

## Joanna Connolly

YEAR OF CALL: 2023



### Practice Overview

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Joanna practises all areas of Chambers' expertise. She joined chambers in July 2024 following the successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Malcolm Birdling, Edward Harrison and Richard Blakeley KC.

Joanna qualified as a solicitor in Australia. Prior to coming to the bar, Joanna was a research assistant in commercial and common law at the Law Commission of England and Wales, examining issues raised by crypto-tokens and other crypto-assets, and taught Public Law at the London School of Economics.

Prior to this, Joanna worked for several years in human rights litigation focussing on online speech and digital privacy. She had conduct of cases before a range of international courts and tribunals and was subsequently appointed to assist the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights in respect of surveillance technologies.

Joanna holds an LLM (First Class) from the University of Cambridge, where she was awarded the W.M. Tapp Studentship in Law. At the University of Sydney, she received First Class Honours in Law (ranking fourth in her graduating cohort) and the University Medal and First Class Honours in History (ranking first overall).

### COMMERCIAL

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Joanna accepts instructions across all areas of commercial law. Her recent experience includes:

- Defending a leading tax and advisory firm against a multi-million negligence claim arising out of an allegedly deficient audit (led by Tony Singla KC).

- Defending an individual in group litigation proceedings arising out of a global crypto-currency scheme including allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy (on secondment with Enyo Law).
- Acting for an Irish commodity trader in a dispute arising out of one party's failure to make payments under back-to-back sale and purchase contracts of thermal coal on the basis of the alleged applicability of sanctions (LCIA Arbitration, London seat) (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC).
- Acting for a Defendant resisting a WWFO application (with notice). The application raised novel questions regarding the tribunal's alleged jurisdiction to grant the relief sought (LCIA Arbitration, London seat) (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC);
- Acting for a claimant regarding alleged breach of an exclusive rights sponsorship agreement (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC, on a team led by Mark Howard KC).
- Acting for a claimant in respect of a long-term fraud including allegations of bribery, breach of fiduciary duty, dishonest assistance/knowing receipt, and conspiracy (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakely KC).
- *Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation v (1) David Neil Gerrard (2) Dechert LLP* (Comm): Defending a claim of professional negligence and malpractice brought by mining conglomerate the Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation (as a pupil assisting Edward Harrison).
- Defending a leading tax and advisory firm in proceedings alleging fraud and professional negligence in respect of statutory audits (as a pupil, assisting Edward Harrison, on a team led by Thomas Plewman KC).
- Acting for an applicant seeking an anti-suit injunction and associated orders (ex parte) (as a pupil, assisting Edward Harrison, on a team led by Harry Matovu KC).

## **PUBLIC LAW/HUMAN RIGHTS**

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Before coming to the bar, Joanna taught Public Law at London School of Economics. She has particular experience in human rights litigation both in domestic proceedings and at the ECtHR.

Her recent experience includes:

- Advising an individual in respect of compliance with sanctions regarding advice and trust services provided to brokerage clients (led by Richard Blakely KC).
- Acting for various sanctioned persons and companies challenging their designation under UK and European sanctions laws and regulations (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling on teams led by Maya Lester KC), including SAMLTA challenges brought pursuant to the Russian, Syria, and Belarussian sanctions regulations.
- Acting for the Lord Chancellor defending a challenge to the lawfulness of the legal aid scheme implemented in respect of immigration detainees held in prison (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling);
- Acting for the National Union of Farmers in an appeal concerning the proper construction of

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling);

- Advising an individual in respect of the prospects of judicial review of a Parole Board release decision (as a pupil, assisting Jennifer MacLeod).

Joanna also spent a year working in refugee and asylum law, including six months on a designated hot spot processing island in Greece, and six months at the UN Refugee Agency in London.

## **INTERNATIONAL/EU**

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Prior to coming to the bar, Joanna acted in cases before the European Court of Human Rights, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and various UN Working Groups and Special Mandates. Her case work focussed on free expression, privacy, data protection, and journalistic safety, and she was subsequently appointed to assist the Special UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights in respect of surveillance technologies.

Her recent experience is in respect of sanctions and cross border litigation:

- Advising an individual in respect of compliance with sanctions regarding advice and trust services provided to brokerage clients (led by Richard Blakely KC).
- Advising individuals and companies in respect of UK and European sanctions law and policy (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling on teams led by Maya Lester KC);
- Acting for an Irish commodity trader in a dispute arising out of one party's failure to make payments under back-to-back sale and purchase contracts of thermal coal on the basis of the alleged applicability of sanctions: LCIA Arbitration, London seat (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC);

Joanna has also gained experience of interim injunctions and related work including without notice applications, worldwide freezing orders, anti-suit injunctions, and other associated relief. This includes:

- Acting for a Defendant seeking to discharge of a WWFO and challenge orders to serve out and for alternative service in the context of large-scale group litigation (on secondment with Enyo Law).
- Acting for a Defendant resisting a WWFO application (with notice). The application raised a novel question regarding the tribunal's alleged jurisdiction to grant the relief sought (LCIA Arbitration, London seat) (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC).
- The Applicant seeking an anti-suit injunction and associated orders without notice (as a pupil, assisting Edward Harrison, on a team led by Harry Matovu KC).
- Advising in respect of an English jurisdiction and choice of law clause in the context of threatened foreign proceedings (as a pupil, assisting Richard Blakeley KC).

# EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

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## Education

Master of Law (First Class), University of Cambridge | 2023

Bachelor of Law (First Class) and Bachelor of Arts (History) (First Class), University of Sydney | 2016

## Professional Experience

Tutor (Public Law), London School of Economics | 2023

Research assistant in commercial and common law, Law Commission of England and Wales (Digital assets) | 2023

Visiting Scholar (University of Minnesota) assisting the UN Special Rapporteur on counter terrorism and human rights | 2022

Legal Officer, Media Defence | 2019-2021

Legal Adviser, Samos Refugee Law Clinic; and the UN Refugee Agency | 2018

Judicial Assistant to the Hon Justice A Meagher, Court of Appeal (New South Wales, Australia) | 2017

## Professional Qualifications

2023: Called to the bar of England & Wales

2017: Qualified as a solicitor in New South Wales, Australia

## Scholarships and Prizes

John and Sophie Laws Scholarship (Bar European Group)

WM Tapp Studentship in Law (Gonville & Caius Collage, Cambridge)

University Medal in History (ranking first overall) (University of Sydney)

Outstanding Academic Achievement Scholarship (University of Sydney)

University Blue in Debating (University of Sydney)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Joanna Connolly, 'The right to erasure: comparative perspectives on an emerging privacy right', (2020) 46 ALJ 1.