BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

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

Laura Newton KC

YEAR OF CALL: 2009 **YEAR OF SILK**: 2026

"She is a star."

Legal 500 2026

Email: **laura.newton@brickcourt.co.uk**



Practice Overview

Laura Newton has a commercial practice which sees her regularly instructed in high value international commercial disputes and arbitrations, often with a fraud aspect.

Laura took silk in March 2026. Out of the 96 new silks appointed, she was one of just 10 new silks highlighted and profiled by Legal Business magazine as the "ten names to note".

Laura has also been nominated as Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year in the Legal 500 2026 Bar Awards.

Legal 500 records that she is: "*One of the best of her generation. Destined for greatness. A brilliant drafter and a confident persuasive advocate, whom judges respect. Even by the exceptionally high standards of Brick Court, Laura stands out. Simply superb.*"

Prior to taking silk, Laura won Commercial Litigation Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards in September 2025 and was nominated for that award by both Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners in 2023. She also won Returner of the Year, as one of the Outstanding Women in Law, in the 2024 Women and Diversity in Law Awards. Previously she has been selected for inclusion in *The Lawyer* Hot 100, and was also featured as one of the *Legal Week* 10 Stars at the Bar.

Laura's recent instructions include appearing in the Court of Appeal (and a forthcoming appeal to the Supreme Court) for the National Iranian Oil Corporation in a $2bn dispute raising issues of agency, insolvency and trust law; acting as sole counsel in the Privy Council in relation to an appeal concerning directors' disqualification in Montserrat; acting as sole counsel in substantial LCIA and LMAA arbitrations; and appearing for the successful Appellant in the Privy Council in relation to an issue of Trinidad & Tobago banking law. She has previously acted for a number of lenders in proceedings arising out of the $2 billion "tuna bond" scandal involving allegations of bribery and

corruption in Mozambique; for a City law firm in proceedings arising out of hacking of a businessman's data; and for a group of Chinese banks in a $700 million claim against the Indian businessman Anil Ambani.

The directories include the following commentary on Laura's capabilities: " *Laura is very clear in her style, makes confident submissions and is someone judges warm to quickly. Bright and pragmatic in her approach, she has good judgement and is always on top of the details.* " "*Laura is smart, reliable and down to earth. An asset on any team and a breath of fresh air, she is happy to get into the trenches and immerse herself in the detail of the case* ." "*Laura seems to really get the judge's attention and her submissions land very well* ." "*She has a really sharp brain and is very clear in her advice.*" "*Clients really like her and she is completely on top of all of the documents.*" "*She is super bright and very academically able.*" "*Extremely bright. Her written work is fantastic and she is a very gifted advocate.*"; "*She is extremely able and disarmingly bright*"; "*Highly intelligent.*"

Laura is appointed as a member of the Sport Resolutions Pro Bono panel and undertakes pro bono work through Advocate and Pro Bono Connect. Her pro bono work has been recognised in the Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales. Laura has previously been elected to sit on the COMBAR Executive Committee and is part of the COMBAR advocacy working group. She is also admitted to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Commercial

Laura's practice consists of substantial commercial cases, most of which have an international aspect. Under the umbrella of commercial litigation, Laura's practice spans contractual disputes, civil fraud, banking and finance, and professional liability. She has substantial experience of interlocutory applications, including freezing injunctions, search orders, Norwich Pharmacal relief and other interim measures.

Laura also has experience of shareholder disputes, applications against directors, applications under the Companies Act 2006, applications under the Insolvency Act 1986, and advising in relation to company law issues.

- Registrar of Companies v Allen et al [2024] UKPC 26: appearing as sole counsel in the Privy Council in an appeal from the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court regarding the disqualification of company directors in Montserrat.
- Njord Partners v Astir Maritime [2024] EWHC 1682 (Comm): instructed by a group of hedge funds in relation to claims arising out of the fraudulent misappropriation of funds by a maritime scrapyard business. Laura appeared at interlocutory hearings (as sole counsel) and at trial (including witness handling), and obtained a substantial judgment for the fraud.
- X v Y : acting as sole counsel for the respondent to a substantial freezing injunction, at the return hearing where Laura obtained the discharge of the injunction.

