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Patricia Burns

Barrister
Call 2011

Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Commercial Litigation • Company • Professional Liability

Overview

Patricia's practice covers a broad range of commercial work, including banking & finance, company disputes, and civil fraud. She has substantial experience of complex, high-value litigation and alternative dispute resolution (including domestic and international arbitration and expert determination). Patricia has appeared in the Court of Appeal and the High Court as part of a counsel team and has also acted as sole counsel in the High Court.

Notable and recent involvements include:

Bourlakova v Bourlakov (ChD)
Acting for the claimants in proceedings against a deceased oligarch and his associates to unravel their attempts to put assets worth billions of dollars beyond the claimants' reach in Monegasque matrimonial and estate proceedings. The claims (listed for a 15-week trial in 2027) involve allegations of deceit, forgery, offshore asset misappropriation and the deliberate destruction of evidence.

Saxon Woods v Costa [2025] EWCA Civ 708
Acted for the Respondent (with Lord Wolfson KC) on appeals and cross-appeals by the Petitioner and Respondent to an unfair prejudice petition. The petition concerned good faith obligations to work towards an exit from an investment, pursuant to a Shareholders Agreement.

Municipio de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group Plc & BHP Group Ltd (TCC)
Acted for the defendant, BHP, in the high-profile group action brought by over 200,000 claimants in relation to the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Mariana, Brazil.

Cardiorentis AG v IQVIA Ltd & IQVIA RDS, Inc. [2022] EWHC 250 (Comm)
Patricia acted for the successful defendant clinical research organisation (with Neil Kitchener KC and Laurence Emmett KC), instructed by Cooley (UK) LLP, in a landmark 7-week trial concerning the conduct of a Phase III clinical trial of a drug to treat heart failure. The judgment marks the first occasion on which an English Court has given detailed consideration to the nature and standard of care required by a clinical research organisation. It also contains an important exposition and application of the law relating to wasted expenditure.

Stichting Vestia v Deutsche Bank AG (2018-2019)
Patricia acted for Deutsche Bank AG (with Robin Dicker QC and James MacDonald KC), instructed by Clifford Chance, in this widely publicised 10-week Financial List trial concerning derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association with Deutsche Bank. The case settled shortly before the close of trial.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration & Expert Determination

- Acted (with Adam Zellick KC) for the respondent energy company in LCIA proceedings concerning the construction of an SPA.
- Acted (unled) for the respondent (a multinational agribusiness) in LCIA proceedings concerning alleged breach of contract and unjust enrichment in the context of administrative and accounting services performed pursuant to an SPA and a related services agreement.
- Acted (unled) for the respondent (a property development company) in an expert determination.
- Acted (with Lord Wolfson KC and Camilla Bingham KC) for the respondent to LCIA proceedings. The case included allegations of bribery, corruption and fraudulent misrepresentation in connection with the acquisition of valuable mining rights in Africa. Acted for the same client as the claimant in related ICSID proceedings.

Banking and Financial Services

- Acted (with Camilla Bingham KC) for one of the defendant banks in **Al Rajaan v PIFSS** between 2019 and 2021.
- Acted (with Robin Dicker QC and James MacDonald KC) for Deutsche Bank AG, instructed by Clifford Chance, in a widely publicised 10-week Financial List trial concerning derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association with Deutsche Bank.
- Acted (with Lord Wolfson KC) for the claimant ROFR holders in proceedings concerning the validity of transfers of shares and subordinated debt under the terms of a Shareholders' Deed. See the related judgment **M&G Broad European Loan Fund Ltd v Hayfin Capital Luxco 2 Sarl [2017] EWHC 1756 (Ch)**.
- Acted (with Lord Wolfson KC) for senior noteholders in a Part 8 claim concerning declarations of Events of Default under Class A1 Notes. See the related judgment **BNY Mellon Corporate Trustee Services Ltd v Taberna Europe CDO I plc [2016] EWHC 781 (Ch)**.
- Acted (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC/Robin Dicker QC and Simon Colton KC) for the defendant to a claim for more than €158 million arising out of the management of an investment fund.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

- Currently acting for the claimants (with Neil Kitchener KC) in proceedings against a deceased oligarch and his associates to unravel their attempts to put assets worth billions of dollars beyond the claimants' reach in Monegasque matrimonial and estate proceedings. The claims (listed for a 15-week trial in 2027) involve allegations of deceit, forgery, offshore asset misappropriation and the deliberate destruction of evidence.
- Acted (with Camilla Bingham KC) for one of the defendant banks in **Al Rajaan v PIFSS** between 2019 and 2021.
- Acted (with Robin Dicker QC and James MacDonald KC) for Deutsche Bank AG, instructed by Clifford Chance, in a widely publicised 10-week Financial List trial concerning derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association with Deutsche Bank. The claims included claims for bribery and dishonest assistance.
- Acted (with Lord Wolfson KC and Camilla Bingham KC) for the respondent to LCIA proceedings. The case included allegations of bribery, corruption and fraudulent misrepresentation in connection with the acquisition of valuable mining rights in Africa. Acted for the same client as the claimant in related ICSID proceedings.

