

Vanshaj Jain

YEAR OF CALL: 2022

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Practice Overview

Vanshaj practises across all areas of commercial, international and competition law. He joined chambers as a tenant in September 2023 following the successful completion of pupillage, supervised by Hugo Leith, Malcolm Birdling and Tony Singla KC.

Before joining Brick Court Chambers, Vanshaj taught public international law at the University of Oxford. He completed his DPhil (Law) at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and an Indira Gandhi Scholar. Vanshaj also read for the BCL and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford, obtaining a distinction in both. He holds a BA, LLB (Hons.) from the National Law School of India, where he was awarded the gold medal for Best Student Advocate. Vanshaj was also awarded the Young Scholar Award by the Asian Society for International Law in 2021.

During pupillage, Vanshaj assisted in a range of matters across Chambers' areas of specialism, including contractual disputes concerning the sale of goods, financial regulation cases concerning securities and timeshares, a civil fraud claim, admiralty court proceedings concerning Greenpeace protestors, a CEDAW committee proceeding, various sanctions cases, and competition cases concerning pharmaceuticals, cryptocurrency and interchange fees.

Vanshaj is qualified as an advocate in India, and has trained under an Attorney-General for India, and an Advocate-General for Maharashtra. He speaks fluent Hindi and conversational Urdu.

Commercial

Vanshaj accepts instructions across all areas of commercial law. His recent experience includes:

- *Al Aggad v Al Aggad and others* – acting for one of the defendants in a claim before the

Commercial Court concerning breach of contract and an unlawful means conspiracy in Saudi Arabia (led by Fionn Pilbrow KC)

- *Parsdome Holdings v Plastic Energy* – acting for the defendant in a misrepresentation claim before the Commercial Court, arising out of a convertible loan agreement (led by Tony Singla KC)
- Acting for a prominent international airline in a contractual dispute before the High Court concerning the supply of RFID tags (led by Tony Singla KC)
- Acting for a prominent Saudi Arabian company to commence proceedings before the Commercial Court, in a dispute arising out of the sale of an energy business (led by Tony Singla KC)
- *Azima v RAKIA, Dechert and others* – proceedings against a global law firm and a retired English solicitor arising out of the hacking of a businessman’s data (as a pupil, assisting Hugo Leith on a team led by Thomas Plewman KC and Tim Lord KC, acting for Mr Azima)
- *Wirral Council v Reckitt Benckiser Group* – the first representative proceedings ever brought by investors under Section 90A and Schedule 10A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, which concern liability for misleading or dishonest published information relating to securities (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC, acting for the Reckitt Benckiser Group)
- *Mornington 2000 LLP and Sante Global LLP v The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care* – proceedings brought by a supplier of lateral flow Covid tests against the Health Secretary arising out of the rejection of its goods and the termination of its supply agreement (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC, acting for the Claimants)
- *Myenergi Ltd v Myenergi GMBH* – proceedings by an English manufacturer of renewable energy devices against its German distributor arising out of the termination of their distribution agreement (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC, acting for Myenergi Ltd)
- Advising a major bank on its liability for misselling holiday timeshare products (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC)
- Advising a prominent American technology company on contemplated proceedings against an English semiconductor company, in a dispute concerning the supply of CPU cores (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC)
- Advising a major German airline on obtaining disclosure from its English auditors (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC)

International/EU

Vanshaj has a keen interest in international law. He taught public international law, international refugee law, and the international law of the sea to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Oxford. His DPhil thesis examined the impact of sea-level rise on maritime boundary delimitation under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Vanshaj was awarded the prize for International Law of the Sea on the BCL. He was also awarded the Young Scholar Award by the Asian Society for International Law in 2021.

