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Rowan Stennett



Year of call: **2022**
Degree: **BA Law (Cantab, Starred First Class), BCL (Oxon, Oxford-Finnis Scholar), BVS (ICCA, Distinction)**

Rowan accepts instructions in all of Chambers' practice areas, with a particular emphasis on commercial, competition, sports and public law. Rowan's experience includes:

- acting for the successful defendant in Gorbachev v Guriev [2024] EWHC 2174 (Comm), including in a six-week trial which determined entitlements to trust assets said to be worth in excess of £1 billion (listed in the The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2024);
- acting for the Scania defendants in the Trucks litigation before the Competition Appeal Tribunal;
- representing the Toyota defendants in the ongoing UK NOx emissions proceedings (listed in The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2025);
- acting for AXA in its dispute with Santander plc, in a claim before the Commercial Court seeking over £400 million of damages arising from the allocation of liability for historic mis-selling of PPI;
- representing Ofcom in judicial review proceedings brought by GB News (listed in The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2025 - [2025] EWHC 460 (Admin));
- acting (unled) for the Lebanese Athletics Federation in proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport;
- in the sports context, acting for clients including The FA, the RFU, Arsenal FC, Fulham FC, Brighton and Hove Albion FC, the Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation and others.

Before coming to the Bar, Rowan worked as a Judicial Assistant in the Court of Appeal, assisting Dingemans LJ on a number of high-profile appeals. He developed particular expertise in public law, human rights, and EU law by working on the appeals in Hogue and ors v SSHD [2020] 4 WLR 154, XXX v Camden LBC [2020] 4 WLR 165, Fratila v SSWP [2021] 3 All ER 1043, Tavistock v Bell [2021] 1 All ER 416, and Privacy International v SSFCA [2021] QB 1087.

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Previously, Rowan was a Summer Fellow at the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. He worked in a team considering the legal governance and data protection implications of 'contact tracing' technology being deployed internationally during the coronavirus pandemic. He also took part in research projects assessing the compatibility of the UK Internal Market Bill and the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement with domestic and international law. Rowan's interest in EU and EU-relations law was developed by contributing to consultation submissions made to the Ministry of Justice concerning the courts' powers to depart from retained EU case law following Brexit.

Rowan has also spent time assisting on commercial and company law cases at Des Voeux Chambers in Hong Kong and has worked as a supervisor in law for four colleges at the University of Cambridge.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law. His practice encompasses a broad range of complex multi-jurisdictional and high-value claims in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division.

Cases

Gorbachev v Guriev

[2024] EWHC 2174 (Comm); [2024] EWHC 2459 (Comm)

Instructed by the defendant in a claim valued at over £1 billion. The claimant sought relief pursuant to an alleged oral trust, alternatively in promissory estoppel. The action was dismissed in its entirety and the defendant awarded indemnity costs. Led by Helen Davies KC, Tom Weisselberg KC and Daniel Cashman.

AXA v Santander plc

2025

Acting for AXA in its dispute with Santander plc, in a claim before the Commercial Court seeking over £400 million of damages arising from the allocation of liability for historic mis-selling of PPI (led by Andrew Green KC, Fraser Campbell and Timothy Lau).

NOx Emissions Group Litigation

2025

Acting for the Toyota defendants in the NOx Emissions Group Litigation in the High Court, involving complex and high-value claims in relation to the manufacture and sale of diesel vehicles (led by Neil Kitchener KC and Sophie Weber).

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Jafar v Abraaj Holdings

FSD 203/2020

Instructed by the claimant in a deceit claim before the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, seeking in excess of USD 200 million in damages arising from the widely-publicised collapse of the Abraaj Group, believed to be the largest ever collapse of a private equity investment platform (valued at over $13.6 billion). Led by Luka Krsljanin.

SEL (UK) v NWCA

2024

Instructed by the claimant in a debt claim before the Commercial Court. Successfully resisted a security for costs application (appearing unled), shortly following which the case settled.