- Azima v RAKIA, Dechert and others [2022] EWHC 1295 (Ch): acting for a global law firm and a retired English solicitor in proceedings arising out of hacking of a businessman's data. Laura acted as lead advocate at the hearing of an application for security for costs, which made new law in relation to the evidence required in response to such an application by a claimant based out of the jurisdiction.
- Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others [2024] EWHC 1957 (Comm): acting for three banks who provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique, in connection with transactions which were subsequently held to have been procured by substantial bribery and fraud. Laura appeared as lead counsel at a number of heavy CMCs in the proceedings, and as part of a counsel team at trial where she handled the sole witness for her clients and addressed the Court in closing submissions.
- SR Projects v Liquidator of the Hindu Credit Union [2022] UKPC 24 : appearing for the successful Appellant in the Privy Council in relation to an issue of Trinidad & Tobago banking law.
- X v Y: appearing for an insurance and reinsurance broker in multiple proceedings arising out of a fatal aeroplane crash in Colombia.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria v Tibit Limited: appearing in the BVI courts (including as sole counsel) in relation to proceedings concerning a Bombardier jet alleged to have been acquired using the proceeds of a substantial fraud in relation to the valuable oil field OPL-245.
- A v B : instructed by an Indian multinational information technology services and consulting company in defending unfair prejudice and breach of contract claims in relation to an English tech start-up in the healthcare sector.
- ICBC v Anil Ambani [2020] EWHC 1403 (Comm): acting for a group of Chinese banks in a $700 million guarantee claim against the Indian businessman Anil Ambani. As sole counsel for ICBC Laura successfully obtained summary judgment against Mr Ambani for the full amount of its claim, and the matter is now proceeding to enforcement.
- Avonwick Holding Limited v Azitio Holdings Limited & others : acting for a number of individuals and corporate defendants in the high-profile Avonwick proceedings between Ukrainian oligarchs. The claims against Laura's clients were dismissed in their entirety following the Phase 1 trial in the proceedings.
- West Ham United Football Club Limited v E20 Stadium LLP [2018] EWHC 2578 (Ch): acting for the owner of the former Olympic Stadium in claims by West Ham United regarding its use of the Stadium under a 99 year Concession Agreement.
- Corbiere and ors v Xu [2018] EWCA Civ 1899: committal proceedings in a breach of confidence case arising out of the theft of a hedge fund's confidential trading strategies. Laura was instructed in the original committal proceedings that resulted in a sentence of thirteen months' imprisonment, and in the appeal in which that sentence was upheld.

- Slater & Gordon v Watchstone plc: acting for Slater & Gordon in its £600 million claim against Watchstone for fraud and breach of warranty which settled shortly before trial in October 2019.
- Cukurova v Alfa Telecom Turkey Limited : instructed by Cukurova in its multi-billion dollar battle regarding control of Turkcell, the largest mobile phone company in Turkey
- Agate Assets SA v Rothschild et al : instructed by Rothschild in Commercial Court claims concerning declaratory relief in relation to €30m loan notes backed by Commerzbank bonds and a third party unsecured loan.
- TARBS Europe SA and City West Centre PTY Limited v the Republic of Macedonia and others: instructed by the Macedonian government to defend claims in excess of €80 million under a television licence agreement.
- Hayward v Striker Trustees Limited et al: instructed by members of the Hayward family in an offshoot of a long-running dispute over the estate of Sir Jack Hayward in the Bahamian courts and other offshore jurisdictions.
- National Westminster Bank plc v Kotonou [2015] All ER (D) 11 (Nov): acted for the successful Respondent in the Court of Appeal in the context of a guarantee claim concerning abuse of process.
- Anastasia Goncharova v Natalia Zolotova [2015] EWHC 3061 (QB): the High Court proceedings of a high-profile international dispute over the estate of Georgian oligarch Kakha Bendukidze.
- X v Y : instructed in a dispute in the Technology & Construction Court regarding damages claims arising from provisional of a defective website.

Civil fraud

- Republic of Mozambique v Credit Suisse and others [2024] EWHC 1957 (Comm): acting for three banks who provided syndicated lending to the Republic of Mozambique, in connection with transactions which were subsequently held to have been procured by substantial bribery and fraud. Laura appeared as lead counsel at a number of heavy CMCs in the proceedings, and as part of a counsel team at trial where she handled the sole witness for her clients and addressed the Court in closing submissions.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria v Tibit Limited: appearing in the BVI courts (including as sole counsel) in relation to proceedings concerning a Bombardier jet alleged to have been acquired using the proceeds of a substantial fraud in relation to the valuable oil field OPL-245.
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maritime scrapyard business. Laura appeared at interlocutory hearings and at trial (including witness handling), and obtained a substantial judgment for the fraud.

