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. Everything a leader could ask for in a junior.'

Legal 500 - 2026

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



Practice Overview

Alastair practices public, competition and commercial law. He has acted in a number of important and high-profile cases including:

- *London Metal Exchange* – $470m damages claim arising out of the LME's cancellation of nickel futures trades (acting for the LME, led by Jonathan Crow KC and James McClelland KC).
- *Shvidler* – human rights challenge to Eugene Shvidler's sanctions designation (acting for Mr Shvidler, led by Lord Anderson KC).
- *Premier League* – acting for the Premier League in Man City's challenge to rules concerning associated party transactions (led by Marie Demetriou KC and Andrew Hunter KC).
- *Bulb* – subsidy control challenge to the sale of Bulb Energy Limited (acting for the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, led by Jason Coppel KC).

Alastair's experience in public & regulatory law extends across diverse sectors including national security, technology, energy, finance and pharmaceuticals. 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 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).

Public 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:

National security, sanctions, human rights

- *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).
- *VTB Bank v HM Treasury* [2025] EWHC 3359 (Admin) – 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 (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).
- *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).
- *Prison Law Advice* – advising a prisoner in relation to the legality of his continued detention in high security prison conditions (unled).

Financial regulation

- *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.
- *FCA Investigation* – advising in relation to an FCA investigation (led by Ben Jaffey KC).
- 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)

- Competition regulation and state aid

- *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).

- *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).
- Alastair also has experience advising on the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024.

Energy and environment

- *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 (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).
- Alastair also has experience advising on energy regulatory issues (e.g. relating to Ofgem's price controls and human rights issues concerning A1P1).

Pharmaceuticals, medical devices and chemical regulation

- Advising on a potential judicial review challenge relating to a pharmaceutical product (unled).
- *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).
- 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).

Inquests

- Acting in multiple inquest proceedings, both led and unled.

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.

As a pupil supervised by Sarah Abram KC, Alastair assisted with the following matters:

- *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).
- *Advanz Pharma Corp v CMA* – an appeal against a decision of the CMA finding competition infringements in the supply of prochlorperazine tablets (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Bousfield, acting for Alliance Pharmaceuticals).
- *Allianz Global Investors v Barclays Bank* – litigation arising out of alleged competition infringements in the forex trading market (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Abram KC, acting for HSBC).
- *Gutmann v Stagecoach* – an application for a collective proceedings order in proceedings alleging abuse of dominance by the defendant train companies (assisting Sarah Abram KC, acting for Stagecoach).

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).
- *Sanctions advice* – advising an international bank (unled) on sanctions issues.

- *VTB Bank v HM Treasury* [2025] EWHC 3359 (admin) – 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)

Commercial

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

- *Cavallari v Mercedes* – acting for Mercedes in the NOx emissions litigation (on a team led by Helen Davies KC).
- *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 James McClelland KC).
- *FCA Investigation* – advising a regulated entity in relation to an FCA investigation (led by Ben Jaffey KC).
- *Confidential LCIA proceedings* – A week-long arbitration in the London Court of International Arbitration arising out of an alleged corporate raiding of assets by the Russian state, with a damages claim worth over $300m (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Bousfield on a team led by Tim Lord KC and Thomas Plewman KC).
- *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).
- *Confidential advice* – Advising an international law firm on conflict of interest issues arising out of high value multi-jurisdictional disputes in the insurance industry (as a pupil, assisting James McClelland KC).
- Alastair has also gained experience working on a number of commercial agency disputes (as a pupil, supervised by Sarah Bousfield).

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

Pro bono

Alastair accepts pro bono instructions. He was listed in the Pro Bono Recognition List in 2024.

Languages

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