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Sonia Tolaney KC

Barrister
Call 1995 Silk 2011

Scope of Practice

• Asset Management Disputes • Administrative & Public Law • Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Commercial Litigation • Civil Fraud, Investigations and Injunctions • Company, Insolvency and Restructuring • Competition/EU • Economic Torts • Energy and Natural Resources • Group Litigation • Insurance and Reinsurance • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Professional Liability • Sanctions • Sports Industry Disputes

Overview

Sonia Tolaney KC is the Joint Head of Chambers of One Essex Court (elected 2024). She is widely regarded as one of the leading Commercial Silks at the Bar and the "go-to silk for numerous institutions". She is "regularly instructed on high value, strategically significant disputes involving financial institutions, corporates and institutional investors. In the last few years Sonia acted in the high-profile Covid-related dispute Travelport v WEX (concerning a £1.7bn acquisition), for Airbus in relation to substantial claims brought by Qatar Airways, and for UK Finance (intervening on behalf of the Banking and Finance industry) in the Supreme Court appeal in Philipp v Barclays.

Her recent work includes acting for Uber in White & Ors v Uber London Ltd & Ors, for Credit Suisse in the Greensill-related Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank (under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986), for TSB in the *Breeze* v *TSB* litigation, and for Mastercard in the long running Merchant Interchange Fee litigation. She also appeared for the dissenters in *In the matter of 51job, Inc* in the Court of Appeal (Grand Cayman), appealing an earlier decision of the court in a "fair value" dispute under section 238 of the Cayman Islands Companies Act (2025 Revision).

Sonia continues to act for a variety of financial institutions (including Barclays, Deutsche Bank, Lloyds, JPMorgan and TSB) in a range of complex banking and insolvency disputes, including bond and shareholder disputes, disputes concerning ISDA, currency trading, syndicated credit agreements, waterfall and other Lehmans disputes and jurisdiction. Sonia's broader banking practice also regularly touches on tax and revenue issues arising from complex financial structures and insolvencies.

Sonia also acts in arbitration proceedings, most recently representing Everton Football Club and in separate confidential arbitration matters also involving an English Premier League football club.

Sonia's standing in the market and her extensive advocacy experience in major commercial trials and appeals has been reflected in recent industry recognitions: she was named a Star Individual in Banking & Finance and Commercial Dispute Resolution in the Chambers UK Bar Guide 2026, was awarded "Barrister of the Year" at The Lawyer Awards 2026 and Advocate of the Year at the 2026 Women & Diversity in Law Awards.

In 2016, Sonia was appointed as a s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge (QBD). In 2020, Sonia was appointed as the Attorney General of the Duchy of Lancaster. She is a Bencher of Middle Temple (2013) and served as the elected Chair of the Commercial Bar Association (2019-21). In 2025, Sonia was appointed to the pool of External Reviewers of the Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee. She has also been admitted to appear in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands and the Supreme Court of Bermuda.

She has been described as *"one of the brightest stars at the Bar"* who is *"brilliant academically"*, with *"crisp and flawless paperwork"*, *"tremendous intellect"* and *"great tactical sense and litigation ability..." "a big name"* who is *"at the top of any right-thinking person's wish list"*. Solicitors comment that *"when the other side sees her on her feet in court, they know they've already lost the battle...her courtroom skills are simply head and shoulders above most others..". "Quite simply brilliant at her job..."*.

Examples of Recent Cases

Asset Management Disputes

Sonia has extensive experience acting for and against asset managers, funds and institutional investors in disputes concerning fund governance, investment mandates and the duties owed by managers to investors. She acted at the interlocutory stages for the claimant pension fund in ***Forsta AP-Fonden v Bank of New York Mellon*** (Commercial Court), a substantial claim concerning the investment of the fund's assets in the insolvent structured investment vehicle Sigma Finance. She also acted for the claimant in ***Tyndaris v VWM Ltd***, a dispute over the performance of an artificial intelligence investment fund, described by ***The Lawyer*** as the first major UK case to involve machine learning, and in ***Cyrus Opportunities Master Fund v Oceanwood Opportunities Master Fund***, concerning the validity of the exercise of a put option.

She recently acted for the claimant in ***Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank***, a Greensill-related fund claim under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and acted for Sumitomo Pharma in ***APS & Alpine v Sumitomo Pharma*** before the Supreme Court of Bermuda, in which two hedge funds sought an appraisal of the "fair value" of shares they had held in a NYSE-listed pharmaceutical company prior to it being taken private.