Commercial Litigation

- Currently acting (with Neil Kitchener KC) for the claimants in proceedings against a deceased oligarch and his associates to unravel their attempts to put assets worth billions of dollars beyond the claimants' reach in Monegasque matrimonial and estate proceedings. The claims (listed for a 15-week trial in 2027) involve allegations of deceit, forgery, offshore asset misappropriation and the deliberate destruction of evidence.
- Acted for the Respondent (with Lord Wolfson KC) on appeals and cross-appeals by the Petitioner and Respondent to an unfair prejudice petition. The petition concerned good faith obligations to work towards an exit from an investment, pursuant to a Shareholders Agreement: **Saxon Woods v Costa [2025] EWCA Civ 708.**
- Acted for the successful defendant clinical research organisation (with Neil Kitchener KC and Laurence Emmett KC), instructed by Cooley (UK) LLP, in a landmark 7-week trial concerning the conduct of a Phase III clinical trial of a drug to treat heart failure. The judgment marks the first occasion on which an English Court has given detailed consideration to the nature and standard of care required by a clinical research organisation. It also contains an important exposition and application of the law relating to wasted expenditure: **Cardiorentis AG v IQVIA Ltd & IQVIA RDS, Inc. [2022] EWHC 250 (Comm)**.
- Acted (with Robin Dicker QC and James MacDonald KC) for Deutsche Bank AG, instructed by Clifford Chance, in a widely-publicised 10-week Financial List trial concerning derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association with Deutsche Bank.
- Acted (with Lord Wolfson KC) for JP Morgan Chase, both at first instance and on appeal, in proceedings concerning the sum paid on the redemption of CER-linked structured notes: **MetLife Seguros de Retiro SA v JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association [2015] EWHC 463 (Comm); [2016] EWCA Civ 1248.**
- Acted for the Serious Fraud Office (with Charles Graham KC and Simon Colton KC) in Tchenguiz v SFO, a wide-ranging tort action which included claims for malicious prosecution, misfeasance in public office, and breach of the Human Rights Act.
- Acted (unled) for an agricultural services company in a trial relating to payment for agronomy services and products.

Professional Liability

- Acted for the successful defendant clinical research organisation (with Neil Kitchener KC and Laurence Emmett KC), instructed by Cooley (UK) LLP, in a landmark 7-week trial concerning the conduct of a Phase III clinical trial of a drug to treat heart failure. The judgment marks the first occasion on which an English Court has given detailed consideration to the nature and standard of care required by a clinical research organisation. It also contains an important exposition and application of the law relating to wasted expenditure: **Cardiorentis AG v IQVIA Ltd & IQVIA RDS, Inc. [2022] EWHC 250 (Comm)**.
- Acted (with Daniel Toledano KC) for a large auditing firm in High Court proceedings, defending allegations of negligence and conspiracy to injure.
- Acted (with Laurence Rabinowitz KC/Robin Dicker QC and Simon Colton KC) for the defendant to a claim for more than €158 million arising out of the management of an investment fund.
- Acted (unled) for a firm of solicitors in a claim involving allegations of professional negligence and over-stated fees.

What the Directories Say

Chambers & Partners 2027 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Patricia is a complete superstar. A very good advocate whom judges listen to, she really holds the room." "Patricia is a great strategist who is excellent with clients. She is an impactful counsel who will definitely be a KC one day." "Patricia does an amazing job. She is unflappable and is a pleasure to work with." "Her manner and ability to deliver a message really impress. She is no-nonsense."*

Chambers & Partners 2026 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Patricia Burns is decisive, intelligent and prolific in terms of work product. She is also very easy to deal with." "Patricia is very user-friendly and switched on. She is one of the best (and nicest) juniors I've worked with."*

Chambers & Partners 2025 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Fantastically gifted and really well rounded, she's really*

good at expressing herself and is able to process complicated data and boil it down to clear messages."

Chambers & Partners 2024 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Patricia Burns has great depth of knowledge of her areas of specialism and can handle any complex issues thrown at her." "Patricia Burns operates significantly above her call. She is quick at getting on top of the issues, she writes well and she has a reassuring style."*

Chambers and Partners 2023 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Patricia is clearly a rising star and is phenomenally talented. Her ability to get up to speed with complex issues and lead complex workstreams is really impressive."*

Chambers and Partners 2022 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Really thorough and diligent. She very quickly gets up to speed and is a valuable member of the team."*

Chambers and Partners 2021 (Commercial Dispute Resolution) *"Brilliant when it comes to the detail and incredibly responsive." "She is hard-working, diligent and excellent at preparing cases."*

Academic Achievements

Wilfred Watson Scholarship, Gray's Inn [2010]
Avory Fund Scholarship, Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge [2010]
Winner of the University of Cambridge Mooting Competition [2010]

Education

The College of Law (London): BPTC (Very Competent) [2010 - 2011]
University of Cambridge: BA (Law) (First Class) [2007 - 2010]

Awards

2027 Chambers Top Ranked UK Bar
One Essex Court

Legal500 TOP TIER SET 2023

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