

Sophie Bird

YEAR OF CALL: 2021

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Practice Overview

Sophie practises in commercial, public and competition/EU law. She joined chambers as a tenant in September 2021 following the successful completion of pupillage supervised by Craig Morrison, Malcolm Birdling and Nicholas Saunders KC.

Sophie graduated with a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford in 2015, going on to work in Mergers and Acquisitions at Credit Suisse in London. She then graduated with a LLB (First Class) from the University of Cambridge in 2018, ranking first in Constitutional Law. She completed the LLM from Harvard University in 2019.

Commercial

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

- Acting for GLAS, the Trustee under €250m of Bonds issued by European Topsoho S.a.r.l, in a bond dispute, including in its successful application for a freezing order (led by Sue Prevezer QC and Ben Woolgar).
- *Azima v Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority* – a dispute concerning allegations that RAKIA was responsible for hacking large quantities of Mr Azima's data (led by Tim Lord QC and Thomas Plewman QC, with Hugo Leith)
- *The Racing Partnership v Sports Information Services* [2020] EWCA Civ 1300 – an appeal concerning the law of conspiracy and breach of confidence (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison)
- *Toucan Energy Holdings v Wirsol Energy* [2021] EWHC 895 – a contractual dispute concerning defective works on solar parks (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison)
- Advising a major pharmaceutical company in respect of an ongoing contractual dispute in

relation to patent rights (as a pupil, assisting Nicholas Saunders QC)

Competition

Sophie accepts instructions in all types of competition law actions and investigations. Her recent experience includes:

- *Merricks v Mastercard* – defending collective proceedings brought against Mastercard on behalf of 46 million individuals for damages of £14 billion (led by Mark Hoskins QC, Matthew Cook QC, Jon Lawrence and Hugo Leith)
- Acted *pro bono* for Privacy International in its successful application to intervene, and in its subsequent written intervention, in *Meta Platforms, Inc. v Competition and Markets Authority* (led by Sarah Love)
- *Phillip Evans v Barclays Bank and Others* – acting for Phillip Evans in his application to pursue an opt-out collective action against six banks, seeking damages in respect of unlawful practices in the FX market (led by Victoria Wakefield QC and Aidan Robertson QC, with Hugo Leith)
- *Secretary of State for Health v Servier Laboratories* – a preliminary issue trial in a claim for damages following the European Commission’s decision that Servier’s ‘pay for delay’ settlement agreements with generic companies for perindopril were anti-competitive (as a pupil, assisting Nicholas Saunders QC)

Public Law

Sophie accepts instructions across all areas of public law, civil liberties and human rights, and is also developing a pro bono practice. Her recent experience includes:

- Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry – junior counsel for the Post Office in Sir Wyn Williams’s Inquiry into a range of issues arising out of the use of the Horizon IT system (led by Kate Gallafent QC, Simon Henderson and Jennifer MacLeod)
- *R (Liberty) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* – acting for Liberty in its challenge to secret surveillance powers for national security purposes, including bulk interception and bulk equipment interference (ie bulk hacking), under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016, on the basis of EU law and ECHR rights to private life and journalistic expression (led by Ben Jaffey QC and David Heaton).
- *Wieder and Guarnieri v United Kingdom* – acting for the Applicants in the European Court of Human Rights on the issue of whether the interception of a person’s communication data if the person is abroad falls within the Contracting State’s jurisdiction for the purposes of Article 1 of the Convention (led by Ben Jaffey QC and David Heaton)
- Acting for the Lord Chancellor in a judicial review concerning the proper construction of the Civil Legal Aid (Financial resources and Payment for Services) Regulations 2013 and the

- application of the means test (led by Malcolm Birdling)
- Seconded barrister to the Financial Conduct Authority
- *G v G* [2021] UKSC 9 – an appeal concerning the interplay between the 1980 Hague Convention and the principle of non refoulement (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling, led by Raza Husain QC appearing on behalf of the UNHCR)
- Advising on a proposed judicial review in the transportation sector (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling)
- Assisting in a judicial review in relation to the Investigation into Antisemitism in the Labour Party (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

2019-20: BPTC at BPP

2018-19: LLM at Harvard University

2016-18: LLB (Senior Status) at Hughes Hall, Cambridge (First)

2012-15: BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at New College, Oxford

Prizes and Scholarships:

Lincoln's Inn – Lord Denning Scholarship

Harvard Law School – Deans Scholar Prize in Constitutional Law (First Amendment)

University of Cambridge – ECS Wade Prize for best performance in Constitutional Law

Volunteer / Pro Bono:

2019-20: legal volunteer at Islington Legal Centre (Immigration Team)

2018-19: student attorney at Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project

2018-19: student attorney at Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic