the British island of Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal expressed its concern about the welfare of all the migrants on the island, and particularly the children. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory v VT & Ors

[2024] BIOT CA (Civ) 1

The Court of Appeal of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down its first judgment in more than 40 years. The case concerns a number of Tamil asylum seekers who have been the island of Diego Garcia in the BIOT since September 2021. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

R (CT & Ors) v Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory

(BIOT SC 17, 18, 19 & 20/2024)

The Supreme Court of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down judgment in relation to a claim for judicial review and applications for wardship brought on behalf of a number of Tamil asylum-seekers who have been stranded on the island of Diego Garcia in the BIOT for some 2.5 years. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

VT, CT & Ors v Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory

BIOT SC/No.3/2023

The Supreme Court of the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT") handed down judgment in VT, CT & Ors v Commissioner for the BIOT (BIOT SC/No.3/2023). This was an application for judicial review of the Defendant's refusal to determine claims for legal aid on behalf of ten impecunious asylum seekers who have been held on the island of Diego Garcia since October 2021. The Supreme Court held that the statutory and common law rights to legal aid in English law also apply in BIOT, contrary to the submissions of the Commissioner. Led by Ben Jaffey KC.

BAA v Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (Paul Candler)

[2023] EWHC 767

The High Court (Whipple LJ and Chamberlain J) declined to grant interim relief to the Applicants, five ethnic Tamil asylum seekers. The Applicants had previously resided in refugee camps in India, from where they set out by boat in September 2021, before being rescued by the Royal Navy and taken to the island of Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory ("BIOT").

R (Citizens UK and Ors) v Prime Minister

Acted for the claimant NGO in a judicial review challenge to the failure to investigate allegations of Russian interference in UK democratic elections.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Bradshaw and Ors v UK

Application no. 15653/22

Acting for a group of MPs in a challenge in the ECtHR concerning the obligation to investigate hostile state interference in UK democratic elections (with Richard Hermer KC, Ben Jaffey KC and Jason Pobjoy).

R (Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2022] UKSC 11

Acted for the Claimant in an application for judicial review of the introduction of voter identification requirements in local government elections (led by Anthony Peto KC in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, and by Michael Fordham KC, as he then was, at first instance).

Shagang Shipping Company Ltd (in liquidation) v HNA Group Company Ltd

[2020] UKSC 34

Acted for Liberty (as intervener) in a case about the proper approach, in the context of a commercial dispute, to evidence which may have been obtained by torture (with Ben Jaffey QC and George Molyneaux).

Ukraine v Russia

App No 11055/22

Acting pro bono on behalf of Ukraine in an inter-state case before the ECtHR concerning the Ukrainian Government's allegations of "human rights violations committed by the Russian Federation in its military operations on the territory of Ukraine since 24 February 2022"

R (Reprieve & Ors) v Prime Minister

[2020] EWHC 1695 (Admin)

Acting for the Claimants in this judicial review challenge to the Prime Minister's decision not to order an independent judge-led inquiry into UK complicity in torture and rendition (led by Ben Jaffey QC). Judgment was handed down by the Divisional Court on a preliminary issue (the appropriate standard of disclosure in closed material proceedings concerning national security) and an application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal is outstanding. The substantive hearing is listed in January 2020.

Prevention of torture

Delivering training in Lebanon to two Lebanese Bar Associations on international and domestic law standards prohibiting torture and the role of human rights lawyers in upholding those standards (with Timothy Otty QC and Isabel Buchanan)

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Judicial review of the Government's refusal to hold an inquiry into UK complicity in torture and rendition

Natasha is instructed (led by Ben Jaffey QC) to act for Reprieve, David Davis MP and Dan Jarvis MP in an application for judicial review of the Government's decision not to order an independent judge-led inquiry into UK complicity into torture and rendition post 9/11.

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

Supreme Court, 2017

Acting pro bono for the AIRE Centre, intervening in a case about whether refugees in the UK's sovereign base areas in Cyprus have the right to enter the metropolitan UK (with Mike Fordham QC, Katie O'Byrne and Natasha Simonsen).