Vanshaj accepts instructions across all areas of international law. His recent experience includes:

- *The 'Enrica Lexie' case (Italy v India)* – proceedings under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, arising out of the killing of two Indian fishermen by two Italian marines off the coast of Kerala (as an intern, assisting Soli Sorabjee SC, acting for the Government of India)
- *Shell UK Ltd and others v Greenpeace UK Ltd and others* – proceedings brought before the Admiralty Court against Greenpeace, caused by its activists boarding and occupying a Shell oil platform in transit to the North Sea (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling on a team led by Victoria Wakefield KC, acting for Greenpeace)
- *Centre for Women's Justice v United Kingdom* – proceedings before the CEDAW Committee of the United Nations, challenging provisions in UK law that allow an individual accused of rape to bring a private prosecution against their accuser (as a pupil, assisting Jennifer MacLeod, acting for the Centre for Women's Justice)
- Advising a prominent international NGO on the prospects of challenging UK's policy on deep seabed mining under the international law of the sea (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling on a team led by Maya Lester KC)
- Acting for various sanctioned persons and companies challenging their designation under the Russia sanctions regime and the Syria sanctions regime (as a pupil, assisting Malcolm Birdling on a team led by Maya Lester KC)
- Acting for the Global Strategic Litigation Council for Refugee Rights and the International Detention Council in proceedings before the Supreme Court of Mexico, challenging Mexico's policy of detaining asylum seekers under international law (as a pupil, assisting Allan Cerim and Sophie Bird on a team led by Raza Husain KC)

Competition

Vanshaj accepts instructions across all areas of competition law. His recent experience includes:

- *HG Capital and others v CMA* – proceedings brought by three pharmaceutical companies challenging the CMA's decision that they had abused their dominant position in the market for liothyronine (as a pupil, assisting Hugo Leith on a team led by Josh Holmes KC, acting for the CMA)
- *Merricks v Mastercard* – collective proceedings brought against Mastercard on behalf of 46 million individuals in relation to its multilateral interchange fees (as a pupil, assisting Hugo Leith on a team led by Matthew Cook KC, acting for Mastercard)
- *BSV Claims v Bittylicious and others* – collective proceedings brought on behalf of investors in Bitcoin Satoshi Vision against various cryptocurrency exchanges that delisted this currency in 2019 (as a pupil, assisting Tony Singla KC, acting for Shapeshift)
- Advising the Department of Health and Social Care on potential claims arising out of a CMA decision (as a pupil, assisting Hugo Leith)

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Qualifications

Called to the Bar (England and Wales), 2022

Called to the Bar (India), 2017

Education

2019–2022: DPhil in Law (University of Oxford)

2018–2019: MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (University of Oxford) – Distinction

2017–2018: Bachelor of Civil Law (University of Oxford) – Distinction

2012–2017: BA, LLB (Hons.) (National Law School of India University)

Professional Experience

2023 – present: Tenant, Brick Court Chambers

2022 – 2023: Pupil, Brick Court Chambers

2020 – 2021: Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Law and at the Department of International Development, University of Oxford

2018 – 2019: Research Assistant to Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Awards and Scholarships

Rhodes Scholar (India and Exeter, 2017)

Indira Gandhi Scholar (2019)

Asian Society of International Law Young Scholar Award (2021)

Prize for International Law of the Sea (Bachelor of Civil Law)

Prize for Best Thesis (MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies)

Gold Medal for Best Student Advocate (BA, LLB (Hons.))

PUBLICATIONS

'Broken Boundaries: Border and Identity Formation in Post-Colonial Punjab', *Asian Journal of International Law* (2020)

'Can China be Brought before an International Court for the Covid Pandemic', *The Print* (2020)

'Frozen Frontier: Uti Possidetis and the Decolonization of South Asia', *Oxford Refugee Studies Centre Working Paper Series* (2019)

'Not the Final Word from Islamabad and Delhi: The Kulbhushan Jadhav Verdict', *The Hindu* (2019)

'Navtej Johar: What Remains of Section 377', *Indian Constitutional Law and Philosophy* (2018)

'Deconstructing the Conflict Between Geographical Indications and Trademarks', *Amherst College Law Review* (2017)

'Defining "Control" under the Indian Competition Act', *NALSAR Student Law Review* (2017)

'Reconstituting Self-Determination and Uti Possidetis', *NALSAR Journal of International Law* (2017)

'Using the Objective Territorial Principle to Prosecute the Islamic State', *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law* (2016)

'Who Will Watch the Watchmen: A Study of the Law on Self-dealing Transactions by Company Directors', *NLS Business Law Review* (2016)