
Lauren Hitchman

Barrister
Call 2020



Scope of Practice

• Commercial Litigation • Employment • Public Law • Insurance and Reinsurance • Professional Liability

Overview

Lauren welcomes instructions across the full spectrum of commercial disputes. In addition to her commercial work, Lauren acts in employment and public law matters, and has a particular interest in cases that sit at the intersection of these areas.

Lauren is ranked as a “Rising Star” in employment law in the Legal 500, where she is described as “*a bright, articulate, and extremely capable junior, with a razor-sharp forensic mind*”.

Lauren’s current and recent instructions include:

- *Crane Bank and others v dfcu Bank and others*: acting for the claimants (led by Hannah Brown KC and David Caplan) in a high-value Commercial Court conspiracy claim in which it is alleged that several defendants conspired with the Bank of Uganda in order to procure the “resolution” and sale at an undervalue of the assets and liabilities of one of Uganda’s leading financial institutions.
 - *Hayes v Pack and others [2025] EWHC 402 (KB)*: acting for the Liberal Democrats in a dispute with a former senior member (led by Richard Mott).
 - *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others (2023)*: acted for the claimants (led by Timothy Killen) in a claim for breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy relating to the alleged taking of confidential information by a competitor in the industrial and construction chemicals industry.
 - *A fintech company v former employees (ongoing)*: acting for the claimant (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC) in a claim against former employees for the misuse of confidential information.
-

- *UK Covid-19 Inquiry*: instructed as junior Counsel to the Inquiry, chaired by Baroness Heather Hallett DBE.

Lauren is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.

Lauren is a former Visiting Lecturer in Contract Law at City, University of London. She was awarded the Inner Temple's Princess Royal Scholarship (the Inn's top award) for the law conversion, as well as scholarships from COMBAR and City Law School. For the Bar course, Lauren was awarded a Major Scholarship by the Inner Temple and a further scholarship from City Law School. Lauren subsequently won the Jarman Prize for ranking 1st out of 72 pupils in the Inner Temple Pupils' Advocacy Prize 2021.

Before coming to the Bar, Lauren worked for some of the West End's leading commercial theatre producers.

Examples of Recent Cases

Commercial Litigation

Lauren has considerable experience in commercial disputes, as both sole and junior counsel:

- *Crane Bank and others v dfcu Bank and others*: acting for the claimants (led by Hannah Brown KC and David Caplan) in a high-value Commercial Court conspiracy claim, in which it is alleged that several defendants conspired with the Bank of Uganda in order to procure the "resolution" and sale at an undervalue of the assets and liabilities of one of Uganda's leading financial institutions. Judgments include [2024] EWHC 2773 (Comm) and [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm).
 - *Bourlakova v Bourlakov*: instructed by the claimants in multi-billion-dollar fraud proceedings against a deceased oligarch and his associates. The claim involves allegations of deceit, forgery, offshore asset misappropriation and the deliberate destruction of evidence.
 - *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others (2023)*: acted for the claimants (led by Timothy Killen) in a claim for breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy relating to the alleged taking of confidential information by a competitor in the industrial and construction chemicals industry;
 - *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others [2023] EWHC 22 (Comm)*: assisted Charles Dougherty KC and Timothy Killen in this application brought by the defendants to injunct the claimants from relying upon allegedly inadvertently disclosed privileged materials;
 - *A fintech company v former employees (ongoing)*: acting for the claimant (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC) in a claim against former employees for the misuse of confidential information;
 - *A v B (2023)*: acting (led by Timothy Killen) in a US\$10m DIAC Arbitration concerning the supply and upgrade of a mobile land drilling rig (Dubai seat, English law governed);
 - *X and Y v Z (2022)*: instructed (led by Timothy Killen) in a High Court (TCC) dispute concerning the design and construction of a domestic property. Lauren was instructed as sole counsel in an application to amend;
 - *A v B and C (ongoing)*: acting as sole counsel for a legal services company in a claim against its former directors;
 - *A v several defendants (2022)*: instructed (led by Timothy Killen) in a product liability and property damage
-

claim in the High Court. The main claim and its related contribution claims arose out of a fire to a commercial property;

- *N v M (ongoing)*: acting as sole counsel for a company in the sports sector in a claim for misrepresentation and breach of contract;
- *PJSC National Bank Trust and another v Mints and another* [2021] EWHC 692 (Comm): (as a pupil) assisting Charles Dougherty KC and Timothy Killen in this case concerning whether England was the appropriate forum for proceedings between state-owned Russian banks and foreign domiciled Defendants.

Civil Fraud and Economic Torts

Lauren has considerable experience in commercial disputes, as both sole and junior counsel:

- *Crane Bank and others v dfcu Bank and others*: acting for the claimants (led by Hannah Brown KC and David Caplan) in a high-value Commercial Court conspiracy claim, in which it is alleged that several defendants conspired with the Bank of Uganda in order to procure the “resolution” and sale at an undervalue of the assets and liabilities of one of Uganda’s leading financial institutions. Judgments include [2024] EWHC 2773 (Comm) and [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm).
- *Bourlakova v Bourlakov*: instructed by the claimants in multi-billion-dollar fraud proceedings against a deceased oligarch and his associates. The claim involves allegations of deceit, forgery, offshore asset misappropriation and the deliberate destruction of evidence.
- A fintech company v former employees (ongoing): acting for the claimant (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC) in a claim against former employees for the misuse of confidential information;
- *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others (2023)*: acted for the claimants (led by Timothy Killen) in a claim for breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy relating to the alleged taking of confidential information by a competitor in the industrial and construction chemicals industry;
- *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others [2023] EWHC 22 (Comm)*: assisted Charles Dougherty KC and Timothy Killen in this application brought by the defendants to injunct the claimants from relying upon allegedly inadvertently disclosed privileged materials;

Employment

Lauren is regularly instructed in employment law matters in both the High Court and the Employment Tribunal. She was on part-time secondment to the employment department of Allen and Overy from May 2022 to February 2023.