- Avonwick Holding Limited v Azitio Holdings Limited & others : acting for a number of individuals and corporate defendants in the high-profile Avonwick proceedings between Ukrainian oligarchs. The claims against Laura's clients were dismissed in their entirety following the Phase 1 trial in these proceedings.
- Bank Alkhair & Dar Al Arkan v Al Refai : a Commercial Court claim by a Bahraini Bank to enforce Bahraini judgments against Mr Al Refai totalling $4 million, in proceedings which were featured as one of the Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2014.
- Tugushev v Orlov et al : instructed by the claimant to obtain a $350m worldwide freezing injunction in a joint venture dispute between Russian businessmen.
- X v Y : substantial fraud proceedings in the Commercial Court regarding claims for misappropriation of assets and breach of fiduciary duty in relation to an international group of companies operating out of Russia and other offshore locations such as the BVI and Cayman Islands.
- Ukrsibbank v Polyakov [2014] EWHC 4292 (Comm): proceedings under section 25 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 involving allegations of misappropriation of assets valued in excess of $100 million.
- Terra Raf Traiding Co Ltd v Aidar Assaubayev and others : Commercial Court proceedings against a prominent Kazakh businessman in respect of a $5 million transaction.
- Re P: Instructed as sole Counsel on behalf of multiple defendants in substantial fraud claims in the Chancery Division by 79 investors in a property investment scheme.
- JSC Bank of Moscow v Kekhman: Bankruptcy proceedings in the context of a multi-jurisdictional Commercial Court dispute over claims in excess of $150 million

Arbitration

International arbitration forms a large part of Laura's practice. She has been involved as sole Counsel, as well as being led, in a number of substantial LCIA, LMAA and ad hoc arbitrations. Examples of recent instructions include:

- An LMAA arbitration regarding fraudulent misrepresentation in the sale of a vessel, as sole Counsel.
- An LCIA arbitration regarding contract claims in the aviation industry, as sole Counsel.
- An LCIA arbitration regarding claims under a cyber insurance policy.
- An LCIA arbitration regarding claims in respect of a share purchase agreement, as sole

Counsel.

- An LMAA arbitration regarding a superyacht valued in excess of €200 million.
- An LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between a Korean steel pipe distributor and its Romanian supplier, as sole Counsel.
- An LCIA arbitration of a substantial unfair prejudice claim in respect of a mining business.
- An LCIA arbitration of a dispute over a licence to operate a fashion television channel.
- A Beth Din arbitration regarding a partnership dispute.
- A Swiss arbitration arising out of a settlement agreement compromising a substantial fraud claim in excess of $100 million, instructed by a national government.
- An LCIA arbitration of claims of €18 million in lost dividend arbitrage profits by an ex equity trader.
- An LCIA arbitration concerning the terms of engagement of a corporate finance specialist in connection with a $30 million loan facility, as sole Counsel.
- An ad hoc arbitration arising out of the dissolution of a solicitors' firm.

Professional negligence

- X v Y: appearing for an insurance and reinsurance broker in multiple proceedings arising out of a fatal aeroplane crash in Colombia.
- A v B : professional negligence claims against a Big Four accountancy firm in relation to advice on a tax avoidance scheme.
- X v Y : Two multi-billion dollar professional negligence claims in the Middle East against a leading accountancy firm.
- X v Y: professional negligence claims against a Big Four accountancy firm.

Education & Qualifications

Hatfield College, Durham University:

LLB (Dunelm), First class honours

Baxter Prize for top performance in college

Cervantes Prize for top performance in year

St Catherine's College, University of Oxford:

BCL (Oxon), Distinction

Allen & Overy Prize for the Best Performance in Global Comparative Financial Law

Allen & Overy Prize for the Best Performance in Corporate Insolvency Law

College honours for top performance in the BCL

Astbury Scholarship, Middle Temple

University College London: Visiting Tutor in Tort Law

King's College London: Examiner in Trusts Law

Directory Quotes

Chambers & Partners 2027: (Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"*Not only super bright but great to work with, she is very accessible and willing to go the extra mile to ensure her clients get the best outcome possible. Her ability to distil and explain complex issues in an accessible way really sets her apart.*"

"*Laura is great to work with. She is super-sharp and client-friendly.*"

"*Her advocacy is really lovely and her written documents are excellent.*"

"*Laura combines an approachable, client-friendly manner with the ability to lead high-value and sensitive matters, including those involving novel legal issues.*"

"*Laura displays both great judgement and poise and is incredibly talented.*"