Secretary of State for Business and Trade v Various Directors

2023

Assisted in director disqualification proceedings brought by the Secretary of State for Business and Trade against the former Directors of Carillion, on behalf one of the former Directors. The case raised allegations of fraud and settled before trial (assisting Harry Adamson).

Trucks Cartel Litigation

Ongoing

Representing Scania in UK litigation arising from the European Commission's decisions relating to the alleged Trucks cartel, in High Court and CAT proceedings (with Brian Kennelly KC, Jason Pobjoy, Andrew Trotter and Rayan Fakhoury).

Re Misappropriated Shares

2024-2025

Instructed by the Petitioner in an unfair prejudice petition concerning shares in a technology company, said to be worth in excess of £30 million (with Peter Head).

Various Claimants v MGN

2023

Assisted in the phone hacking litigation brought by the Duke of Sussex and other claimants, on behalf of the Mirror Group (assisting Harry Adamson).

Re Property Dispute

2025

Acting unled for the claimant, an internationally renowned musician, in a property dispute raising conflicts of law and trusts law issues.

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Re Construction Dispute

2024-2025

Acting unled for the defendant, a large corporate group, in a construction dispute alleged to be worth around £500,000.

Re Unpaid Royalties

2025

Acting for an internationally renowned musician in a debt claim for unpaid royalties (led by Ian Mill KC).

RPA v RFU

2023

Acted unled for the Rugby Football Union in a commercial arbitration brought by the Rugby Players Association.

Re Unfair Prejudice

2023-2025

Acted unled for a shareholder in an unfair prejudice petition concerning the management of an e-Sports company. The case settled before trial.

Re Arbitral Challenge

2023

Assisted in bringing a challenge to an arbitral award under sections 67 and 68 of the Arbitration Act (assisting Celia Rooney). The case settled.

Re Conspiracy Claim

2023

Assisted in bringing claims for unlawful means conspiracy and inducing breach of contract in a commercial dispute arising from conduct carried out across five jurisdictions (assisting Celia Rooney). The case raised various issues concerning private international law, competition law and civil fraud.

Re Negligence Claim against a Bank

2023

Advised a bank in relation to proposed negligence claims being brought against it (assisting Celia Rooney). The case raised issues concerning the SAAMCO 'scope of duty' principle.

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Premier League v Everton FC

2023

Acted in proceedings brought by the Premier League against Everton Football Club alleging a breach of the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability (FFP) Rules, on behalf of the club (assisting James Segan KC and Celia Rooney).

Re Chelsea FC v X

2023

Advised Chelsea Football Club in relation to a private commercial dispute raising issues of unjust enrichment and contract law (assisting Celia Rooney).

Re Sanctions and Force Majeure

2022

Advised a private company in relation to the impact of the domestic sanctions regime on various commercial transactions and, in particular, on contractual 'force majeure' clauses (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

LCIA Arbitration

2023

Assisted in a speedy arbitration to enforce post-termination restrictive covenants (assisting Paul Goulding KC and Craig Rajgopaul). The case raised various issues relating to both employment law and the international enforcement of arbitral awards.

Declan Colgan Music Ltd v UMG Recordings Inc

2023

Acted for the claimant in a royalty dispute concerning the song "Power" by Kanye West (assisting Celia Rooney). The case raised various preliminary issues concerning the application of foreign law and admission of expert evidence.

Competition

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of competition law, and is currently instructed in some of the largest and most complex disputes in this jurisdiction. He has a particular interest in sports-related competition law matters.

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Cases

Trucks Cartel Litigation

Ongoing

Representing Scania in UK litigation arising from the European Commission's decisions relating to the alleged Trucks cartel, in High Court and CAT proceedings (with Brian Kennelly KC, Jason Pobjoy, Andrew Trotter and Rayan Fakhoury).

NOx Emissions Group Litigation

2025

Acting for the Toyota defendants in the NOx Emissions Group Litigation in the High Court, involving complex and high-value claims in relation to the manufacture and sale of diesel vehicles (led by Neil Kitchener KC and Sophie Weber).