Lauren has experience in a wide range of employment disputes, including discrimination, harassment, victimisation, unfair dismissal, whistleblowing, equal pay, and constructive dismissal.

Lauren has particular experience in commercial employment matters, including those concerning the misuse of confidential information and breach of restrictive covenants. She also has experience of injunctive work.

Lauren has been appointed to the Employment Lawyers Association Junior Committee.

Highlights of Lauren’s work include:

- *Several bankers v a major bank (2023)*: acting as part of the counsel team for the respondent (led by Claire

McCann) in a complex claim including allegations of whistleblowing, harassment, and discrimination;

- *A fintech company v former employees (ongoing)*: acting for the claimant (led by Diya Sen Gupta KC) in a claim against former employees for the misuse of confidential information;
- *Flowcrete UK Ltd and others v Vebro Polymers UK Ltd and others (2023)*: acted for the claimants (led by Timothy Killen) in a claim for breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy relating to the alleged taking of confidential information;
- *Abbani v Nuffield Health*: Acting as sole counsel for the successful claimant in a multi-day final hearing against the UK's largest healthcare charity in a claim for unfair dismissal and age discrimination;
- Acting as sole counsel for the successful respondent in a constructive dismissal claim;
- Acting as sole counsel for the claimant in a claim brought against a household name for unfair dismissal and disability discrimination (settled before final hearing).

Public Law

Lauren is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.

Lauren is frequently instructed in high profile and sensitive public law matters. She is currently instructed as junior Counsel to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, and was instructed as a junior junior on the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Alongside her inquiry work, Lauren has been instructed in various judicial reviews, including under the National Security and Investment Act 2021. She was instructed by the Government Legal Department as a junior junior on *R (Good Law Project) v Prime Minister (and ors)* and *R (All the Citizens) v SSDCMS (and anr)* [2022] EWHC 960 (Admin), joined judicial reviews of the use of non-Government communications systems such as WhatsApp.

Insurance and Reinsurance

Lauren has considerable experience in insurance matters. She is regularly instructed in a wide range of insurance disputes, particularly those involving allegations of fraud.

As a pupil, Lauren assisted on a variety of insurance disputes, including a case concerning issues of policy cover arising out of business interruption losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and a multi-million-pound arbitration concerning coverage under a Professional Indemnity policy.

Professional Liability

Lauren accepts instructions in professional liability disputes.

Her recent work includes:

- acting for the defendant accountant in relation to a claim concerning the allegedly negligent provision of tax advice;
 - acting as sole counsel in various claims against medical professionals;
 - assisting (as a pupil) Charles Dougherty KC with a claim brought against several lawyers arising out of an alleged fraud.
-

What the Directories Say

- **Legal 500 2025** (Employment) - *Lauren is a bright, articulate, and extremely capable junior, with a razor-sharp forensic mind.*
-

Education

- BPTC, City University, Outstanding
 - GDL, City University, Distinction
 - MSt English (1900-Present), Oxford University, Distinction (1st in year and 4th across all post-graduate English programmes), fully funded by a HEFCE Oxford Graduate Bursary
 - BA English Literature, Durham University, First Class
 - Freman College Comprehensive School
-

Prizes, Scholarships, and Awards

- Jarman Prize for ranking 1st of 72 pupils in the Inner Temple Pupils' Advocacy Prize 2021 (judged by Dingemans LJ)
 - Inner Temple's Princess Royal Scholarship for the GDL, the Inn's single-highest GDL award
 - City Law School's Postgraduate Scholarship for the GDL
 - Inner Temple's Major Scholarship for the BPTC
 - City Law School's Postgraduate Scholarship for the BPTC
 - COMBAR 25th Anniversary Scholarship
 - Inner Temple's Pegasus Access and Support Scheme Scholarship
 - Lady Margaret Hall's Griffiths Prize
-

- Collingwood College's Special Projects Fund
 - Individual Award from Durham University's Arts Management Fund
-

Previous Employment

From 2015 to 2018, Lauren worked for some of the West End's leading theatre producers on productions such as *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *The Ferryman*, *The Birthday Party*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Evita*, *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, and *Blood Brothers*, as well as transfers from the Almeida Theatre (such as *Ink* and *Hamlet*).

Her article '*From Page to Stage to Screen: The Live Theatre Broadcast as a New Medium*' was published in Oxford University Press's peer-reviewed journal *Adaptation* (Volume 11, Issue 2, 6 August 2018).

Memberships

- ALBA
 - COMBAR
 - ELA
 - ELBA
 - Female Fraud Forum
-

Awards



Contact Clerks



David Amdor

Clerk Team Leader

+44 (0)20 7520 4615

damdor@oeclaw.co.uk



Conor Mullane

Team Leader's Assistant

+44 (0)20 7520 4609

CMullane@oeclaw.co.uk



Terry Catchpole

Clerk

+44 (0)20 7520 4739

tcatchpole@oeclaw.co.uk