BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
7-8 Essex Street, London WC2R 3LD
DX 302 London Chancery Lane

Alastair Richardson

YEAR OF CALL: ENGLAND AND WALES: 2021; IRELAND: 2023

"Outstanding lawyer - super reliable, detailed understanding of the law and very easy to work with."

Legal 500 - 2026

Clerk's Email: **TonysClerkingTeam@brickcourt.co.uk**



Practice Overview

Alastair has a broad practice across chambers' core areas of practice. He has particular experience in disputes involving financial markets, commodities, sanctions and regulatory law. Recent cases in which Alastair was instructed include:

- *Mercuria v Baltic Exchange* (Financial List) – acting for the Baltic Exchange (on a team led by James McClelland KC) in an expedited claim concerning the leading crude tanker freight benchmark, following geopolitical disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.
- *Elliott v London Metal Exchange* – $470m damages claim arising out of the LME's cancellation of nickel futures trades (acted for the LME, on a team led by Jonathan Crow KC and James McClelland KC).
- *Shvidler v Foreign Secretary* – human rights challenge to Eugene Shvidler's sanctions designation (acting for Mr Shvidler, on a team led by Lord Anderson KC).
- *Man City v Premier League* – acting for the Premier League in Man City's challenge to rules concerning associated party transactions (on a team led by Marie Demetriou KC and Andrew Hunter KC).
- *Bulb/Octopus* – subsidy control challenge to the sale of Bulb Energy Limited (acting for the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, on a team led by Jason Coppel KC).

Alastair's experience in public & regulatory law extends across diverse sectors including financial services, energy, technology and national security. He is currently a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel. He is ranked as a "rising star" in public law by Legal 500.

Alastair's commercial experience includes acting for the Baltic Exchange in relation to the publication of a crude tanker freight benchmark following geopolitical disruption in the Strait of Hormuz; acting for the London Metal Exchange in its defence of multiple claims (in multiple fora) following its cancellation of nickel futures in March 2022; advising regulated entities on FCA

investigations/decisions; and advising government departments on financial regulatory issues.

Alastair's experience in competition law includes acting for Flynn Pharma in long-running litigation about alleged excessive pricing of anti-epilepsy medicines (led by Jemima Stratford KC); acting for Ericsson in FRAND litigation against Lenovo (led by Sarah Abram KC); and appearing unled in the Competition Appeal Tribunal at a substantial CMC in the Trucks litigation.

Alastair has experience in sports-related competition disputes, having acted for the Premier League in challenges to its rules concerning associated party transactions (led by Marie Demetriou KC) and for Crystal Palace in relation to its challenge to UEFA's decision to exclude it from the Europa League (led by Marie Demetriou KC).

Alastair also has experience advising private and public-sector clients on the Subsidy Control Act 2022; the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024; the EU Digital Markets Act and Ofgem's price control regimes.

Public Law

Ranked by Legal 500 as a rising star in administrative law, Alastair accepts instructions across all areas of public, regulatory and human rights law. He is currently a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel. His experience includes:

- *Shvidler v Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs* [2025] UKSC 30 – challenge to the proportionality of Eugene Shvidler's sanctions designation (on a team led by Lord Anderson KC).
- *R (Elliott Associates, Elliott International and Jane Street Global Trading) v The London Metal Exchange and LME Clear* – judicial review of the LME's cancellation of nickel trades, and a $470m damages claim under the Human Rights Act 1998 (acting for the LME, on a team led by Jonathan Crow KC and James McClelland KC). See [2023] EWHC 2969 (Admin) (Div Ct) and [2024] EWCA Civ 1168.
- *VTB Bank v HM Treasury* [2025] EWHC 3359 (Admin); [2026] EWCA Civ 1373 – acted for VTB Capital plc (an interested party) in this judicial review of OFSI's licensing decisions in the context of the insolvency of VTB Capital plc (on a team led by Maya Lester KC).
- *R (British Gas Trading Limited & others) v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero* – judicial review of the sale of Bulb Energy Limited (in special administration), founded upon alleged subsidy control infringements (acting for the Secretary of State, on a team led by Jason Coppel KC).
- *R (Al Haq) v Secretary of State for Business and Trade* – acted for Oxfam (as an intervener) in judicial review proceedings concerning the sale of arms to Israel following the military invasion of Gaza after 7 October 2023 (on a team led by Marie Demetriou KC).