Sonia is also a leading practitioner in corporate governance and shareholder disputes, including derivative and collective actions arising from alleged governance and disclosure failures. She defended RBS and its former directors in the landmark ***RBS Rights Issue Litigation***, a £4bn group claim brought by thousands of shareholders alleging misleading and untrue statements in the bank's rights issue prospectus in breach of s.90 FSMA. She is currently acting for an institutional claimant group of shareholders bringing claims against ***Glencore Plc***, and for ***Boohoo Group Plc*** in defending a "stock-drop" class action brought by 59 shareholders arising out of alleged breaches of ESG requirements, pursuant to s.90A FSMA.

In the field of market conduct and compliance, Sonia acted for HSBC in ***ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank***, a substantial currency trading dispute involving allegations of foreign exchange rate manipulation and front-running. She also led for the defendant in ***Fiesta Hotels and Resorts v Deutsche Bank***, resisting claims of c.€500m for alleged misrepresentation relating to FX and interest rate derivative transactions, and acted for Barclays in ***Compucredit v Barclays Bank***, a substantial claim concerning alleged mis-selling of a credit card portfolio.

Banking and Financial Services

Sonia Tolaney KC "is very much in demand and considered a big star in the banking litigation field". She is recognised as a "serious player with real market presence" with "an excellent knowledge' of complex financial instruments". Sonia is particularly known for her "strategic brilliance", her "devastatingly effective advocacy skills" and "lethal cross examination".

"Her ability to cut through to the key issues is superb and her advocacy and ability to win over the court are remarkable." "She really knows the area and is fantastic in court." "As an advocate Sonia is excellent. She is instinctive, efficient and knows how to read the judiciary perfectly." Banking & Finance, Chambers UK 2026

"Sonia is extremely commercial, very clever and a fine advocate. She is very strategic, good with clients and highly respected by judges." "Sonia has very significant technical expertise and is both academically astute and a succinct advocate" "Sonia is a safe pair of hands and a very smooth and effective advocate. She gives measured and sensible responses and builds a rapport with clients." "Her advice in complicated matters is comprehensive, easy to understand and concise. Very authoritative and super impressive, she's at the top of her game." Consumer Finance, Chambers UK 2026

"Sonia is a superstar of the Bar. A strategic thinker who is trusted by the judiciary." Banking & Finance, Legal 500 2026

"Sonia is phenomenal. She's really bright and very smooth." "She is a superstar. She provides very clear, sensible and commercial advice and the clients love her as well. She's one of the go-to people for difficult litigation." "Sonia is one of the top silks at the Bar, who conducts herself with a degree of confidence that few can match, who really works to understand the client's needs and knows how to set up a case to win." "Sonia is obviously a star of the Bar. She does the largest, most complex and most valuable cases in banking. She is an exceptional counsel who is absolutely devastating in cross-examination." "She is very good. Her oral advocacy is very strong and she cuts straight to the point and is very smart." Banking & Finance, Chambers UK 2025

"Sonia Tolaney has a brilliant mind. In court, she is fantastic on her feet and very, very robust." "Sonia is a very polished advocate, who is a major presence in the field. She is very crisp, succinct and effective in her advocacy." "Sonia Tolaney is a genuine superstar at the Bar. She is calm and utterly charming in court, and has a disarming advocacy style." Consumer Finance, Chambers UK 2025

"Sonia's just a brilliant advocate. She is very good at explaining to the court and clients difficult issues in simple terms." "Sonia Tolaney is incredibly client-friendly whilst also having the trust of top judges for her analysis and grip on the detail. Her judgement is absolutely top-notch." "A really top-class advocate." Banking & Finance, Chambers UK 2024

"Clear, commercial and sensible. Clients rave about her." Consumer Finance, Chambers UK 2024

Sonia has been involved in most of the major banking disputes of the last 30 years ranging from BCCI to Bank Charges and LIBOR and FX, Madoff, Box Clever, UBS v Nordbank, Deutsche v Sebastian Holdings, Lehmans litigation, Kaupthing related disputes, the Algosaibi litigation, the Arrows litigation, JP Morgan v Pollux (the sister action to Springwell); Kaupthing v UBS; HSH Nordbank AG v Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and a large number of misselling cases including various Italian swap disputes (eg. UBS v Florence; Dexia Creditop S.p.A v Regione Piedmonte; Deutsche Bank v Brescia), Libor cases and others.

