



“An excellent team player and a very impressive academic lawyer – she is incredibly insightful and also tactful in the delivery of her views to a wider team. Her advocacy on paper is succinct, persuasive and elegant”

The Legal 500 2021

Anna is a commercial and chancery practitioner specialising in commercial disputes, banking and finance litigation, insolvency and company litigation and civil fraud. Anna is particularly interested in disputes arising at the intersection between her disciplines, such as banking or civil fraud matters involving an insolvency aspect. Anna is frequently led in substantial disputes, but is equally confident being instructed as sole counsel and often appears against more senior opponents including silks. She has considerable courtroom experience and is highly regarded for her engaging advocacy style and robust cross-examination skills.

Anna is on the Attorney General’s B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown and is regularly instructed on behalf of Government Departments and Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial and Civil Fraud
- Banking & Finance
- Insolvency & Restructuring
- Company and Company Directors Disqualification
- Professional Negligence & Disciplinary

PRACTICE AREAS

COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL FRAUD

Anna's practice covers all aspects of general commercial litigation, including commercial contractual disputes, banking and finance matters and civil fraud proceedings including injunctive relief. She frequently appears in the High Court as sole counsel in a wide range of commercial disputes, in addition to being led on more substantial matters. Anna is often instructed in civil fraud and tracing claims and is experienced at making and resisting applications for urgent freezing and proprietary injunctions, Norwich Pharmacal orders and search orders. Given her complementary insolvency expertise, Anna is well-placed to act in civil fraud matters involving an insolvency angle, including proceedings under s.423 Insolvency Act 1986.

Anna has experience of acting in commercial arbitrations and recently appeared as sole counsel in a \$12m LCIA arbitration arising out of a dispute regarding a Ukrainian power plant investment. She also has experience in Arbitration Act proceedings in the High Court (e.g. **Tata Steel UK Ltd v Associated British Ports** [2017] EWHC 694 (Ch)).

BANKING & FINANCE

Anna is recommended by the Legal 500 as a leading junior in Banking and Finance. She is regularly instructed as sole or junior counsel in claims involving banks and other lenders, brokers and financial advisers, including proceedings relating to mortgages, charges and debentures, debt recovery proceedings, guarantee and indemnity claims and consumer credit matters. Anna has been instructed in a large number of claims arising from the sale of financial products including complex interest rate derivatives, and the manipulation of LIBOR. Most recently she was instructed as junior counsel in **Ventra Investments Limited v Bank of Scotland** [2019] EWHC 2058 (Comm), a fraudulent misrepresentation claim arising from the manipulation of Sterling LIBOR.

Given her complementary expertise in insolvency and restructuring, Anna is well placed to act in banking disputes involving an insolvency dimension, such as bank recovery actions and proceedings relating to receivership and administration of borrowers.

INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

Anna is regularly instructed on behalf of creditors (including HMRC), officeholders and debtors in both corporate and personal insolvency matters. In addition to disputed petitions and injunctive relief applications she frequently acts in Insolvency Act applications brought by or against officeholders, including breach of duty and misfeasance claims against directors, transactional avoidance proceedings, s.236 applications and challenges against office-holders under ss.303 and 168(5). She recently appeared as sole counsel in the Court of Appeal on behalf of creditors in **Brake & Ors v Lowes & Ors** [2020] EWCA Civ 1491, which considered the test for standing under s.168(5) Insolvency Act 1986. Given her complementary expertise in civil fraud, she is particularly well-placed to act in matters involving the intersection between fraud and insolvency, including provisional liquidations, actions under s.423 Insolvency Act and civil fraud and tracing claims and injunctive relief proceedings brought by liquidators. She is currently instructed on behalf of liquidators in a complex £26 million fraud claim against multiple individual and corporate defendants.

Anna is also instructed by HMRC in a variety of insolvency and enforcement matters, including in relation to Accelerated Payment Notices under the Finance Act 2014. Anna appeared for **HMRC in Foster v HMRC** [2019] EWHC 2077 (Ch), the first High Court case to consider the availability of public law defences to APN enforcement proceedings

COMPANY AND COMPANY DIRECTORS DISQUALIFICATION

Anna has experience of a range of company law matters including shareholder disputes such as unfair prejudice petitions under s.994 Companies Act 2006, derivative actions and proceedings relating to the enforcement of directors' duties. She is currently instructed in a s.994 petition on behalf of the minority shareholder in a chain of table dancing clubs.