Chambers & Partners 2027: (Fraud: Civil)

"*Laura Newton is absolutely excellent. She has judgement and poise, and is incredibly talented.*"

"*Laura is astute and a pleasure to work with. She is able to quickly master the detail and performs exceptionally well.*"

"*Laura was highly responsive, had a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of English civil fraud law and was a very effective advocate.*"

Chambers & Partners 2027: (Chancery Commercial)

"*Laura is an excellent advocate who is someone you can really rely on. She knows all the details in the case and skilfully pushes her argument forward.*"

"*Laura produced some lovely advocacy, as well as some excellent written documents.*"

"*Laura's pleadings persuasive, clear and logical. She is exceptionally responsive and very easy to work with.*"

"*Laura is a user-friendly barrister who handles high value and sensitive matters, many of which containg novel legal issues.*"

Legal 500, 2027 (Commercial Litigation)

"*Laura's advocacy is utterly exceptional. I instructed her as lead advocate on a very hard-fought case, and she presents with calm, methodical authority. Her submissions have the air of being obviously right. She is fiercely well prepared and strikes in the courtroom with deadly precision. Laura is also an extremely capable paper lawyer and remarkably good with clients. I have absolutely no hesitation in joining Laura to conferences, and her presence is always reassuring.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2026 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is pragmatic, bright, has good judgement and is on top of the details.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2026 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*It has been a tricky technical case, and Laura has always given very sensible advice. She is a good team player, and her pleading and drafting have been very effective.*"
"*She must be right on the verge of taking silk. She is a very able commercial barrister.*"
"*Laura Newton has real presence in the market and is very easy to work with.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2026 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*Laura has excellent client-handling skills, is very persuasive in her written advocacy and shows great depth of legal analysis. She's also extremely hard-working and a real team player.*"
"*Laura is very clear in her style, makes confident submissions and is someone judges warm to quickly. Bright and pragmatic in her approach, she has good judgement and is always on top of the details.*"

Legal 500, 2026 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is a star.*"

Legal 500, 2026 (Commercial Litigation)
"*Laura is a fantastic fraud specialist with every quality you would want from a senior junior including excellent big case experience and great advocacy skills.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2025 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*Very responsive and easy to work with, she provides excellent analysis and advice on points of*

detail, as well as more generally on matters of strategy."
"She is a rising star."

Chambers & Partners, 2025 (Fraud: Civil)
"Laura is really impressive and quickly gets the ear of judges."

Chambers & Partners, 2025 (Chancery: Commercial)
"Laura is smart, reliable and down to earth. An asset on any team and a breath of fresh air, she is happy to get into the trenches and immerse herself in the detail of the case."
"Laura is a superb commercial junior with lots of experience in fraud. She's on the verge of silk."
"She is hard-working, diligent and experienced."

Legal 500, 2025 (Fraud: Civil)
"Laura is extremely intelligent, elegant on paper and a polished advocate. Absolutely superb."

Legal 500, 2025 (Commercial Litigation)
"Laura is in the absolute top tier of juniors at the commercial Bar, with a genuine specialism in complex commercial transactions, including those involving trusts in the commercial context."

Chambers & Partners, 2024 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"Laura Newton is very good at managing solicitors and clients. Her drafting is of the highest order and is very sensible and wise."
"Laura seems to really get the judge's attention and her submissions land very well."

Chambers & Partners, 2024 (Fraud: Civil)
"Laura's advocacy style is calm and measured but steely in its resolve and in her determination to succeed for her clients."
"Laura is fantastic. She is phenomenally bright, really great to work with and absolutely loved by the team."
"She is a real class act - diligent, hard-working, a fantastic advocate and really pleasant to deal with."

Chambers & Partners, 2024 (Chancery: Commercial)
"Absolutely fantastic. She works so hard and is so clever."
"Absolutely superb and a pleasure to work with. She's very clever and her draftsmanship is of the highest order."
"Thorough, reliable and easy to work with."

Legal 500, 2024 (Commercial Litigation)
"Laura is a superstar junior, who is brilliant on paper and a polished, smooth, advocate whom judges sit up and listen to."

Chambers & Partners, 2023 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"Really excellent, she's very clever and the research she puts into her cases is impeccable."
"Her paperwork is immaculate - everything comes beautifully written and served up on a plate. She's

a leader's dream."