Interchange Fee Umbrella Proceedings

[2023] CAT 49

Acted successfully for Visa in the ongoing interchange fee litigation at a CMC addressing the significance of the CJEU’s decision on limitation in Volvo (Case C-267/20) (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Associated Party Transactions

2025

Advised a Premier League football club on the competition law implications of proposed amendments to the Premier League's Associated Party Transaction (APT) Rules. With Nick De Marco KC.

Re Proposed Collective Action

2023

Advised a proposed class representative in proceedings to be brought under s.47B of the Competition Act 1998 alleging abuse of dominance by a large corporation (assisting Jason Pobjoy). Advised on the prospects of certification and on the merits of the underlying claim.

Sport

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of sports law. He has acted for a broad range of clients, including sports governing bodies (such as The FA and the RFU), clubs, managers, players and other participants in sport (including athletics, basketball, e-sports, football, gymnastics, horse racing and rugby). He has appeared (both led and unled) in proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport and in a range of other private sports arbitrations.

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Cases

The FA v Arteta

2023

Acted for Mikel Arteta in successfully defending a charge under Rule E3 concerning post-match media comments. A Regulatory Commission of The FA dismissed the charge and gave an important decision concerning the scope of managerial liability for misconduct. Led by Ian Mill KC.

Sbaity v Lebanese Athletics Federation

CAS 2024/O/10870

Acting for the respondent, the Lebanese Athletics Federation, in proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport which concern selection decisions to compete in the 100m at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Acting unled (against a KC).

GEF v AGF and others

GEF DC - 2024.10.28

Instructed by three gymnastics coaches charged by the Gymastics Ethics Foundation with various acts of misconduct (with Nick De Marco KC).

The FA v da Silva

2024

Acted for Marco da Silva, the manager of Fulham FC, in proceedings brought by The FA concerning managerial misconduct. Led by Nick De Marco KC.

RPA v RFU

2023

Acted unled for the Rugby Football Union in a commercial arbitration brought by the Rugby Players Association.

Re Associated Party Transactions

2025

Advised a Premier League football club on the competition law implications of proposed amendments to the Premier League's Associated Party Transaction (APT) Rules. With Nick De Marco KC.

Premier League v Everton FC

2023

Acted in proceedings brought by the Premier League against Everton Football Club alleging a breach of the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability (FFP) Rules, on behalf of the club (assisting James Segan KC and Celia Rooney).

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Re FIFA's RSTP

2024

Advised The FA on issues of equality law arising from the domestic approach to FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) (with Kate Gallafent KC).

Re National Football Agents Regulations

2023

Advised The FA on issues of equality law in relation to the National Football Agents Regulations (with Adam Lewis KC, Kate Gallafent KC, Jason Pobjoy).

The Football Association v Yems

2023

Assisted in the successful appeal against a decision of a Regulatory Commission of The FA to impose a seventeen month suspension on the former manager of Crawley Town FC, John Yems (assisting Celia Rooney). The Appeal Board accepted that the sanction imposed was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable and increased the sanction to a three-year suspension.

The Football Association v Da Silva and Mitrovic

2023

Assisted in an appeal against a decision of a Regulatory Commission to impose a two-match touchline suspension on Fulham FC's manager and an eight-match suspension on one of its players (assisting Celia Rooney).

Re Chelsea FC v X

2023

Advised Chelsea Football Club in relation to a private commercial dispute raising issues of unjust enrichment and contract law (assisting Celia Rooney).

Re British Ice Skating

2023

Assisted in the successful appeal against a sanction imposed on a coach by a Disciplinary Committee of British Ice Skating (assisting Celia Rooney).

Public & Regulatory

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of public & regulatory law. He has acted for claimants and regulators, in sectors including telecommunications, energy, media, sports and immigration.

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Cases

GB News v Ofcom

[2025] EWHC 460 (Admin)

Acted for Ofcom in judicial review proceedings brought by GB News concerned with the proper interpretation of the Broadcasting Code's provisions relating to "due impartiality and due accuracy in news" (led by Jessica Boyd KC and David Glen).

