



Laura Webster

Call: 2017

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Practice Overview

Laura became a tenant in April 2021 following a period of six months as a pupil barrister at New Square Chambers. Laura's 12-month pupillage was completed with Wilberforce Chambers.

As a pupil Laura experienced a wide range of commercial chancery practice. Laura represented clients in her own right in the County Court, the First Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) and the High Court. Her advocacy experience as a pupil included acting in relation to several interim applications and appearing in a small claims hearing.

Prior to her pupillage Laura completed an LLM at UCL focused on financial and commercial law and from 2011 to 2015 she served as a District Councillor on South Norfolk Council. While studying her LLM, Laura was part of the team that represented UCL in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2016 which took place in Hong Kong and Vienna.

Insolvency

Laura has acted in respect of several bankruptcy petitions and winding-up petitions. She has also acted in respect of applications for final charging orders, an application for a validation order (in the context of winding-up proceedings) and an application to annul a bankruptcy order. Shortly after becoming a pupil at New Square Chambers Laura joined the Attorney General's Junior Panel and she has represented HMRC in the insolvency context.

Laura's experiences as a pupil included observing:

- A mediation in respect of several potential causes of action held by the joint liquidators of a company
- Public interest winding-up petitions
- A conference in relation to bankruptcy proceedings involving guaranteed liabilities of \$1 billion (Re Viiay Mallya)

While a pupil Laura produced (among other things) the following work for supervisors / members of chambers:

- The first draft of an urgent application for a validation order for the sale of a house (in the context of bankruptcy proceedings)
- An opinion on the merits of an application made pursuant to sections 339 and 423 of the Insolvency Act 1986
- An extensive opinion on evidence and merits in a liquidator's misfeasance claim under section 212 of the Insolvency Act 1986

Property

Laura has acted in respect of the following:

- A Part 8 directions hearing concerning the redemption of a mortgage at which the claimant sought the final disposal of the claim
- A PTR in respect of an application for the determination of rent during negotiations for a new tenancy under section 24A of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954
- A directions hearing in respect of a service charge dispute
- Additionally, Laura has represented clients at several possession hearings (including against trespassers) and appeared at oral applications for permission to appeal orders of possession.

Laura's experiences as a pupil included assisting with the following:

- A hearing in the Court of Appeal concerning fencing easements (*Churston Golf Club Ltd v Haddock*)
- A trial concerning an application for the modification of a restrictive covenant
- Drafting particulars of claim in respect of a case concerning the obstruction of a right of way
- Researching the law of undue influence with regards to a disputed transfer of a property

Laura's experiences as a pupil included observing:

- A hearing in the Supreme Court concerning enfranchisement (*Sequent Nominees Ltd v Hautford Ltd*)
- A three-day trial concerning a claim for forfeiture

Trusts, Wills & Estates

Laura is a student member of STEP and is currently undertaking the STEP Certificate in Trusts and Estates (England & Wales).

Laura has acted in respect of the following:

- A professional negligence claim in which a solicitor had not advised their client of a potential 1975 Act claim. Her work on the case included drafting the witness statements and assisting at the mediation.
- A case concerning a constructive trust of the home. Her work on the case included negotiating costs outside court and attending a CMC.

Laura's experiences as a pupil included assisting with an application for Beddoe relief made in the context of an appeal to the Supreme Court (*Airways Pension Scheme Trustee Ltd v Fielder*).

Laura's experiences as a pupil included observing:

- A mediation concerning the validity of a will in which lack of testamentary capacity and undue influence were raised
- A conference concerning the variation of a large family trust under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958

As a pupil Laura produced (among other things) the following work for supervisors / members of chambers:

- An opinion on the construction of a will
- An opinion on a claim under the 1975 Act

Company & Partnership

Laura has acted in respect of the following:

- An opposed application for the restoration of a company to the register
- An application for the removal of accounts from the register
- Drafting an application for rectification of the charges register

As a pupil Laura produced (among other things) the following work for supervisors / members of chambers:

- A note on the merits of an unfair prejudice claim and the potential breach of directors' duties
- A note on pre-emption rights and the transfer of shares
- A note in relation to damages for breach of warranty in the context of a sale of shares

Commercial Litigation

Laura has acted in respect of the following:

- The recovery of a debt / damages for breach of an agency agreement
- Resisting the withdrawal of an admission in a case that concerned unsatisfactory building works
- Several cases concerning the costs of solicitors
- The Taking Control of Goods Regulations 2013

Laura's experiences as a pupil included observing:

- A summary judgment application in the context of a fraud
- An ICC arbitration panel during a pre-hearing of a multimillion USD dispute arising out an infrastructure project in the Middle East
- A conference concerning breach of an exclusive distribution agreement

As a pupil Laura produced (among other things) the following work for supervisors / members of chambers:

- A Response to a Request for Arbitration under the LCIA Rules in the context of a dispute over whether various insurance agency agreements had been unilaterally terminated within the meaning of a deed of undertaking
- Several particulars of claim in respect of recovery of debts

Additional Information

Qualifications / Education

Bar Professional Training Course, City Law School (Very Competent)

LLM, University College London (Merit) (Dissertation Title: 'Circumvention of a non-assignment clause: an analysis from the perspective of contractual interpretation')

Graduate LLB, BPP University (First Class Honours)

BA in International Relations and Politics, University of East Anglia (First Class Honours)

Awards

£5,000 Postgraduate Scholarship (City Law School)

Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn)

Prize for Distinguished Performance in Second Year Assessment (University of East Anglia)

Memberships

Property Bar Association

New Square Chambers

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Lincoln's Inn
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