Chambers & Partners, 2023 (Fraud: Civil)
"*Laura is a superstar in the making.*"
"*Laura is sharp and extremely hard-working.*"
"*She is very responsive.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2023 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*You can completely trust in her judgement.*"
"*Her paperwork is immaculate - everything is beautifully written. She is very clever and her research is impeccable: she is a leader's dream.*"

Legal 500, 2023 (Fraud: Civil)
"*One of the rising stars at the junior Bar, with exceptional talent. She has a huge capacity for absorbing detail on the most complex fraud matters.*"

Legal 500, 2023 (Commercial Litigation)
"*A superb young barrister. One of the best of her generation. Destined for greatness. A brilliant drafter and a confident persuasive advocate, whom judges respect. Even by the exceptionally high standards of Brick Court, Laura stands out. Simply superb.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2022 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*She has a really sharp brain and is very clear in her advice.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2022 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is absolutely superb. Her advocacy is very strong and she is really strong on complex fraud issues.*"
"*She is really first class - her work is very prompt and all of the highest quality, as is her advocacy.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2022 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*Her advice is excellent. She is super bright and just very nice to work with.*"

Legal 500, 2022 (Commercial Litigation)
"*Extremely talented and a huge pleasure to work with. Proactive and very user-friendly.*"

Legal 500, 2022 (Fraud: Civil)
"*First rate – very easy to work with and extremely knowledgeable.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2021 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*Very smart and highly capable, she is going places.*"
"*Clients really like her and she is completely on top of all of the documents.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2021 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is super bright and very academically able.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2021 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*Very user-friendly and always on top of the detail.*"

Legal 500, 2021 (Commercial Litigation)
"*An outstanding junior who deals with issues of complexity and gravity with great confidence.*"

Legal 500, 2021 (Fraud: Civil)
"*Highly intelligent and analytical, always completely on top of the detail, has a collaborative working style, a very sharp mind and is a pleasure to work with.*"

Chambers & Partners UK & Global, 2020 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*Hard-working and bright, she is very responsive and very good at getting on top of all the issues and thinking them through.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2020 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She's one of the quickest barristers - she turns around high-quality work in no time at all.*"
"*She's really impressive, easy to work with and makes time to take calls.*"

Legal 500, 2020 (Commercial Litigation)
"*Delightful to work with and always makes herself available.*"

Legal 500, 2020 (Fraud: Civil)
"*A very clear thinker and her pleadings are clear, thoughtful and well-measured.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2019 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*Extremely personable and someone who punches above her weight.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2019 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*Laura Newton is very user-friendly, hard-working, good to have on a team and very mature; she comes across as so much more than a junior.*"
"*She's a rising star.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2019 (Fraud: Civil)
"*Extremely bright. Her written work is fantastic and she is a very gifted advocate. Clients find her reassuring and approachable.*"
"*Highly intelligent.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2018 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*Very nice and very willing to help out, she really does make herself available.*"
"*A superb junior, who despite her outstanding legal abilities is very modest.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2018 (Commercial Dispute Resolution)
"*Extremely easy to deal with and very friendly, she helps put clients at ease.*"
"*She produces things very quickly and she really masters the evidence.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2018 (Fraud: Civil)
"*Bright, hard-working and praised by her leaders. She has a great future.*"
"*Extremely easy to deal with. Very friendly.*"

Legal 500, 2018–19 (Commercial Litigation)
"*Sensible, pragmatic, responsive, and understands solicitors' practices from previous experience.*"

Legal 500, 2018 (Fraud: Civil)
"*A great team player who provides fantastic support to leaders and solicitors.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2017 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is very personable and very diligent, and has judgement beyond her years.*"
"*She grasps material and produces high-quality work in very quick time.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2017 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*She is extremely able and disarmingly bright.*"

Legal 500, 2017 (Commercial Litigation)
"*An up-and-coming star.*"

Legal 500, 2017 (Fraud: Civil)
"*Very clever, hardworking and very good at keeping a strong market profile.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2016 (Fraud)
"*Extremely clever and enormously diligent. The quality of her written work is well beyond her years and she is also a very good team player with a very warm personality.*"

Chambers & Partners, 2016 (Chancery: Commercial)
"*She assimilates the facts quickly and has good recall. She is always very personable and friendly. You can work well with her in a team.*"

Legal 500, 2016 (Commercial Litigation – Top Ten Under Eight Years' Call)
"*She continues to impress with her knowledge and approach to cases.*"

Legal 500, 2016 (Fraud: Civil)
"*A real star in the making.*"

Legal 500, 2015 (Fraud: Civil)
"*She is diligent, personable, and intelligent, with judgement beyond her years.*"