E-mail: clerks@oeclaw.co.uk



Lauren Hitchman

Barrister
Call 2020

Scope of Practice

• Banking and Finance • Civil Fraud and Economic Torts • Commercial Litigation • Employment and Business Protection • Media, Entertainment and Broadcasting • Public Law

Overview

Lauren practises 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 both commercial litigation and employment law in the Legal 500, where she has been described as *"a bright, articulate, and extremely capable junior, with a razor-sharp forensic mind"* and *"an asset to any counsel team"*.

Lauren's current and recent instructions include:

- ***Crane Bank and others v dfcu Bank and others*** (one of ***The Lawyer***'s "Top 20 Cases" of 2026): acting for the claimants (with Hannah Brown KC, Owain Draper, Ben Zelenka Martin and William Gelley) 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); [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1915 (Comm); and [2026] EWHC 677 (Comm).
- ***Hayes v Pack and others*** [2025] EWHC 402 (KB): acted (led by Richard Mott KC) for the Liberal Democrats, successfully defeating a breach of contract claim by a former member.
- *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.
- ***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.

She 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 (with Hannah Brown KC, Owain Draper, Ben Zelenka Martin, and William Gelley) 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); [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm); [2025] EWHC 1915 (Comm); and [2026] EWHC 677 (Comm)
- ***Thickett v Azzurro Associates***: acting for the Defendant (led by Richard Mott KC) in claims arising out of a loan agreement and personal guarantee.
- ***Hayes v Pack and others*** [2025] EWHC 402 (KB): acted (led by Richard Mott KC) for the Liberal Democrats, successfully defeating a breach of contract claim by a former member.
- Appeared unled in the Commercial Court, resisting an application for security for costs in relation to an arbitration challenge.
- Appeared as sole counsel for an online, own-branded clothing, footwear and homeware business (part of the SportsDirect group), in a hearing in the Manchester Circuit Commercial Court.
- Acting as sole counsel for the founder of a tech start-up in claims for unfair dismissal, whistleblowing, and breach of contract.
- Advising (led by Alexander Polley KC) a construction company regarding a claim concerning delays caused to a large-scale project.
- Advising (as sole counsel) an entertainment company regarding a prospective claim against two events companies.
- ***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.
- Acting (led by Laurence Emmett KC) for a solicitors' firm and its salaried/equity partners in a professional negligence case brought by a bank regarding the alleged failure to properly register a charge against a property.
- Advising (led by James MacDonald KC) on a prospective application for security for costs.
- Advising (as sole counsel) insurers on coverage under various insurance policies.
- ***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

- ***Crane Bank and others v dfcu Bank and others***: acting for the claimants (with Hannah Brown KC, David Caplan, and Ben Zelenka Martin) 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); [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm); and [2025] EWHC 1915 (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.

Banking & Finance

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 (with Hannah Brown KC, David Caplan, and Ben Zelenka Martin) 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); [2024] EWHC 2836 (Comm); and [2025] EWHC 1915 (Comm).
- ***Thickett v Azzurro Associates Ltd***: acting for the Defendant (led by Richard Mott KC) in claims arising out of a loan agreement and personal guarantee.
- Acting (led by Laurence Emmett KC) for a solicitors' firm and its salaried/equity partners in a professional negligence case brought by a bank regarding the alleged failure to properly register a charge against a property.
- ***Several bankers v a major bank***: 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.

Employment and Business Protection

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 business

protection, the misuse of confidential information and breach of restrictive covenants. She also has experience of injunctive work.

Lauren has been a member of the Employment Lawyers Association Junior Committee.

Highlights of Lauren's work include:

- ***Several bankers v a major bank***: 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;
- Acting as sole counsel for the founder of a tech start-up in claims for unfair dismissal, whistleblowing, and breach of contract.
- ***Ambrosino v Cabinet Office***: acted for the Cabinet Office in a claim brought against the Government. The Claimant made allegations of age discrimination relating to his alleged status as a carer. Lauren successfully obtained strike out of the claim. The case was covered in .
- Advising (as sole counsel) a well-known and substantial company operating in the maritime industry regarding a prospective claim against a former employee. The employee had taken swathes of information from the company and had set up a business in direct competition.
- Acting at a judicial mediation for a respondent theatre company, in relation to a discrimination claim.
- ***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 was instructed as junior Counsel to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, and 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.

What the Directories Say

- **Legal 500 2027** (Commercial Litigation) – Rising Star – "Lauren is very solution-focused and keeps the client's objectives at the forefront. Lauren is very thorough in her preparation and lives and breathes the case in the lead-up to and during the trial. Lauren is very client-friendly, is patient, and provides very clear and transparent advice in conference. Lauren has a measured yet robust advocacy style and assists the court at every opportunity."
- **Legal 500 2027** (Employment) – Rising Star – "Very responsive and never misses a deadline no matter the circumstances. Written submissions are clear, concise, and well-structured. Lauren has a huge amount of emotional intelligence, and this comes across in her oral presentation. She can adapt her style depending on the witness. Her cross-examination is effective."
- **Legal 500 2026** (Civil Fraud) – Rising Star – "A fantastic barrister who is always eager to help and has a solution driven approach. She is forensic and diligent."

- **Legal 500 2026** (Employment) – Rising Star – "She is an asset to any counsel team."
- **Legal 500 2025** (Employment) – Rising Star – "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

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 top 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

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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

2027 Chambers Top Ranked UK Bar
One Essex Court

Legal500
2027

Contact Clerks



David Amdor
Clerk Team Leader
+44 (0)20 7520 4615
damdor@oeclaw.co.uk



Rob Wheeler
Deputy Team Leader
+44 (0)20 7520 4617
rwheeler@oeclaw.co.uk



Terry Catchpole
Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4739
tcatchpole@oeclaw.co.uk



Dylan Gray
Clerk
+44 (0)20 7520 4789
dgray@oeclaw.co.uk