



Hannah Fry

Year of call: 2018

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Hannah has a domestic and international practice specialising in commercial, company and insolvency, civil fraud, construction and international arbitration.

Hannah is frequently led in substantial disputes and has appeared led in the Supreme Court (*Pakistan International Airline Corporation v Times Travel (UK) Ltd* [2021] UKSC 40) and the Privy Council (*Chandler v The State No 2 (Trinidad and Tobago)* [2022] UKPC 19). Hannah regularly appears in the High Court both led (*Mercy Global Consult Ltd (In Liquidation) v Adegbuyi-Jackson* [2023] EWHC 3203 (Ch)) and as sole counsel (*Re E-Tel (UK) Ltd* [2023] EWHC 1214 (Ch)) in the Chancery Division, Commercial Court and the Technology and Construction Court (TCC).

Hannah also acts as both junior and sole counsel in international arbitrations and domestic adjudications. Hannah has experience and accepts instructions in respect of urgent applications for freezing and other injunctive relief.

A substantial proportion of Hannah's practice also has an international element, particularly in the field of international arbitration, where she has acted in arbitrations under a wide variety of international arbitration rules including International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration (ADCACC) and UNICITRAL. As well as acting as counsel, Hannah has experience in, and undertakes instructions as, tribunal secretary.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Hannah obtained a first-class law degree, followed by a distinction in her Master of Laws in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution, at Queen Mary, University of London, where she specialised in international commercial and construction arbitration.

Areas of expertise

- Commercial
- Company and Insolvency
- Construction
- International Arbitration
- Public and Constitutional

Company and Insolvency

Hannah frequently appears in the High Court before insolvency and company court judges, both led and as sole counsel, in a range of company and insolvency matters. Hannah is also regularly instructed in civil

fraud and tracing claims.

Her experience includes breach of fiduciary duty claims under s212 Insolvency Act 1986 (“**IA 1986**”), fraudulent trading claims under s213 IA 1986, wrongful trading claims under s214 IA 1986, transactions at undervalue under s238 IA 1986, shareholder disputes, unfair prejudice petitions under s994 of the Companies Act 2006 (“**CA 2006**”), claims for breaches of shareholders’ agreements, suspension from automatic discharge from bankruptcy applications, removal of company directors and contested winding up and bankruptcy proceedings.

Hannah is experienced at making and resisting applications for freezing and proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and s236 IA 1986 applications for inquiries into a company’s dealings. In addition, Hannah has experience of applications concerning asset recovery such as charging orders and third party debt orders. Given Hannah’s insolvency experience, she is also well-placed to act in civil fraud matters involving an insolvency angle, including proceedings under s423 IA 1986 and actions on behalf of provisional liquidators.

Cases of note

- ***Mercy Global Consult Ltd (In Liquidation) v Adegbuyi-Jackson***: (Ongoing) Instructed by the claimant liquidators of an “umbrella” company who provided payroll services to individuals who were predominantly placed for work in the healthcare sector in connection with a £23 million VAT fraud claim against the company’s former directors and others. Led by Clara Johnson.
- **[2024] EWHC 171 (Ch) *Consequentialis***: Successfully resisted an application to adjourn the consequential hearing and permission to appeal and consequential hearing concerning calculation of the equitable compensation, interest and costs.
[Judgment](#)
[Westlaw](#)
- **[2023] EWHC 3203 (Ch) *Main Judgment***: Successfully obtained judgment against twelve of the defendants in relation to the company’s claims for breach of fiduciary duty under s212 IA 1986, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt and proprietary claims made in relation to various assets including bitcoin, investment accounts and real property.
[Judgment](#)
[Westlaw](#)
- **[2023] EWHC 2567 (Ch) *Debarring Order***: Successfully resisted an application to adjourn trial pending the outcome of the defendants’ permission to appeal application at the Supreme Court and an application to adjourn the hearing of the claimant’s application to debar numerous defendants from defending the claim and obtained a debarring order in respect of numerous defendants.
[Judgment](#)
[Westlaw](#)
- *Instructed as sole counsel in relation to ancillary charging orders.*
- ***Re D.W.B. Waste Management Ltd [2024]***: (Ongoing – Trial listed for May 2024) Instructed by the claimant liquidators of a company who traded in recycled waste for energy purposes against the company’s former director in relation to alleged under-declaration of VAT, unlawful payments and unlawful cash withdrawals. Claims are brought in breach of fiduciary duty under s212 IA 1986 and as transactions at undervalue under s238 IA 1986. Instructed as sole counsel.
- ***Re E-Tel (UK) Ltd [2023] EWHC 1214 (Ch)***: Instructed by the claimant liquidators of a company who imported, purchased and sold mobile phones in connection with a £1.5 million MTIC fraud claim against the company’s former director. Successfully obtained judgment against the defendant for fraudulent trading under s213 IA 1986. Further, in circumstances where the First-tier Tax Tribunal had found that the company had knowledge of connections to fraudulent losses in relation to its export deals on mobile phones, Hannah successfully argued that it would be an abuse of process to re-litigate those assertions. Instructed as sole counsel.

