BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
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Sarah Bousfield

YEAR OF CALL: ENGLAND AND WALES: 2013; NORTHERN IRELAND: 2018; IRELAND: 2021

"A talented junior" "Exceptional knowledge of technology and law" "Superb intellect; hard-working; practically- minded; responsive; operating beyond her years."

Legal 500 2025, (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

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Practice Overview

Sarah is an in-demand senior junior whose expansive practice includes high value commercial litigation as well as high profile competition, regulatory, sanctions and public law matters. The wide-ranging nature of Sarah's practice makes her particularly adept at working on cases raising novel and complex factual and legal situations which straddle multiple practice areas.

Sarah is widely regarded as one of the leading juniors in cryptocurrency matters and has been ranked in that area since the category was created. She also has particular expertise and experience in civil fraud for which she is ranked in Chambers & Partners, as well as related proceedings concerning pre-emptive remedies and contempt of court. In addition, Sarah is ranked in the directories in the field of Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law, which reflects her work across the professional discipline, banking/ financial services and aviation sectors.

Sarah has appeared in numerous different courts and tribunals, including in the Supreme Court and various major international arbitrations. She has appeared unled in the High Court (Chancery Division and Commercial Court) and the Court of Appeal.

Sarah has been instructed in many of the most high-profile disputes in recent years, including:

- Numerous cryptocurrency matters, including claims arising from hacking of a major international cryptocurrency exchange, claims concerning cryptocurrency trading platforms, acting for the group claimants in a multi-billion claim in ***BSV Claimants Limited*** and various interim relief measures in respect of crypto-assets.
- Acting for QBE, led by Mark Howard KC, in the COVID-19 Business Interruption insurance test case of Financial Conduct Authority v Arch and Others [2020] EWHC 2448 (Comm) and before the Supreme Court in the same matter: ***Financial Conduct Authority v Arch and Others*** [2021] UKSC 1.

- Advising a sanctioned entity on the implications of the sanctions legislation in the UK and the UK's overseas territories (led by Paul Wright).
- Acting for the claimant in an LCIA arbitration seeking specific performance (alternatively, damages) for breach of a shareholders' agreement (led by Thomas Plewman KC).
- Acting in numerous international arbitration and litigation proceedings arising out of an alleged corporate raiding of assets by the Russian state, led by Tim Lord KC Representing Alexander Tugushev, led by Helen Davies KC and Richard Slade KC, concerning a fraudulent conspiracy to deprive him of his share of the USD1.5 billion Norebo fishing group.
- Acting for Alliance in its successful appeal from the CMA's infringement decision in relation to ***Prochlorperazine*** (concerning alleged participation in a market exclusion agreement ***Advanz Pharma and others v CMA*** [2024] CAT 36) (led by Sarah Ford KC).
- ***Elizabeth Helen Coll v Alphabet Inc*** – acting for the class representative in collective proceeding against Google arising out of alleged abuse of dominance in connection with the Google Play store (led by Mark Hoskins KC).

Cryptocurrency

Sarah has from the outset been one of the go-to juniors for cryptocurrency disputes, having advised extensively on various matters involving cryptoassets, including in respect of freezing orders, proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and other interim relief. Sarah has been instructed by major cryptocurrency exchanges that have been hacked as well as other cases where cryptoassets were obtained with the proceeds of other illegality activities, such as cybersquatting.

Sarah's notable current work in this area includes:

- Acting, as sole counsel, in a muti-million pound claim concerning investments on a cryptocurrency trading platform.

- Acting, as sole counsel, for a major international cryptocurrency exchange that was hacked and suffered multi-million pound losses, including in respect of freezing orders, proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and other interim relief over Bitcoin, Ethereum and Dogecoin.

- *BSV Claims Limited v Bittylicious Limited and others* - Acting for the group claimants in a landmark 9.9 bn anti-trust class action against four major cryptocurrency exchanges concerning Bitcoin Satoshi Vision ("BSV").