Privacy International v Security Services

Investigatory Powers Tribunal, 2017

Challenge to the lawfulness of the Security Services' collection and retention of bulk data (assisting Thomas de la Mare QC, Ben Jaffey QC and Daniel Cashman)

Belhaj & Ors v Straw & Ors

[2017] UKSC 3; [2017] 2 WLR 456

Claims by Libyan/Moroccan family against MI5 and MI6 for complicity in their unlawful abduction in Thailand, rendition to Libya, detention and torture (assisting Ben Jaffey QC)

Catt v United Kingdom

2017, European Court of Human Rights

Application to the Strasbourg Court challenging the compatibility of the Metropolitan Police's retention of personal information about peaceful protestors with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (assisting Ben Jaffey QC)

Reich v Ministry of Justice

Court of Appeal, 2017

Appeal by a prisoner against the dismissal of his claims under Articles 3 and 8 ECHR and for disability discrimination in relation to sanitation arrangements in a high-security prison (assisting Ben Jaffey QC)

Data Protection, Freedom of Information & Privacy

Natasha has considerable experience advising on issues relating to data protection, freedom of information and privacy.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Cases

Mithani v ICO and JAC

Acting for the Judicial Appointments Commission (instructed by the Government Legal Department) in relation to an application for information concerning competitions for judicial appointment.

Garrard v ICO and HMT

Acting for HM Treasuring (instructed by the Government Legal Department) in relation to an application for information concerning relocation of a multinational corporation's headquarters to the UK.

Gerrard v Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation; Diligence International QBD 2019

Acting for the First Defendant, ENRC in a high-profile claim brought by a partner of Dechert LLP. The claim concerns alleged surveillance carried out by the Second Defendant, Diligence International as part of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the partner during the period in which he was retained by ENRC.

Gerrard v Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation; Diligence International

Acted for the First Defendant, ENRC in a high-profile claim brought by a partner of Dechert LLP. The claim concerned alleged surveillance carried out by the Second Defendant, Diligence International as part of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the partner during the period in which he was retained by ENRC (with Tom de la Mare KC and Daniel Burgess)

Advising techUK on data protection and data sharing

Advising techUK and some of its member entities on data protection obligations and the legal gateways to data sharing, including in relation to the Data Protection Acts and the GDPR

Advising players' association on data protection rights

Advising a professional players' sporting association on the implications of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 for athletes' rights, including in relation to "wearables" generating personal data during sporting competitions.

Energy

Natasha has significant experience in the field of energy regulation. Since spending 3 months on secondment to Ofgem in 2018, Natasha has been involved in many of the leading cases in the area. These include challenges in the CMA to the RIIO GD2, T2 and ED2 price controls, in which she successfully represented Ofgem, an ongoing challenge by way of judicial review to the CMA's decision in relation to the RIIO2 control, and enforcement proceedings against energy suppliers in respect of smart metering obligations.

"Natasha shows a masterful grasp of our business, top-tier knowledge of public law and energy regulation and a really helpful understanding of how to interact with the court"

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Natasha frequently advises Ofgem and regulated companies on various aspects of the UK energy regulatory scheme.

Cases

Northern Powergrid v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Instructed as junior counsel for Ofgem (led by Daniel Beard KC) in an appeal to the Competition and Markets Authority brought by Northern Powergrid against Ofgem's RIIO-ED2 price control decision.

R (Wales and West Utilities Ltd) v CMA

[2022] EWHC 2940 (Admin)

Acting for the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority as the Interested Party in a challenge to the CMA's decision in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals (with Daniel Cashman). Decision under appeal.

Cadent Gas Ltd and Ors v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

CMA, 28 October 2021

Acted for GEMA in the Energy Licence Modification Appeals before the CMA, led by Gerry Facenna KC.

Commercial

Natasha accepts instructions in all areas of commercial litigation. She has acted in a wide range of complex and high-value commercial disputes. She has particular expertise in commercial claims with a regulatory and/or administrative law angle.

Cases

Michael O'Higgins FX Class Representative / Evans v Barclays Bank plc & ors [2021] CAT 16 (on appeal)

Acting for JPMorgan Chase in proposed collective proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal arising out of European Commission decisions concerning conduct in FX markets (led by Sarah Ford KC).