AA and others v NHS Commissioning Board

[2023] EWHC 43 (Admin)

Acted for the claimants in a challenge to the wait times for access to treatment for children seeking gender identity development services and adults seeking gender identity disorder services (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

London Borough of Barnet v AG (A Child) and SSFCDA

[2023] 3 WLR 249

Acted successfully for the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs in the Court of Appeal proceedings concerned with whether certain provisions of the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 were incompatible with Article 3 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Ofcom's Jurisdiction

2024

Advised Ofcom on its jurisdiction over Crown Dependencies in relation to certain numbering functions (with Javan Herberg KC).

GB News v Ofcom

2024-2025

Instructed by Ofcom in judicial review proceedings brought by GB News concerning the compliance of the programme People's Forum: The Prime Minister, with special impartiality requirements under the Broadcasting Code.

Re Complaint Numbers

2025

Advising Ofcom in a proposed judicial review claim concerned with Ofcom's procedures for processing and recording complaints made to it under the Broadcasting Code (with Jessica Boyd KC).

Re TV Licensing

2024

Advised the BBC on issues of equality law arising from The Communications (Television Licensing) Regulations 2004 (unled).

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Re National Football Agents Regulations

2023

Advised The FA on issues of equality law in relation to the National Football Agents Regulations (with Adam Lewis KC, Kate Gallafent KC, Jason Pobjoy).

Re FIFA's RSTP

2024

Advised The FA on issues of equality law arising from the domestic approach to FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) (with Kate Gallafent KC).

C3 and C4 v Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Affairs

[2022] EWHC 2772 (Admin)

Acted for the Respondent in response to two habeas corpus applications brought by individuals detained in North-East Syria (assisting Jason Pobjoy). The Divisional Court dismissed the applications.

Re Diplomatic Premises

2022

Advised on various issues of domestic and public international law arising under the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Commissioner for Standards Report

2023

Advised on the scope of parliamentary privilege and Article 9 of the Bill of Rights during an inquiry by the Commissioner for Standards into whether a member of the House of Lords had breached the Code of Conduct for Members of the House (assisting Gemma White KC and Celia Rooney).

Re Carltona Principle

2022

Advised a Government department concerning the application of the Carltona principle to various functions (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Media & Entertainment

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

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Cases

Re Unpaid Royalties

2025

Acting for an internationally renowned musician in a debt claim for unpaid royalties (led by Ian Mill KC).

Various Claimants v MGN

2023

Assisted in the phone hacking litigation brought by the Duke of Sussex and other claimants, on behalf of the Mirror Group (assisting Harry Adamson).

Re Property Dispute

2025

Acting unled for the claimant, an internationally renowned musician, in a property dispute raising conflicts of law and trusts law issues.

Declan Colgan Music Ltd v UMG Recordings Inc

2023

Acted for the claimant in a royalty dispute concerning the song “Power” by Kanye West (assisting Celia Rooney). The case raised various preliminary issues concerning the application of foreign law and admission of expert evidence.

Re Copyright Dispute

2023

Advised a popular singer-songwriter involved in a copyright dispute with her former record label (assisting Celia Rooney).

Malkiewicz v UK

Application No. 39449/21

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in ECtHR proceedings brought following the decision of the Supreme Court in Serafin v Malkiewicz [2020] 1 WLR 2455 (assisting Jason Pobjoy). The proceedings raise various issues concerning the compatibility of English defamation law with Articles 6 and 10 of the ECHR.

Independent Print and Evening Standard v UK

Application No. 2511/22

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in proceedings concerned with the compatibility of English costs law with Article 10 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

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Associated Newspapers Limited v UK

Application No. 37398/21

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in proceedings issued in the ECtHR by ANL concerning whether the recoverability of success fees and ATE premium violates Article 10 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Sanctions

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of sanctions law.