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- ***Re Arete Systems Ltd [2023]***: Instructed by the claimant liquidators of a company whose trading consisted of wholesale buying and selling of alcohol in connection with a £8 million MTIC fraud against the company's former director. Judgment was successfully obtained against the defendant for fraudulent breach of fiduciary duty under s212 IA 1986. Instructed in relation to pre-trial work (advice, pleadings and directions hearings) and led by Clara Johnson.
- ***The Official Receiver v Martin Frost and Janet Orr Frost [2023]***: Instructed on behalf of the trustee in bankruptcy. Successfully obtained suspension of both Mr and Mrs Frost's automatic discharge from bankruptcy under s279(3) IA 1986 on the grounds that Mr and Mrs Frost failed to comply with their obligations under s333 IA 1986.
- ***Re PB Grape Ltd [2023]***: Successful application on behalf of the joint administrators for the administration of the Company to cease to have effect and the company to be wound up by the court pursuant to paragraph 79 of Schedule B1 IA 1986 and for the Applicants to be appointed as joint liquidators of the company pursuant to s140 IA 1986.
- ***In the matter of Inspirato Fund No.2 PCC Limited [Cells E, F & G in Cell Administration] [2021]***: Assisted in an appeal to the Court of Appeal for Gibraltar acting for a director in relation to the Protected Cell Companies Act 2001 and whether a director can be subject to examination by a cell administrator (in court or otherwise). Led by Daniel Feetham KC.
- ***Multi-million unfair prejudice petition in Gibraltar [2021]***: Instructed on behalf of a company involved in a multi-million unfair prejudice petition in Gibraltar. Led by Daniel Feetham KC and Darren Martinez.

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Female Fraud Forum (FFF)
- International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)
- Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG)
- Young ICCA (International Council for Commercial Arbitration)

Qualifications

Education

- LLB, Queen Mary University of London (First Class)
- LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution, Queen Mary University of London (Distinction)
- BPTC, BPP Law School (Outstanding)
- ADR-ODR International Accredited Civil-Commercial Mediator

Scholarships and prizes

- Shortlisted for Inner Temple's Pupil Advocacy Prize (2019)
- Inner Temple, BPTC Performance Prize (2018)
- Inner Temple, Major Exhibition Scholarship Award (2017)
- BPP Law School, Advocacy Scholarship (2017)
- BPP Law School, Excellence Scholarship (2017)

- Queen Mary University of London, Drapers' Company Prize for Academic Excellence (2015)
- Winner of the 'Best Student Pro Bono Activities' Award, LawCareers.Net Awards (2015)
- Quarter Finalist, D. M. Harish Memorial Government Law College Moot, India (2015)
- Winner of the George Hinde Moot (2014)
- Queen Mary University of London, Final Year School of Law Scholarship (2014)

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