Sonia acted for RBS in the RBS Rights Issue litigation; for the FCA in a litigation before the English courts and the CJEU over Russian sanctions imposed on Rosneft; and for various banks (including Barclays, Deutsche Bank and others) in disputes in relation to LIBOR, FX, ISDA and jurisdiction. She also acted for Bank of New York Mellon in Lehmans' related litigation concerning repo transactions, for Deutsche Bank in Kaupthing related litigation; for BNP Paribas in relation to an Islamic Finance dispute; and for Standard & Poor's in high profile Commercial Court proceedings concerning claims by investors in CPDOs sold by ABN AMRO (and following on from the Bathurst litigation in Australia).

She recently acted for Credit Suisse in Greensill related matters, for Deutsche Bank in the high profile Commercial Court claim recently brought by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation against a number of LIBOR panel banks; and for BNPP in its dispute with Vestia. She is also acting for a variety of financial institutions (including Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan, Lloyds and TSB) in a range of complex banking disputes concerning ISDA, syndicated facilities and jurisdiction. In addition, Sonia continues to advise a number of financial institutions on important regulatory and consumer matters, and her broader banking practice regularly touches on tax and revenue issues arising from complex financial structures and insolvencies.

Sonia is ranked as a "Star Individual" in Banking & Finance and Commercial Dispute Resolution amongst the Leading Silks by Chambers UK and was named as one of its "Stars at the Bar" in 2026. She is also ranked as a Tier 1 Leading Silk by The Legal 500 for Banking & Finance, Commercial Litigation, and Fraud: Civil. In 2026, Sonia was named "Advocate of the Year" at the Women & Diversity in Law Awards. She has twice been awarded "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" at the Chambers UK Bar Awards (2015 and 2022) and has also won "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year" at both the Chambers UK Bar Awards (2017) and The Legal 500 Bar Awards (2014). She edited *Key Authorities in Banking* ***2011–2012*** and co-edited the *Encyclopaedia of Banking Law*. She also contributed to *Paget's Law of Banking* (2015) and authored a chapter on *Letters of Credit*, *Bonds*, *Standbys* in McKendrick, *Sale of Goods* (2000).

Notable cases in which Sonia has acted are as follows:

Breeze and others v TSB Bank plc (Whistletree Group Litigation) [2024] EWHC 2427 (Ch); [2026] EWCA Civ 32: Sonia acts for TSB, instructed by Hogan Lovells, in this landmark group claim by a large number of TSB's customers, whose Northern Rock-originated mortgages were acquired by TSB as part of the Government's disposal of nationalised Northern Rock assets. At least four other lenders with similar cohorts of borrowers are also threatened with claims. The Claimants contend they overpaid interest and pursue claims on several bases, including breach of contract, breach of statutory duty, unfair relationship provisions of CCA 1974, and under Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations. TSB succeeded in 4-day preliminary issues trial (July 2024), resulting in dismissal of the claim for breach of the express terms of the mortgage contract and an important ruling on the operation of s.140A CCA 1974. The Claimants challenged that decision in 2-day Appeal hearing (January 2026) where Sonia successfully represented TSB ([2026 EWCA Civ 32]. The proceedings are closely watched by other lenders that acquired ex-Northern Rock mortgages, and the market generally, as they raise important issues of wider application concerning duties of a regulated lender that acquires mortgages and enforceability of interest-rate-variation clauses.

Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch): Sonia acted for Credit Suisse, instructed by Freshfields. This claim against Japan's Softbank Group arose out of March 2021 collapse of finance specialist firm Greensill Capital, which saw 1,000+ professional investors across Europe and Asia lose control of $10bn, as the money became trapped in Credit Suisse's Greensill-backed supply-chain finance funds. Having already recouped $7.4bn, Credit Suisse brought claim to pursue monies owed to their customers by Katerra, a Californian construction company funded by Greensill. Sonia led the counsel team representing Credit Suisse in 5-week High Court trial (June 2025). Lex Greensill gave evidence; Sonia successfully cross-examined him to prove his improper purpose in executing the transaction.

CalSTRS & Ors v Boohoo: Sonia acts for Boohoo, instructed by HSF Kramer, defending "stock-drop" class action proceedings brought by shareholders, arising out of alleged breaches of ESG requirements by the fashion retailer, pursuant to s.90A/Schedule 10A FSMA. During 2-day High Court CMC (February 2026), the judge gave important guidance in relation to s90A FSMA claims.

R (Linear Investments Limited) v Financial Ombudsman Service Limited [2025] EWCA Civ 1369: Sonia acted in the CA for Linear Investments in judicial review proceedings in which the decision of the Financial Ombudsman Service was partially quashed.

Caxton International Ltd & Ors v Essity Aktiebolag [2025] EWHC 1477 (Ch): Sonia acted for Essity in proceedings concerning an alleged event of default under its Euro Medium Term Note Programme and issues relating to intermediated securities.