Commercial

Sarah has a diverse clientele including City, corporate and private clients, with particular experience working with family offices and ultra-high net worth individuals. Sarah has a broad commercial practice involving large scale, high value and complex disputes concerning civil fraud, banking and finance issues, cryptocurrency disputes, and arbitrations, as detailed in those specific sections, as well as litigation of general commercial matters, including:

- Acting for QBE, led by Mark Howard KC, in the COVID-19 Business Interruption insurance test case of *Financial Conduct Authority v Arch and Others* [2020] EWHC 2448 (Comm) and led by Michael Crane KC. in the Supreme Court in the same matter: *Financial Conduct Authority v Arch and Others* [2021] UKSC 1. This test case brought by the FCA against eight leading insurers concerned the extent to which non-damage business interruption policies respond to loss caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and was believed to affect around 370,000 policyholders.
- Advising a sanctioned entity on the implications of the sanctions legislation in the UK and the UK's overseas territories (led by Paul Wright).
- Acting on behalf of a family of ultra-high net worth individuals, following the death of the head of the family, in a multi-billion dollar dispute concerning issues of trust law, company law issues, offshore structures in the context of multi-jurisdictional commercial and matrimonial litigation proceedings, led by James Ramsden KC.
- Acting for a technology company in a commercial agency dispute, led by Fergus Randolph KC.
- Acting as sole counsel, for a start-up company specialising in software development in an eight-figure breach of contract / debt claim in the Circuit Commercial Court.
- Acting, as sole counsel, for a Swiss financial adviser in a six-figure claim against an offshore airline for breach of contract/ payment of a debt for failure to pay for services during the airline's proposed buyout in the Circuit Commercial Court.
- Acting for and advising various start-up entities in respect of a variety of issues including breach of contract claims, shareholder disputes and regulatory approval (such as via the FCA).
- Acting as sole counsel on behalf of a Central London Estate agent that specialises in premium residential properties in various claims for breach of contract / unpaid commission fees.
- Advising, as sole counsel, in a six-figure dispute with issues of contractual formation, jurisdiction and applicable law.
- Advising on potential defamation claims arising out of publication of alleged breaches of United Nation Security Council Sanctions.

- Acting for a subcontractor in an eight-figure termination and delay dispute: *PBS Energo A.S. v Bester Generation UK Ltd and another* [2020] EWHC 223 (TCC).
- Successfully representing, as sole counsel, the claimant in *Wysepower Limited (t/a Wyse Logistics) v PP Co Ltd* [2016] EWHC 3565 (TCC) who was seeking restitution of a six-figure sum.

Civil fraud

Sarah has particular expertise in civil fraud work, asset tracing and obtaining pre-emptive remedies, including asset freezing orders, evidence preservation, and pre-action disclosure, as well as proceedings for contempt of court for breach of pre-emptive orders. Sarah is also skilled in dealing with difficult cases of cyber-fraud and is one of the go-to juniors in the emerging field of cryptocurrency, having advised extensively on various matters involving cryptoassets, including in respect of freezing orders, proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and other interim relief. Sarah has been ranked in the directories in recognition of this (Band 2). Sarah has been instructed by major cryptocurrency exchanges that have been hacked as well as other cases where cryptoassets were obtained with the proceeds of other illegality activities, such as cybersquatting.

Sarah's notable current and recent work in this area includes:

- Acting in numerous international arbitration and litigation proceedings arising out of an alleged corporate raiding of assets by the Russian state, led by Tim Lord KC.
- Representing Alexander Tugushev in a case against Vitaly Orlov, Magnus Roth and Andrey Petrik, who he claimed had entered into a fraudulent conspiracy to deprive him of his share of the USD1.5 billion Norebo fishing group, led by Helen Davies KC and Richard Slade KC.
- Acting, as sole counsel, for a major international cryptocurrency exchange that was hacked, including in respect of freezing orders, proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and other interim relief over Bitcoin, Ethereum and Dogecoin.
- BSV Claims Limited v Bittylicious Limited and others - Acting for the group claimants in a landmark 9.9 bn anti-trust class action against four major cryptocurrency exchanges concerning Bitcoin Satoshi Vision ("BSV"), led by Sarah Ford KC.
- Acting for Lord (Jeffrey) Archer, the international renowned British novelist in a seven-figure claim in the Chancery Division against his former literary agent Curtis Brown regarding royalty payments and rights of termination, as well as seeking relief by way of an account and inquiry.
- Acting for the Claimant in a multi-billion economic torts claim, led by James Ramsden KC. The claim concerned fraud, conspiracy and acts of intimidation and raised complex issues of jurisdiction, immunity and service out.

- Acting for the Claimant in a seven-figure claim brought pursuant to s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to set aside a transaction which defrauded a major creditor by putting assets beyond their reach, led by James Ramsden KC.
- Appearing as sole counsel in the Court of Appeal, Sarah successfully maintained an immediate custodial sentence for breach of a freezing order in committal proceedings for contempt of court (see: *Sellers v Podstreshnyy* [2019] EWCA Civ 613 and *Podstreshnyy v Pericles Properties Ltd* [2019] EWHC 469 (Ch). Sarah also won the underlying six figure proprietary claim against an estate and letting agent for, inter alia, breach of trust, misappropriation of client monies and secured charging orders against various properties for enforcement purposes.
- Acting as sole counsel in a case of cyber-fraud, including issues of cyber-squatting, harassment and impersonation, Sarah successfully obtained various Norwich Pharmacal Orders against ISPs, a website domain registrar and a website which provides privacy services restricting access to details of website registrants on the ICANN WHOIS database.
- Acting in a seven-figure fraud dispute defending individuals accused of breach of trust / fiduciary duties / misappropriation of funds and assets, led by James Ramsden KC.
- Acting as sole counsel in in a six-figure fraud in relation to a property development contract.
- Successfully representing a client in the High Court as sole counsel in a case concerning service out and jurisdiction issues, and in respect of numerous freezing injunctions/ Norwich Pharmacal orders.
- Acting for the Law Society, as sole counsel, in respect of an investigation of a former solicitor accused of misappropriation of monies from a client account of a firm, Part 8 proceedings in the Chancery Division to obtain documentation pursuant to s.33B of the Solicitors Act 1974 and in respect of committal proceedings for contempt of court.
- Acting for the Law Society in proceedings in the Chancery Division concerning misappropriation of a seven-figure sum from a client account of a firm of solicitors, led by Hodge Malek KC.

Banking and finance

Sarah regularly undertakes a wide range of banking and financial services work. She formed part of the team of barristers who advised the Ministry of Justice, in conjunction with COMBAR, on the impact of Brexit on the UK's Financial Services industry. Sarah is also a regular contributor to the Journal of International Banking and Financial Law . Sarah also advises firms on compliance, investigations and anti-money laundering issues.

Sarah has recently:

- advised a financial services company in relation to delisting from the London Stock Exchange, led by Charles Hollander KC.
- acted, as sole counsel, against numerous high street banks in relation to various mis-sold financial products.
- advised the FCA, as sole counsel, on authorisations of numerous Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending platforms regulated by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) Order 2001
- advised, as sole counsel, a major bank on the merits of pursuing litigation arising out of compliance with ISA regulations, including against another bank.
- advised the FCA, as sole counsel, on issues arising out of the management of an alternative investment fund ("AIF"), or the operation of a collective investment scheme ("CIS").
- advised FOS on the application of their statutory powers, including on jurisdictional issues.
- advisory work for a major international bank, which included advising on a range of potential regulatory and disciplinary proceeding, including issues arising from the regulation of client monies, CASS accounts and compliance with ISA regulations.
- advised on the issue of 'Separate Legal Personality' and the ability of entities other than Customers of a Bank to claim for breach of COB/COBS rules.
- acted as an independent s.166 skilled person approved by the FCA and appointed to review cases concerning the mis-selling of Interest Rate Hedging Products (including swaps/caps/collars) for RBS and HSBC.