Anna has developed a particular specialism in proceedings under the CDDA 1986 and has been instructed in a large number of claims for disqualification and permission applications for leave to act as a director pursuant to s.17 CDDA, on behalf of both the Secretary of State / Official Receiver and defendant directors. Anna frequently appears in multi-day disqualification trials in the Companies Court and has considerable experience of disqualification trial advocacy and cross-examination. She recently acted for the Secretary of State in **Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy v Murphy** [2019] EWHC 459 (Ch), in which she obtained an eight-year disqualification order against a practising solicitor. Anna is also instructed in public interest winding up petitions on behalf of the Secretary of State

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE & DISCIPLINARY

Anna is instructed in professional negligence disputes, in particular in relation to negligent investment, tax and financial services advice and claims against solicitors and barristers. Recently she has appeared as junior counsel in professional negligence proceedings against a firm of tax advisers and has been instructed as sole counsel in a claim against a financial broker alleged to have provided unregulated investment advice.

CASES

Brake & Ors v Lowes & Ors [2020] EWHC 538 (Ch)

Instructed on behalf of creditors in Insolvency Act applications pursuant to ss.168(5) and 303 Insolvency Act 1986. The case considered the test for standing under s.168(5); appeal due to be heard by the Court of Appeal in October 2020

Ventra Investments Limited v Bank of Scotland [2019] EWHC 2058 (Comm)

Acted for the Claimant in a claim arising from the sale of complex interest rate derivatives to a property management company, including a claim for misrepresentation in relation to LIBOR rigging.

HMRC v Foster [2019] EWHC 2077 (Ch)

Instructed by HMRC in the first High Court case to consider whether public law challenges to an Accelerated Payment Notice under the Finance Act 2014 can be raised by taxpayers by way of defence to civil law enforcement proceedings. Succeeded in establishing that such defences may be raised only by way of judicial review or appeal to the FTT.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy v Murphy [2019] EWHC 459 (Ch)

Instructed by the Secretary of State in director disqualification proceedings against a practising solicitor. Obtained an eight-year disqualification order.

LCIA Arbitration (2018)

Sole counsel for the successful Claimant in two joined claims under the LCIA Rules. The claims, which were for in excess of \$12m, arose out of a dispute between two Ukrainian businessmen.

Tata Steel UK Ltd v Associated British Ports [2017] EWHC 694 (Ch)

Represented the Respondent in this application for a stay pursuant to section 9 of the Arbitration Act 1996. Instructed by Eversheds Sutherland and led by Zia Bhaloo QC.

Harrington v United States of America [2015, ET]

Acted for the Government of the United States of America in State Immunity proceedings. Successfully established that the USA enjoyed State immunity in relation to claims brought by a UK national employed by the US Armed Forces on a military base in the UK. Instructed by Volterra Fietta and led by Professor Dan Sarooshi QC.

A Company v Lloyds Bank plc

Representing a property development company in a negligent advice claim against Lloyds bank plc involving over £30 million of complex interest rate derivatives. Instructed by Carter-Ruck and led by William McCormick QC.

Mid-Sussex Homes v Natwest Bank plc and Royal Bank of Scotland plc (2014, Mercantile Court).

Interest rate derivatives mis-selling claim. Instructed by Carter-Ruck and led by William McCormick QC.

APPOINTMENTS

2020 – 2025 Attorney General’s B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown

2016 – 2020 Attorney General’s C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown

MEMBERSHIPS

Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)

Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

Insolvency Litigation Association (ILA)

INSOL International

R3 Association of Business Recovery Professionals

Financial Services Lawyers Association

QUALIFICATIONS

2011 LLM: University College London (Distinction: Ranked 1st in year)

2008 Bar Vocational Course: ICCL

2007 Prince of Wales Scholarship (Major Award): Gray's Inn

2007 BA (Hons) Law: University of Cambridge

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