Philipp v Barclays [2023] UKSC 25: Sonia was instructed by UK Finance to intervene (on behalf of the Banking and Finance industry) in the Supreme Court hearing of this important appeal concerning the Quincecare duty.

Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc [2023] CAT 15; [2024] CAT 41; [2025] CAT 28: Sonia was instructed by Mastercard in this long-running litigation comprising a claim on behalf of 46.2 million individuals for damages for increased multilateral interchange credit card fees that had been held to infringe competition law and had potentially been passed on to them through increased retail prices. She was instructed by Freshfields to appear in the CA on a limitation point and in the CAT on a variety of legal issues. Sonia also acted for Mastercard in its successful application for a collective settlement approval order, resolving long-running collective proceedings once valued at around £16 billion.

Federal Deposit Insurance Company v Barclays & ors (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claimed substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

Fiesta Hotels and Resorts SL and others v Deutsche Bank AG: Sonia acted for DB defending claims for damages of about €500 million for alleged fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation, which involve allegations of mis-selling of foreign exchange rate derivatives to the claimants, who are part of a very large Spanish hotel business called Palladium Hotel Group.

BNP Paribas Trust Corp UK Ltd v Uro Property Holdings S.A. [2022] EWHC 3251 (Comm): Sonia acted for the Defendant in a claim for over €250 million allegedly due under a set of financing documents. The case involves issue of Spanish law and bond market practice. The Commercial Court considered on a summary judgment basis whether it could substitute its own calculation of sums payable on early termination/repayment of a loan, whether relevant pricing data could be retrospectively obtained and applied, and also analysed the implications of failing to certify a

sum due within a prescribed time limit.

Vestia v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith to act for BNPP in relation to a c. €300mn claim arising out of derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Banca Intesa SanPaolo SpA v Comune di Venezia [2023] EWCA Civ 1482: Sonia acted for the two Italian Banks, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and Dexia Crédit, in the Court of Appeal, overturning the Commercial Court's finding that English law swaps under the ISDA Master Agreement were void for lack of capacity. In rejecting Venice's cross-appeal, the decision also considered significant issues in the conflict of laws and the law of restitution.

Dexia, Commerzbank and Banco Nazionale del Lavoro v Provincia di Catanzaro [2023] EWHC 3309 (Comm): Sonia acted for Dexia, Commerzbank and BNL in jointly case managed Financial List proceedings arising from ISDA swaps entered into with Catanzaro, an Italian public authority. The claims arise out of attempts Catanzaro has made in Italy to avoid the transactions by way of administrative self-redress measures, asserting a lack of capacity, authority or invalidly under a variety of Italian laws.

Deutsche Bank AG v Provincia di Brescia [2022] EWHC 2859 (Comm): important decision of Knowles J on the scope and effect of the exclusive jurisdiction clause in an ISDA Master Agreement, and the application of Article 25 of the Recast Brussels Regulation, in the circumstances of a dispute about the validity and effect of a subsequent contract between the parties without a jurisdiction clause; application of the Extended Fiona Trust Principle.

Deutsche Bank v Busto di Arsizio [2021] EWHC 2706 (Comm): Sonia acted for DB in the first of the Italian swaps cases to consider the landmark Italian Supreme Court decision in Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro S.P.A v Municipality of Cattolica. The Commercial Court held that it was open to the English Court to diverge from an authority of the highest Court in a foreign legal system if satisfied on the evidence that the authority does not represent the law.

Re Lehman Brothers Holdings Plc and LB Holdings Intermediate 2 Limited [2021] EWCA Civ 1523: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank in its successful appeal in a landmark case arising out of applications by the administrators of two Lehman Group companies. The case concerned how the remaining surplus in the Lehman estate – estimated at £800m to £1bn – is to be distributed between its remaining creditors.

Roman Pipia v BGEO Group Limited [2020] EWHC 1359 (Comm); Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to defend BGEO Group Limited, the parent company of Bank of Georgia against a claim relating to the sale by Bank of Georgia of assets by auction following a default on a loan facility.

Various Claimants v Gulf Bank: Sonia acted for a Gulf financial institution in Queen's Bench Division proceedings alleging involvement in terrorist financing in Syria.

ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank [2018] EWHC 3045: Sonia acted for HSBC, instructed by Cleary Gottlieb, in this substantial currency trading dispute involving allegations of foreign exchange rate manipulation and front running.

(1) Agate Assets SA (2) Commerzbank AG, London Branch (3) Mr Peter Corner -v- (1) Banque Privee Edmond de Rothschild Europe SA (2) Adenium SICAV and 5 others: Sonia acted for Agate and Commerzbank in this substantial claim concerning a complex notes transaction and allegations of conspiracy and fraud. Instructed by Allen & Overy.