Competition

Sarah has experience of a wide range of competition work, including standalone damages cases concerning both cartels and abuse of dominance, regulatory decisions and appeals, and CPO applications.

Sarah has been instructed in many of the most high-profile competition disputes in recent years, including:

- *Elizabeth Helen Coll v Alphabet Inc* – acting for the class representative in collective proceeding against Google arising out of alleged abuse of dominance in connection with the Google Play store (led by Mark Hoskins KC). One of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2024.
- *Prochlorperazine*: acting for Alliance in its successful appeal to the Competition Appeal Tribunal from the CMA's infringement decision in *Prochlorperazine* (concerning alleged participation in a market exclusion agreement) (led by Sarah Ford KC).

- *CAA Base and ors v FA (FIFA participating):* acting for three leading sports agencies (and one smaller agency) in their successful arbitral challenge to the attempt by the FA and FIFA to introduce regulations capping agents' fees. The award was made public and widely reported on (Guardian, Times, Athletic) (led by Marie Demetriou KC).

- *BSV Claims Limited v Bittylicious Limited and others* - Acting for the group claimants in a landmark 9.9 bn anti-trust class action against four major cryptocurrency exchanges concerning Bitcoin Satoshi Vision ("BSV").

Sports

Sarah has experience of a wide range of sports cases, including commercial disputes, competition claims and regulatory/ disciplinary matters.

She has particular experience of acting in football, motor racing and horse racing matters, including in connection with:

- Competition rules
- Contractual disputes between managers/clubs in football
- Disputes between Agents and players/clubs/governing bodies
- Transfer rules and obligations
- Betting
- Sponsorship
- Disciplinary matters, including doping and lifetime bans

Sarah's recent and notable work includes:

- *Sheffield United Football Club v Shepherd and Wedderburn* – One of the Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2023, Sarah acted for the Defendants in this high-profile £150m claim arising from sale of Sheffield United FC, involving allegations of negligence and breach of fiduciary duty (led by Charles Hollander KC).

- CAA Base and Ors v FA (FIFA participating): acting for three leading sports agencies (and one smaller agency) in their successful arbitral challenge to the attempt by the FA and FIFA to introduce regulations capping agents' fees. The award was made public and widely reported on (Guardian, Times, Athletic) (led by Marie Demetriou KC).

Arbitration

Sarah is regularly instructed to appear as counsel in major international arbitrations including under LCIA/ICC/UNCITRAL rules and ad hoc.

Examples of Sarah's recent work includes:

- Acting for the claimant in an LCIA arbitration seeking specific performance (alternatively, damages) for breach of a shareholders' agreement (led by Thomas Plewman KC).
- Acting for a major African energy company in UNCITRAL arbitral proceedings in a multi-million pound dispute concerning energy tariffs, project financing, relational contracts and good faith issues, led by Anneliese Day KC.
- Acting for a leading aerospace, arms, defence and technology company in an ad hoc arbitration concerning globally renowned defence products and services, in a multi- million pound dispute, led by Jasbir Dhillon KC.
- Acting for a state-owned Petroleum company in an ICC arbitration with an EPC Contractor in the Caribbean in a dispute worth in excess of US$250 million, led by Karim Ghaly KC.

Regulatory and disciplinary

As noted above, Legal 500 identifies Sarah as one of four "Rising Stars" in the field of Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law.

Sarah is experienced in acting in a wide range of regulatory cases. She has been instructed in professional disciplinary proceedings and has dealt with allegations of misconduct, fraud, misappropriation of client monies, dishonesty and other breaches of professional codes of conduct.