- *R (Greenpeace) v Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy* – acting for Greenpeace in its judicial review of the Government's plan to grant licenses for the extraction of oil and gas in the North Sea (on a team led by James McClelland KC).
- *Applications before the ECHR* – acting for the UK in human rights claims before the ECtHR relating to terrorism and national security (on a team led by Sir Jamies Eadie KC and Jason Pobjoy KC).
- Acting for the Legal Aid Agency in judicial review proceedings concerning the availability of legal aid to fund applications for licences to possess controlled drugs for medical purposes (led by Malcolm Birdling KC).
- *FCA Investigation* – advising in relation to an FCA investigation (led by Ben Jaffey KC).
- Alastair also has experience advising on the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and on energy regulatory issues (e.g. relating to Ofgem's price controls and human rights issues concerning A1P1).
- Alastair is frequently instructed to advise (either led or unled) on financial regulatory issues, including in contexts where human rights issues arise (e.g. concerning A1P1 of the ECHR).
- *Prison Law Advice* – advising a prisoner in relation to the legality of his continued detention in high security prison conditions (unled).
- Advising on a potential judicial review challenge relating to a pharmaceutical product (unled).

Pro bono

- Acting (pro bono) in multiple inquest proceedings involving violence against women, both led (by Jenny Mac Leod) and unled.
- Acting (on a team led by Jenny Mac Leod) on a matter relating to historical abuse of woman and girls.
- Acted (pro bono) for Greenpeace (on a team led by James McClelland KC) in relation to its challenge to the Government's plan to grant licenses for the extraction of oil and gas in the North Sea.
- Acted (pro bono) for Oxfam in its intervention in proceedings concerning arms exports to Israel (on a team led by Marie Demetriou KC)

Competition

Alastair accepts instructions in all types of competition disputes. His recent experience includes:

- *Flynn & Pfizer v CMA* – an appeal against the decision of the CMA finding excessive pricing infringements in the sale of epilepsy drugs (acting for Flynn, on a team led by Jemima

Stratford KC).

- *Lenovo v Ericsson* – acting for Ericsson in FRAND litigation against Lenovo (on a team led by Sarah Abram KC).
- *Manchester City Football Club Limited v The Football Association Premier League Limited* – acted for the Premier League in Man City's challenge to rules concerning associated party transactions (led by Marie Demetriou KC and Andrew Hunter KC).
- *Crystal Palace FC v. UEFA, Nottingham Forest FC & Olympique Lyonnais* – acting for Crystal Palace in relation to its challenge to UEFA's decision to exclude it from the Europa League (led by Marie Demetriou KC).
- *Trucks* – acting unled for Arla Foods in a substantial CMC and a CMM in the Trucks litigation.
- *R (British Gas Trading Limited & others) v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero* – judicial review of the sale of Bulb Energy Limited (in special administration), founded upon alleged subsidy control infringements (acting for the Secretary of State, on a team led by Jason Coppel KC).
- Alastair also has experience advising on the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 and Ofgem's RIIO price control framework.
- *Phones4U v Telefonica* – a claim by the administrators of Phones4U regarding an alleged collective withdrawal from Phones4U by mobile network operators (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC, acting for O2/Telefonica).

Sanctions

- *Shvidler v Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs* [2025] UKSC 30 – challenge on human rights grounds to the proportionality of Eugene Shvidler's sanctions designation (on a team led by Lord Anderson KC).
- *VTB Bank v HM Treasury* [2025] EWHC 3359 (admin); [2026] EWCA Civ 1373 – acted for VTB Capital plc (an interested party) in this judicial review considering the interaction between insolvency law and OFSI's licensing powers (on a team led by Maya Lester KC)
- Advising an international bank (unled) on sanctions issues.
- Assisting Daniel Bayfield KC in the preparation of expert evidence on sanctions issues in arbitration proceedings between two high-profile football clubs.