SCOR SE v Barclays [2020] EWHC 133 (Comm): Sonia acted for Barclays (instructed by Freshfields) in an application for a stay of proceedings for breach of confidence under Article 30 of the Recast Regulation, on the basis of related proceedings in France

Tyndaris v VWM Ltd (Comm): Sonia acted for the claimant in this dispute relating to the performance of an artificial intelligence investment fund. The case was identified by the Lawyer of one of the Top 20 cases of 2020, and described as "the first major UK case to involve machine learning".

Wells v HBOS; Dove v HBOS (ChD): Sonia acted for HBOS in proceedings relating to the well known HBOS Reading fraud.

Privatbank v Kolomoisky & Ors [2019] EWCA 1708 (Court of Appeal, a complex jurisdiction dispute concerning the "sole object" test).

Deutsche Bank v Unitech (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Deutsche Bank in this long running litigation concerning the enforcement of a swap transaction. Judgment was obtained in the Bank's favour in 2019.

LLB Verwaltung (Switzerland) AG v Group Seven & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 614 (Court of Appeal, dishonest assistance, vicarious liability): Sonia acted for the Appellant Bank on this substantial appeal and succeeded in overturning the decision of Morgan J on the facts (following an 8 week trial), to hold the law firm, Notable Services LLP and its member Mr Landman liable for dishonest assistance. The Court also considered the law of vicarious liability.

Deutsche Bank v Commune di Savona [2018] EWCA Civ 1740: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy, on this appeal. Deutsche bank succeeded in overturning the decision below. The Court of Appeal held that the disputes in the English Proceedings fell within the scope of the jurisdiction clause in the Swap contracts.

Compucredit v Barclays Bank (Commercial Court) (2017): Sonia acted acting for Barclays in a substantial claim concerning alleged misselling in relation to a credit card portfolio; construction of indemnity provisions under an SPA; claims for fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of warranties; restitution; instructed by Hogan Lovells

Lehmans v Barclays Capital and Wentworth Sons Sub Debt SARL (ChD): Sonia led a team for Barclays in this complex Lehmans dispute concerning the interrelationship between CMEs and unsecured claims; right to Statutory Interest; ex parte James; Instructed by Boies Schiller.

Edgeworth Capital v Aabar Investments (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields for Aabar in a dispute concerning the enforceability of security agreements in relation to a loan of c£100m. She successfully cross examined Robert Tchenguiz and obtained judgment in Aabar's favour in 2019.

Cornwall Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v International Game Technology Plc [2018] EWHC 42 (Comm) (Cockerill J): Sonia successfully acted for IGT in this dispute concerning the true construction of an Italian statute, introduced in 2003, in order to effect sweeping Italian company law reforms and to increase minority shareholder protections (instructed by Cleary Gottlieb).

Deutsche Bank AG v Commune Di Fiumicino [2017] EWHC 1013 (Comm): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy. The claim was for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps entered into under an ISDA Master Agreement, including a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the ISDA standard form jurisdiction clause.

ABN AMRO v Totisa Holdings (Commercial Court, 2017): Sonia acted for the Bank instructed by Latham & Watkins in a claim concerning the repayment of a syndicated credit facility.

Greenwood & ors v Goodwin & Ors (Chancery Division): Sonia was instructed in this substantial and high profile litigation. This group claim was brought by thousands of claimants seeking to recover £4 bn in respect of the RBS Rights Issue (in 2008). Essentially, it was alleged that the prospectus included misleading statements, untrue statements and/or omissions (in breach of s90 FSMA).The Bank and Directors denied this and denied causation and loss. The case settled mid-2017. Sonia appeared for the Bank in numerous interlocutories, including an application made for disclosure of material over which the Bank claimed privilege ([2016] EWHC 3161): Hildyard J granted the application but gave permission for a leapfrog appeal the Supreme Court. The application ultimately settled.

Rosneft v HM Treasury & ors [2015] EWHC 248 (Admin) and proceedings before the CJEU: Sonia acted for the FCA in this high profile and widely followed judicial review brought by the Russian oil and gas giant Rosneft in respect of measures taken by the Treasury, BIS and the Financial Conduct Authority in implementing EU Council Regulations concerning the EU sanctions imposed on Rosneft in view of Russia's destabilising actions in Ukraine. The case was referred to the CJEU and Sonia appeared before the Grand Chamber in February 2016. Judgment in favour of the FCA was handed down on 28 March 2017 (Case C-72/15). The CJEU affirmed that it had jurisdiction to rule on the matter and upheld the lawfulness of the sanctions.