Sarah has an established practice acting as a junior counsel for numerous regulators, including the Civil Aviation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority; for further information on this type of work, please see the sections on her profile about Aviation and Banking and Financial Services.

Legal profession

The Law Society also regularly engages Sarah on a range of matters, including applications before the High Court and general advisory work. Examples of notable current and recent work includes:

- Acting for the Law Society in the case of *SRA v Sheikh* [2020] EWHC 3062 (Admin), led by James Ramsden KC. Therein, Lord Justice Davis and Mr Justice Edis allowed the Law Society's appeal against a finding of 'no case to answer' by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

("the SDT") on allegations made against Nabeel Sheikh, former senior partner and founder of the central London firm Neumans LLP.

- Advising the KCA, the body responsible for King's Counsel appointments and in relation to a potential judicial review/ proceedings for breach of contract arising from a complaint to the King's Counsel Complaints Commission.
- Acting, as sole counsel, for the Law Society in disciplinary proceedings against numerous former employees of a closed law firm that was found to have defrauded the Legal Aid Agency in excess of £20m.
- Acting for the Law Society, as sole counsel, to resist a judicial review claim and claim for interim relief pursuant to s.1028 of the Companies Act 2006 which were brought by the claimant in an attempt to restore his law firm's authorisation to practice which had been lost as a result of a relevant corporate entity being struck off the Companies House Register.
- Acting for the Law Society, as sole counsel, in respect of an investigation of a solicitor accused of professional misconduct arising from a complaint that the solicitor had retained for herself a payment which had been intended as compensation payable to her client and Part 8 proceedings to obtain relevant documentation pursuant to s.33B of the Solicitors Act 1974.
- Acting for the Law Society, as sole counsel, in various judicial review proceedings, including most recently to resist a judicial review claim arising out of a decision by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal to strike off of a solicitor for falsely completing and signing court documents.
- Acting, as sole counsel, for the Law Society numerous committal proceedings for non-compliance with s.44B notices ordering production of information and documents.
- Acting for the Law Society in *Neumans v The Law Society* [2017] EWHC 2004 (Ch) in successfully resisting all challenges to the decision to intervene into the law firm, led by James Ramsden KC.
- Advising on a seven-figure claim for misappropriation of monies from a client account of a firm of solicitors, led by Hodge Malek KC.

Aviation

Sarah has substantial experience of issues affecting the aviation sector and regularly advises airlines and airports as well as being a counsel of choice for the Civil Aviation Authority. Sarah has a particular knowledge of airspace regulation including a technical understanding of RNAV (area navigation) systems and their interaction with noise preferential routes (NPRS), as well as issues arising in the context of airspace change processes (ACPs).

Sarah's most notable and recent work includes:

- Acting, with Andrew Tabachnik KC, in connection with a judicial review claim in connection with wet leasing of aircraft.
- Advising, as sole counsel, on the application of the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004 to airline crew members, including their extra territorial effect, and the obligation to provide rest breaks.
- Advising the CAA in respect of airspace changes, trials of new SIDs and consultation duties. Advising, as sole counsel, a major UK airport on the lawfulness of its consultation exercises.
- Advising the Civil Aviation Authority on the Post Implementation Review of changes to Departure Routes at Gatwick Airport.
- Advising, as sole counsel, on data protection issues pursuant to the Environmental Information Regulations.

Public Law

Sarah is experienced in acting in a wide range of public law work, in addition to the regulatory work, which is detailed above.

Sarah's notable pure public law work includes:

- Advising the Conservative and Unionist party and several of their candidates on a range of electoral law issues in the run up to the 2019 General Election and on methods for preventing harassment of political candidates, particularly by users of online platforms who utilise pseudonyms, proxies, and/or anonymous accounts.
- Acting for Zurich Insurance, a Core Participant of the Investigation into Accountability and Reparations for Victims and Survivors of Abuse as part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) chaired by Professor Alexis Jay OBE, led by Nigel Pleming KC.
- Advising the Civil Aviation Authority on, amongst other things, potential judicial review claims arising out of airspace changes, post implementation reviews, wet leasing of airplanes, the application of working time regulations to the civil aviation sector and environmental information regulations.
- Advising a major airport on a judicial review claim concerning the lawfulness of consultation exercises.
- Acting for numerous female prisoners in their successful claims challenging the legality of strip-searching policies and practices in prison.
- Acting for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of claims by numerous Kenyan nationals who allege that they were seriously mistreated in detention camps in Kenya whilst it was a British colony during the Mau Mau uprising by British employees and agents.