Gerrard v Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation; Diligence International QBD 2019

Acting for the First Defendant, ENRC in a high-profile claim brought by a partner of Dechert LLP. The claim concerns alleged surveillance carried out by the Second Defendant, Diligence International as part of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the partner during the period in which he was retained by ENRC.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Gerrard v Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation; Diligence International

Acted for the First Defendant, ENRC in a high-profile claim brought by a partner of Dechert LLP. The claim concerned alleged surveillance carried out by the Second Defendant, Diligence International as part of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the partner during the period in which he was retained by ENRC (with Tom de la Mare KC and Daniel Burgess)

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

Acting for JPMorgan Chase 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 Daniel Beard KC).

GGG v GGG

Commercial Court, 2018

Natasha acted for the Defendant in this high value claim relating to alleged bribery of a foreign public official. Parallel investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. Natasha was led by Tony Peto QC and Peter Head.

Cosmetic Warriors & Anor v Gerrie

[2017] EWCA Civ 324

Hearing in the Court of Appeal on the proper construction of pre-emption provisions in the articles of association of a private limited company (assisting Mark Vinall)

Volkswagen Emissions Group Action

High Court, 2017

Group action by consumer who purchased or leased vehicles manufactured by VW, Audi, Škoda and SEAT which contained "defeat devices" to reduce NOx emissions during engine testing (assisting Thomas de la Mare QC and Ben Jaffey QC)

[International Banks] v [International Banks]

LCIA Arbitration, 2017

Claim concerning subordinated loans alleged to have been extinguished by operation of Russian law (assisting Andrew Green QC and Robert Weekes)

Boxing Arbitration

2017

Arbitration hearing before the British Boxing Board of Control, raising issues relating to breach of contract and quantum of damages (assisting Robert Weekes).

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Renova Industries Ltd & ors v Emmerson International Corporation & Ors

BVI Commercial Court, 2016-17

$800m+ claim in the BVI Commercial Court concerning a joint venture in relation to various power generation and distribution assets in Russia (assisting Pushpinder Saini QC and Robert Weekes)

Quantum Pharma Group Ltd & Anor v Gould & Anor

High Court, 2016-17

Claim for deceit and breach of warranty relating to a sale and purchase of a pharmaceutical company (assisting Robert Weekes)

Barsnes v Ryanair DAC

Acted for the Defendant in a jurisdiction dispute on the applicability of the recast Brussels Regulation to flight compensation claims pursuant to EC Regulation 261/2004

Sport

Natasha's sports law practise encompasses contract law, disciplinary matters, employment, tort law, data protection and competition claims.

"Natasha is clever, straightforward, persuasive, and a pleasure to deal with. Judges trust her and she has the advocate's skill of making everything she says appear obvious and impossible to rebut."

— LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

In the matter of Ahmad Al Kamali and the IAAF Code of Ethics

(2020)

An independent Panel of the IAAF Ethics Board partially upheld charges against the President of the UAE Athletics Federation and former World Athletics (previously IAAF) Council member, Ahmad Al Kamali. The Panel imposed a sanction upon Mr Al Kamali of a ban from the sport for 6 months, fined him €5,000 and ordered him to pay €15,000 in costs. Natasha acted as Legal Secretary to the Panel of the IAAF Ethics Board.

Advising players' association on data protection rights

Advising a professional players' sporting association on the implications of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 for athletes' rights, including in relation to "wearables" generating personal data during sporting competitions.

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Boxing Arbitration

2017

Arbitration hearing before the British Boxing Board of Control, raising issues relating to breach of contract and quantum of damages (assisting Robert Weekes).

International Association of Athletics Federations

Natasha serves as one of three Legal Secretaries to the Ethics Board of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

Public International Law

Natasha has a strong academic background in public international law. Since joining Chambers, she has worked on public international law issues in cases before the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Natasha's doctoral thesis at the University of Oxford was on the definition of torture in public international law. She has worked as a consultant on public international law issues including the rights of the child, refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

Cases

Bradshaw and Ors v UK

Application no. 15653/22

Acting for a group of MPs in a challenge in the ECtHR concerning the obligation to investigate hostile state interference in UK democratic elections (with Richard Hermer KC, Ben Jaffey KC and Jason Pobjoy).