Barclays Bank Plc v. Ente Nazionale Di Previdenza Ed Assistenza [2016] EWCA Civ 1261: The Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the judgment of Blair J at first instance dismissing ENPAM's application for a declaration under CPR Part 11 and giving summary judgment for the respondent. The Court of Appeal considered a number of important questions of EU law, including the correct interpretation of Article 27 of the Judgments Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 44/2001) and the application of the principle of mutual trust in EU law. The Court found in

favour of Barclays, on all points, and dismissed the appeal. Sonia acted for Barclays instructed by Freshfields.

Midtown Acquisitions LP v Essar Global Fund Ltd [2017] EWHC 519 (Comm): The Commercial Court rejected Essar's jurisdiction challenge to a claim to enforce a New York judgment at common law, and granted Midtown (for whom Sonia acted, instructed by Boies Schiller) summary judgment on its claim. This was the first reported English decision on the question of whether a judgment by confession based in a cognovit clause can be enforced as a judgment in English law.

GAC / Maud v. Aabar [2017] EWCA Civ 37: Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Aabar on this appeal. The Court of Appeal dismissed Glenn Maud's claims to enforce an alleged €250 million contract for the sale of valuable debt interests. The Court of Appeal's judgment highlighted the importance of taking account of the whole course of the parties' dealings when deciding whether a contract has been made.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Deutsche Bank AG v Comune Di Savona [2017] EWHC 1013 (Comm): Sonia is acting for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy in this claim for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps transaction entered into under an ISDA master agreement. Savona have mounted a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the standard jurisdiction clause in an ISDA master agreement and that challenge is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal next year.

Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In administration) v Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted in this substantial commercial dispute concerning repos entered into between Lehmans and DZ Bank. The case raised issues about the methodology used by Lehmans to value transactions when they were closed out upon Lehman's collapse; the state of the market in 2008 and the duties owed by a collateral manager. Sonia acted for Bank of New York Mellon (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Goldman Sachs International v Videocon [2016] EWCA Civ 130: Sonia acted for Goldman Sachs on this important appeal concerning the interpretation of key provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement (Section 6) and the giving of notice.

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander v UBS [2016] EWCA Civ 319; [2014] EWHC 2540 (Comm) (Andrew Smith J): Sonia successfully defended UBS on this substantial claim brought by Kaupthing in relation to a payment made by mistake. The first instance decision considers a number of legal arguments with particular focus on estoppel and the operation of close out provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement. The decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.

Deutsche Bank v Vik [2016] EWCA Civ 23; [2014] EWHC 2073 (Comm): Sonia successfully acted for Deutsche Bank at first instance and on appeal, instructed by Freshfields, in obtaining a landmark non-party costs order against Mr Vik personally for £35 million (the largest ever such order).

Golden Belt v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for BNPP in this substantial claim concerning a complex Shari'ah law financing transaction; instructed by Clifford Chance.

Chesterfield United & Anr v Deutsche Bank [2016] (Ch D): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May, in this Kaupthing related litigation. The dispute concerned c$500m credit linked notes.

McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited v Deutsche Apotheker-Und Artzebank EG & Ors [2014] EWHC 2436 (Comm) (Cooke J): Sonia acted for Standard & Poor (instructed by King & Wood Malleson). The litigation concerned the duties owed by the rating agencies when rating financial products. Cooke J determined that the Commercial Court had the jurisdiction to hear the proceedings.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Bank of Ireland, Deutsche Hypothebank AG, HSH Nordbank AG, Nationwide Building Society & Ors: This dispute arose out of a complex and substantial restructuring, concerning the correct interpretation of standard form(waterfall) payment provisions {of a type included in many restructuring deeds) . Sonia was instructed by Linklaters to act for the Defendant banks (who together constituted a syndicate of bank shareholders).

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2014] EWCA Civ 1100: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields. Deutsche obtained a landmark order from the Court of Appeal that Sebastian Holdings' appeal from the judgment of Cooke J (the trial judge) be made subject to payment into court of US$250m (probably the largest ever such condition) .

HSH Nordbank AG v Intesa Sanpaolo SpA [2014] EWHC 142 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa SanPaolo in resisting a substantial and complex restitutionary claim brought by a German bank in connection with a swap transaction entered into by an Italian municipality.

Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A; Dexia Crediop S.p.A v Regione Piedmonte [2014] EWCA Civ 1298 and [2013] EWHC 1994 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. and Dexia Crediop S.p.A in proceedings against Regione Piedmont concerning the enforceability of derivative transactions entered into between the parties in connection with Piedmont's bond issues. At first instance, Eder J upheld the transactions and affirmed the declaratory relief previously granted by Cooke J [2012] EWHC 2561 (Comm). The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Eder J and considered in detail Piedmont's arguments that it lacked the capacity to enter into the transactions as a matter of Italian law. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings Inc [2013] EWHC 3463 (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Freshfields). The Bank brought substantial claims in the Commercial Court for the FX and Equities trading debts of Sebastian Holdings Inc, a company owned and controlled by Norwegian internet billionaire Alexander Vik. Sebastian counterclaimed for heavily loss making exotic FX transactions put on by its FX trader through Deutsche Bank's FX prime brokerage platform, and for losses arising from huge FX positions put on for Sebastian by Mr Vik himself. Sebastian counterclaimed $8 billion in consequential losses, making this one of the largest claims in Commercial Court history. This high profile dispute raised a number of topical issues, including the obligations of FX prime brokers, the nature and proper classification of certain exotic FX derivatives and many important ISDA construction points. It also raised fundamental issues about the recovery of consequential losses (including whether Sebastian could recover losses on the basis of a hypothetical trading portfolio). Sonia appeared for Deutsche Bank at the 16 week trial in the Commercial Court, which involved nearly 30 fact witnesses and experts from eight different disciplines. The case was a comprehensive victory for the Bank, with the Judge ordering Sebastian to pay a large proportion of the costs on an indemnity basis.

UBS v Commune di Firenze (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS as its lead advocate in this highly publicised litigation with the City of Florence concerning the validity of derivative transactions entered into prior to the global financial crisis. The dispute formed part of wider and high profile litigation in England and Italy between financial institutions and Italian public authorities in relation to such derivative transactions and involved complex jurisdiction and substantive law issues. The case recently settled before trial. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Akers and anr v Deutsche Bank (re Chesterfield United Inc and Partridge Management Group SA) [2012]: EWHC 244 (Ch): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank instructed by Slaughter and May in this dispute which arose out of the collapse of Kaupthing Bank.

Forsta AP-Fonden v Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted at the interlocutory stages (2011-2012) for the Claimant pension fund on this substantial claim concerning the investment of the fund's assets in the assets of the now insolvent SIV, Sigma Finance.

UBS v Calabria [2012] EWHC 699 (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS Limited and UBS AG in this jurisdiction battle; the case provided important guidance on the purpose and effect of Articles 27, 28 and 30 of the Judgments Regulation.

Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi & Brothers Co bank litigation (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for BNP Paribas in these high profile proceedings against a Saudi Arabian industrial conglomerate (AHAB) in respect of substantial sums owing by AHAB to BNP Paribas under a callable interest rate swap. Sonia was instructed by Clifford Chance.

UBS v Region of Lombardia (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS as its lead Counsel in this high profile litigation concerning the alleged misselling of a derivative transaction entered into between UBS and the Italian Region of Lombardy in connection with the latter's USD 1 billion bond issue. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Wand v Barclays Bank: Sonia was instructed by Simmons and Simmons to act for Barclays in this dispute concerning an interest rate swap.

Bloomsbury International Limited (in administration) & Ors v Holyoake & Ors: Sonia represented the administrators

of the British Seafood group (partners in Deloitte), instructed by Freshfields, in relation to an alleged £200 million fraud perpetrated by the group's former Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director. Of particular significance was an application by two defendants for the removal of the administrators which gave rise to important questions of principle regarding conflicts of interest in the context of administrations: see [2010] EWHC 1150 (Ch).

Fanmail/UK.Com v Cooper & Ors [2010] EWHC 2647 (Ch): Sonia successfully represented Standard Chartered Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May in a contested non-party disclosure application. The decision considered the relevant principles to be applied pursuant to CPR 31.17.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2010] EWCA Civ 998: another of the landmark jurisdiction cases that has informed modern law. Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Freshfields) on Sebastian Holding's jurisdiction challenge. The Court of Appeal considered and gave guidance about the approach to competing jurisdiction clauses in transaction documents.

UBS v Proton (Commercial Court, 2010): Sonia acted for UBS (instructed by Linklaters) in another high profile inter-bank dispute concerning sub participation agreements.

Brophy v HFC Bank Limited [2011] EWCA Civ 354; [2010] EWHC 819 (QB): Sonia successfully represented HSBC at first instance and on appeal (in the Court of Appeal) in this important case concerning the definition of "credit limit" in credit card agreements.

