
CHAMBERS UK BAR 2024

The Leading Barristers and Sets in the UK

Sanctions



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine

rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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* Indicates individual with profile.
A direct access.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Ranked Lawyers

Rachel Barnes KC (see p.913) (3 Raymond Buildings) Rachel Barnes KC advises clients on both US and EU sanctions legislation. She represents clients in civil proceedings, criminal investigations and asset-freezing matters arising from economic sanctions.

Strengths:

"Rachel Barnes is very approachable and very prompt."

"Rachel Barnes is very user-friendly and absolutely first-class."

"She is immensely clever, incredibly well organised, and has provided carefully considered, commercially astute and practical advice."

Malcolm Birdling (see p.919) (Brick Court Chambers) Malcolm Birdling has extensive experience acting in challenges to designations and to the UK sanctions regime itself. Birdling has represented individuals, financial institutions and government departments in such matters.

Strengths:

"Malcolm is one of the go-to juniors for sanctions work. His drafting is superb, and his understanding of the relevant regulations is unrivalled."

Richard Blakeley (see p.919) (Brick Court Chambers) Richard Blakeley acts in appeals against sanctions listings and associated damages claims, often representing banks. He has strong expertise in commercial matters relating to sanctions law.

Strengths:

"Richard is very clear-headed and very much on the ball with the points he is considering."

Isabel Buchanan (Blackstone Chambers) Isabel Buchanan has a wealth of experience in sanctions-related matters, in which she advises and represents an impressive client list including international banks.

Strengths:

"An excellent barrister, who is hard-working, positive, available and willing."

Jonathan Dawid (see p.943) (Brick Court Chambers) Jonathan Dawid is notably experienced in sanctions cases involving the banking and finance sectors. He is frequently called upon to advise in matters where commercial agreements may be affected by aspects of sanctions regimes.

Strengths:

"He has amazing cross-border knowledge, and is supportive in creating a strategy."

"Jonathan can think laterally, provides considered advice, and it stands out to me that he is a creative thinker."

Alex Haines (Outer Temple Chambers) Alex Haines has a strong docket of sanctions-related mandates. He regularly acts for clients in appeals against listings, as well as on compliance matters and export controls.

Strengths:

"A phenomenal barrister who provides all-round first-class legal services."

David Heaton (see p.970) (Brick Court Chambers) David Heaton handles contentious and advisory sanctions mandates, acting for clients in appeals against listings and compliance matters. He regularly represents clients from the financial services industry, and has complementary experience in the impact of sanctions law on contracts and the enforcement of arbitral awards.

Strengths:

"David is thoughtful and hard-working and comes up with constructive solutions."

"He is incredibly hard-working, responsive and swift, and provides commercial analysis of complex issues."

Brian Kennelly KC (Blackstone Chambers) Brian Kennelly KC is highly regarded by corporate clients and private individuals, whom he regularly assists with challenges to sanctions and asset freezing. He is an expert on the interpretation of sanctions law and attempts to circumvent sanctions.

Strengths:

"Fierce intelligence; cool, calm and clear advocacy. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of EU sanctions and wider EU law."

"The go-to sanctions barrister. Brian always provides sensible, commercial advice on particularly complex topics and is alive to exactly what clients need from him."

Maya Lester KC (see p.997) (Brick Court Chambers) Maya Lester KC is the leading sanctions mind at the Bar, providing unparalleled expertise to companies and individuals on listing and relisting challenges, enforcement matters and related commercial litigation and arbitration. She has a superb command of EU and US sanctions regimes, including legal developments concerning US secondary sanctions.

Strengths:
"Maya is a sanctions guru. Widely respected and a go-to in this space."
"A real expert in her field and a go-to counsel for the most complex sanctions queries."
"Maya Lester is very assured, knows her subject matter well and is very savvy and thoughtful in how she manages cases."

Strengths:

"Timothy Otty KC (Blackstone Chambers) Timothy Otty KC is notably experienced in representing financial sector clients and private individuals in judicial review and other challenges to EU sanctions decisions. He also assists clients with follow-on damages claims before the UK courts."

Strengths:

"He is extremely good with clients – reassuring and diplomatic in sensitive situations."
"Tim is extremely versatile, very easy to work with and very committed to his clients."
"Timothy is excellent on the detail and has a great knowledge of sanction regimes."

Jason Pobjoy (Blackstone Chambers) Jason Pobjoy predominantly represents private individuals in challenges to sanctions and asset freezing, and also assists state-owned companies with appeals against sanctions listings and relistings. He is noted for his skill in tackling the interpretation of sanctions and handling circumvention claims.

Strengths:

"Jason was simply excellent. He was readily available and provided clear and concise advice that the client greatly appreciated on such a complex and evolving area."

"The go-to junior on sanctions matters. He is incredibly hard-working and knowledgeable."

"Timothy is excellent on the detail and has a great knowledge of sanction regimes."

"Tim is extremely versatile, very easy to work with and very committed to his clients."

"He is extremely good with clients – reassuring and diplomatic in sensitive situations."

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