Cases

Re Sanctions Advice

2022

Advised the FCDO on legal issues relating to the process by which decisions to designate individuals under the sanctions regime are made (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Sanctions Reporting Obligations

2022

Advised a professional body concerning the reporting obligations under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and various other sanctions law issues (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Sanctions Advice

2022

Advised the FCDO on legal issues relating to the process by which decisions to designate individuals under the sanctions regime are made (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Sanctions and Force Majeure

2022

Advised a private company in relation to the impact of the domestic sanctions regime on various commercial transactions and, in particular, on contractual 'force majeure' clauses (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Re Sanctions Advice

2023

Assisted in advising OFSI in relation to various sanctions law matters (assisting Harry Adamson).

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Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties & human rights law.

Cases

Ukraine v Russia

Application No. 11055/22

Acted 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 (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

London Borough of Barnet v AG (A Child) and SSFCDA

[2023] 3 WLR 249

Acted successfully for the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs in the Court of Appeal proceedings concerned with whether certain provisions of the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 were incompatible with Article 3 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

C3 and C4 v Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Affairs

[2022] EWHC 2772 (Admin)

Acted for the Respondent in response to two habeas corpus applications brought by individuals detained in North-East Syria (assisting Jason Pobjoy). The Divisional Court dismissed the applications.

Madhewoo v Mauritius

Case No. 3163/2018

Assisted in advising the Government of Mauritius and making submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee in relation to the compliance of Mauritius' National Identity Card scheme with Article 17 of the ICCPR (assisting Celia Rooney).

Malkiewicz v UK

Application No. 39449/21

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in ECtHR proceedings brought following the decision of the Supreme Court in Serafin v Malkiewicz [2020] 1 WLR 2455 (assisting Jason Pobjoy). The proceedings raise various issues concerning the compatibility of English defamation law with Articles 6 and 10 of the ECHR.

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Independent Print and Evening Standard v UK

Application No. 2511/22

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in proceedings concerned with the compatibility of English costs law with Article 10 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Associated Newspapers Limited v UK

Application No. 37398/21

Acted on behalf of the United Kingdom in proceedings issued in the ECtHR by ANL concerning whether the recoverability of success fees and ATE premium violates Article 10 of the ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

Public International Law

Rowan accepts instructions in all areas of public international law.

Cases

Ukraine v Russia

Application No. 11055/22

Acted 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 (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

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Madhewoo v Mauritius

Case No. 3163/2018

Assisted in advising the Government of Mauritius and making submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee in relation to the compliance of Mauritius' National Identity Card scheme with Article 17 of the ICCPR (assisting Celia Rooney).

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Re Diplomatic Premises

2022

Advised on various issues of domestic and public international law arising under the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- Bar Vocational Studies (Inns of Court College of Advocacy, Distinction)
- Bachelor of Civil Law (University of Oxford, Oxford-Finnis Scholar)
- BA Law (University of Cambridge, Starred First Class)

Scholarships, Awards, Prizes

- Stephen Chapman Scholarship (Inner Temple, 2021)
- Bonavero Institute Summer Fellowship (University of Oxford, 2020)
- Oxford-Finnis Graduate Scholarship (University of Oxford, 2019)
- The CMS Prize for best dissertation in Law (University of Cambridge, 2019)
- Lady Clare Precious Pearl for best arts dissertation (Clare College, 2019)
- Clifford Chance David Gottlieb Prize for best performance in Law, Part IB (University of Cambridge, 2018)
- George Long Prize for best performance in Civil Law II (University of Cambridge, 2018)
- Subject Prize for best performance in Human Rights (University of Cambridge, 2018)
- William Senior Law Prize (Clare College, 2018)
- Des Voeux Chambers Cambridge Junior Scholarship (University of Cambridge, 2018)
- The Thomson Reuters Law Prize for best performance in Law, Part IA (University of Cambridge, 2017)
- George Long Prize for best performance in Civil Law I (University of Cambridge, 2017)
- Milon Banerji Law Prize (Clare College, 2017)

Professional Experience

- 2020-22 Academic Supervisor, University of Cambridge
- 2020-21 Judicial Assistant to The Rt Hon Lord Justice Dingemans in the Court of Appeal
- 2020 Summer Fellow, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

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Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board

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