Advising on legal effect of Security Council Resolutions

Advising an international corporation working in responsible sourcing of natural resources on the legal effect of Security Council Resolutions (including e.g. in relation to conflict diamonds)

Ukraine v Russia

App No 11055/22

Acting pro bono on behalf of Ukraine in an inter-state case before the ECtHR concerning the Ukrainian Government's allegations of "human rights violations committed by the Russian Federation in its military operations on the territory of Ukraine since 24 February 2022"

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Prevention of torture

Delivering training in Lebanon to two Lebanese Bar Associations on international and domestic law standards prohibiting torture and the role of human rights lawyers in upholding those standards (with Timothy Otty QC and Isabel Buchanan)

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

Supreme Court, 2017

Acting pro bono for the AIRE Centre, intervening in a case about whether refugees in the UK's sovereign base areas in Cyprus have the right to enter the metropolitan UK (with Mike Fordham QC, Katie O'Byrne and Natasha Simonsen).

Judicial review of the Government's refusal to hold an inquiry into UK complicity in torture and rendition

Natasha is instructed (led by Ben Jaffey QC) to act for Reprieve, David Davis MP and Dan Jarvis MP in an application for judicial review of the Government's decision not to order an independent judge-led inquiry into UK complicity into torture and rendition post 9/11.

Belhaj & Ors v Straw & Ors

[2017] UKSC 3; [2017] 2 WLR 456

Claims by Libyan/Moroccan family against MI5 and MI6 for complicity in their unlawful abduction in Thailand, rendition to Libya, detention and torture (assisting Ben Jaffey QC)

Private International Law

Natasha has worked on a number of matters with private international law aspects, including questions of jurisdiction, applicable law and limitation.

Cases

[International Banks] v [International Banks]

LCIA Arbitration, 2017

Claim concerning subordinated loans alleged to have been extinguished by operation of Russian law (assisting Andrew Green QC and Robert Weekes)

Renova Industries Ltd & ors v Emmerson International Corporation & Ors

BVI Commercial Court, 2016-17

$800m+ claim in the BVI Commercial Court concerning a joint venture in relation to various power generation and distribution assets in Russia (assisting Pushpinder Saini QC and Robert Weekes)

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Barsnes v Ryanair DAC

Acted for the Defendant in a jurisdiction dispute on the applicability of the recast Brussels Regulation to flight compensation claims pursuant to EC Regulation 261/2004

Deutsche Bahn AG & Ors v MasterCard Inc & Ors

Competition damages claim relating to the setting of interchange fees, including applicable law and limitation issues (assisting Kieron Beal QC and Tristan Jones)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

LLB (Distinction) (University of Sydney); BCL (Distinction) (Oxon); MPhil, DPhil (Oxon)

Prizes and Scholarships

- Atkin Scholar, The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, 2017
- Charterhouse European Bursary, University of Oxford/University of Leiden, 2014
- Rhodes Scholar for New South Wales, Australia, 2009-2014
- Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, University of Sydney, 2003-2007
- Walter Reid Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, University of Sydney, 2006 and 2007
- World Champion, 2007 Phillip C Jessup International Law Moot, Washington DC
- Best Oralist, Australian National Rounds, 2007 Phillip C Jessup International Law Moot, High Court of Australia, Canberra

Publications

- Simonsen N 'Torture' in Grote R, R Wolfrum and F Lachenmann (eds) Max Planck Encyclopaedia of Comparative Constitutional Law (OUP 2017) (forthcoming)

- Lazarus L and N Simonsen 'Judicial Review and Parliamentary Debate: Enriching the Doctrine of Due Deference', in Hunt M, H Hooper and P Yowell (eds) Redressing the Democratic Deficit on Human Rights (Hart 2015)

- Simonsen N (2011) '"War on Terror": The Oxford Amnesty Lectures 2006 (Book Review)' (2011) European Human Rights Law Review 239

clerks@blackstonechambers.com
+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Chilton, F, Rathmall, A & Simonsen, N (2008) 'Mergers and Acquisitions in Australia' in Lachman, A (ed) Mergers and Acquisitions: A Practical Global Guide, Globe Business Publishing Ltd

Volunteering and pro bono

Natasha completed a three-month internship at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2008. She has also volunteered for refugee and homelessness charities in Australia and the UK, and in 2012 she and and a group of friends swam the English Channel to raise money for the Acid Survivors Foundation Pakistan.

VAT registration number: 276276275

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board