Sport

- *Manchester City Football Club Limited v The Football Association Premier League Limited* –

acted for the Premier League in Man City's challenge to rules concerning associated party transactions (led by Marie Demetriou KC and Andrew Hunter KC).

- *Crystal Palace FC v. UEFA, Nottingham Forest FC & Olympique Lyonnais* – acting for Crystal Palace in relation to its challenge to UEFA's decision to exclude it from the Europa League (led by Marie Demetriou KC).
- Assisting Daniel Bayfield KC in the preparation of expert evidence on sanctions issues in arbitration proceedings between two high-profile football clubs.

Commercial

Alastair accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law. His experience includes:

- *Mercuria v Baltic Exchange* (Financial List) – acting for the Baltic Exchange (on a team led by James McClelland KC) in an expedited claim concerning the leading crude tanker freight benchmark, following geopolitical disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.
- *R (Elliott Associates, Elliott International and Jane Street Global Trading) v The London Metal Exchange and LME Clear* – $470m damages claim brought by traders following the LME's cancellation of nickel trades during a period of disorder on its market (acting for LME, on a team led by Jonathan Crow KC).
- *Financial regulatory advice* – Alastair is frequently instructed to advise private and public-sector clients, either led or unled, on financial regulatory issues.
- *Lenovo v Ericsson* – acting for Ericsson in FRAND litigation against Lenovo (on a team led by Sarah Abram KC).
- *Manchester City Football Club Limited v The Football Association Premier League Limited* – acted for the Premier League in Man City's challenge to rules concerning associated party transactions (led by Marie Demetriou KC and Andrew Hunter KC).
- *FCA Investigation* – advising a regulated entity in relation to an FCA investigation (led by Ben Jaffey KC).

Financial Regulation

- *Mercuria v Baltic Exchange* (Financial List) – acting for the Baltic Exchange (on a team led by James McClelland KC) in an expedited claim concerning the leading crude tanker freight benchmark, following geopolitical disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.
- *R (Elliott Associates, Elliott International and Jane Street Global Trading) v The London Metal Exchange and LME Clear* – $470m damages claim brought by traders following the LME's

cancellation of nickel trades during a period of disorder on its market (acting for LME, on a team led by Jonathan Crow KC).

- *Financial regulatory advice* – Alastair is frequently instructed to advise private and public-sector clients, either led or unled, on financial regulatory issues.
- *FCA Investigation* – advising a regulated entity in relation to an FCA investigation (led by Ben Jaffey KC).
- *Sanctions advice* – advising an international bank (unled) on sanctions issues.

EU Law

Called to the Irish Bar in 2023, Alastair is on the Roll of Practising Barristers in Ireland and can act in cases proceeding before the Courts of the European Union. This dovetails with his experience in regulatory law more generally. His experience includes:

- Advising a technology company on its obligations under the Digital Markets Act.
- *WR Grace v European Chemicals Agency* – acting for Grace GmbH in an appeal against a decision concerning testing requirements under the EU REACH Regulation (led by Andrew McIntyre).

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Education

2020-2021: PGDip in Bar Practice, Inns of Court College of Advocacy

2018-2019: BCL (Distinction), University of Oxford

2014-2018: LLB (First Class), Trinity College Dublin

Scholarships and Prizes

John and Sophie Laws Scholarship (Bar European Group)

Stella Cacoyanni Soulioti Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

Herbert Hart prize for Jurisprudence and Political Theory (University of Oxford)

Scholar (Trinity College Dublin)

First Class Book Prize (Trinity College Dublin)

Entrance Exhibition (Trinity College Dublin)

Professional Experience

2023: Seminar Tutor in Constitutional Law, Magdalen College, Oxford

2020-2021: Tutor in Tort Law, Trinity College Dublin

2019-2020: Research Assistant, Public Law, Law Commission of England and Wales

Languages

Alastair has good French (and has experience reading French legal texts) and speaks Irish to a decent level.