Qualifications & Additional Information

- 2012-2013: BPTC, City Law School
- 2011-2012: BCL, St Anne's College, University of Oxford
- 2009-2010: ELS Scholarship Exchange Programme, L'Université de Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2007-2011: First Class LLB, Van Mildert College, University of Durham

Prizes & Scholarships

BPTC: Lord Denning Major BPTC Scholarship; Accommodation Award; Hardwicke Entrance Award; Buchanan 'Outstanding' Prize and the 'Chomeley Studentship' Award.

Undergraduate: 'Best in Year' Herbert Smith Prize for ranking 1st in Year and other prizes for highest marks in individual modules, sponsored by White & Case, and O'Melveny & Myers.

Mooting: 2011 UK National Champion and World Finalist, Phillip C. Jessup Public International Law Moot Court Competition (representing Durham University) and 'Best Oralist in the Final', Prizes and 2006 National Champion, Bar Council's National Mock Trial Competition.

Pro Bono & charitable work

Sarah is committed to pro bono work. In particular, she has a long-established record of advising on education law and Special Educational Needs' issues, including in conjunction with the charitable organisation IPSEA. In her spare time Sarah is also a champion of Borneo based Orangutan Foundation International and has previously volunteered to care for orphaned wild orangutans and to assist with conservation of their rainforest habitat.

Directory quotes

"Sarah is very strong in the crypto space." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Sarah has a particular skill in distilling weaknesses in case construction early, which can be addressed long before it's a problem. This then allows her advocacy in both written and oral submissions to be formidable and in turn highlight the weaknesses in the opposition. The street fighter you want on your team." (Legal 500 2027)

"Sarah Bousfield is a talented junior with an impressive cryptocurrency practice. She regularly advises clients on cryptocurrency matters involving elements of fraud, and she offers particular expertise advising on cryptocurrency matters related to interim relief measures." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Sarah is very client-friendly and practical in her approach to issues." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Sarah is very user-friendly, accessible and happy to chat anything through on the phone." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Her experience in acting on behalf of exchanges subject to malicious attacks means she has an approach that has been forged in the fire of crisis, resulting in proven practical remedies to the benefit of her clients." (Legal 500, 2025)

"She is a very sound barrister." (Legal 500, 2025)

"Sarah's knowledge of technology and law is exceptional. She works very hard to get a claim up and running." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"She has a good eye for distilling the relevant facts in a case." (Legal 500, 2024)

"Turned her hand to a complex and novel area in relation to cryptocurrency with ease under immense time pressure." "She is industrious and consistently delivers work of a high standard." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"Superb intellect; hard-working; practically-minded ; responsive; operating beyond her years." (Legal 500, 2023)

Sarah is ranked in Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law (Band 4) (Legal 500,2022), having been noted as a “Rising Star” in the field of Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law (Legal 500, 2021).

Sarah is ranked in Chambers & Partners in Cryptocurrency (Band 2) in the UK Bar 2022 Guide, when the category was created.

"She is incredibly capable and understands the various legal thresholds. She is able to distil down what we need to present to the court and her success rate is outstanding." "She can turn her hand quickly to matters and has good drafting skills." (Chambers & Partners 2022)

“Sarah is an exceptional barrister, who is hard-working, enthusiastic and passionate.” (Legal 500, 2022)

“She is a very capable, hard-working and enthusiastic junior” (Legal 500, 2021)