Teasdale v HSBC [2010] EWHC 612 (QB); Brookes v HSBC [2011] EWCA 354: Sonia successfully represented HSBC at first instance and in the Court of Appeal in this test case concerning costs.

Carey v HSBC [2009] EWHC 3417 (Times Law Reports, Jan 25 2010): Sonia successfully represented HSBC in this test case (to determine the true construction of provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 applicable to certain credit card facilities advanced by various banks).

Office of Fair Trading v Abbey National plc and others [2009] UKSC 6 (Supreme Court); [2009] EWCA 116, (CA), [2008] 2 All ER (Comm) 625; [2008] All ER (D): Sonia acted for the Nationwide Building Society (instructed by Slaughter and May) in the much publicised bank charges litigation commenced by the Office of Fair Trading against eight major banks to determine whether bank charges levied on unauthorised overdrafts by each of the banks contravene the requirements of consumer protection legislation. Sonia represented Nationwide in two trials of preliminary issues in January and July 2008 and on the appeal to the Court of Appeal in November 2008 and on the further appeal to the House of Lords in 2009 in which the Banks had a landmark victory.

UBS AG and another v HSH Nordbank AG [2009] EWCA Civ 585 (CA); [2008] 2 Lloyd's Rep 500 (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS (instructed by Simmons & Simmons) in this high profile dispute which arose in the context of a substantial COO transaction. A preliminary issue on jurisdiction was heard by Walker J in July 08 (Commercial) and by the Court of Appeal in April 09.

JPMorgan v Pollux: Sonia acted for JPMorgan instructed by Clifford Chance. The case raised similar issues to the Springwell litigation (alleged investment advice in the sale of emerging markets debt instruments).

Office of Fair Trading v Lloyds TSB Bank and others [2007] UKHL 48 (Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe and Lord Brown): Sonia was instructed by Lovells and SJ Berwin (jointly) to appear in the House of Lords to represent Lloyds Bank and Tesco Personal Finance (as representative defendants for the UK Credit Card Industry). The case determined that overseas use of credit cards will attract the same protection as domestic usage (pursuant to section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act),

British Energy Power & Energy Trading Ltd and others v Credit Suisse and others [2007] 2 Lloyd's Rep 427: Sonia acted for Credit Suisse (instructed by Linklaters) in the high profile dispute over the Eggborough Power Station. The case involved complex issues arising from the securitisation of British Energy,

Haller v Deutsche Bank (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Slaughter and May) in this sizeable dispute arising in the context of debt arbitrage trading activities.

IXIS v Corporate & Investment Bank v WestLB AG & ors: Sonia was instructed by Lovells (at the interlocutory stages) to act for Terra Firma in the substantial Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the collapse of the Box Clever Group. The case involved claims in negligence and deceit relating to the securitisation of receivables.

AY Bank Ltd (in liquidation) v Bosnia and Herzegovia and others [2006] All ER (D) 177 (Apr): Sonia acted for the Joint

Liquidators of AY Bank seeking directions about the payment of dividends in respect of accounts held with bank in the name of the former National Bank of Yugoslavia. Competing entitlements were raised by the Successor States to the former SFRY. A preliminary jurisdiction dispute was determined by the Chancellor Sonia was instructed by Lovells.

Arbitration: Sonia acted for an investment bank in a substantial arbitration claims concerning the scope of the bank's duties when acting as a financial advisor on the acquisition of pension and life assurance companies, Sonia was instructed by Allen & Overy (2005).

Kensington International Ltd v the Republic of Congo [2005] EWHC 2684 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Dechert to act for Kensington in these substantial third party debt proceedings brought by Kensington against the Congo. The case involved issues of piercing the corporate veil, defrauding creditors and sham transactions.

Banco Santander e Acores SA v JPMorgan Chase (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Allen & every in this claim for the millions alleged to be due under a swap transaction. The case raised important issues of construction, commercial purpose and unilateral mistake.

Morgan Grenfell & others v Arrows Autosports Limited & others: Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Morgan Grenfell in this high profile litigation involving the demise of the former Arrows formula one team. She appeared at the interlocutory hearing before Lightman J ((2002] EWHC 1329); the trial before Pumfrey J (2003] All ER (D) 417 and the further trial on the construction and scope of an indemnity given by Tom Walkinshaw before Lindsay J (2004) All ER (D) 76.

Sonia was instructed by Lovells in football finance litigation arising from the terms of a business sale and purchase agreement. Breach of warranty dispute,

Acorncrest v Natwest (2003) All ER (D) 82: Sonia was instructed to act for Natwest by DLA in this commercial and banking dispute which raised issues about the true construction of security, condition precedent and estoppels). Sonia obtained summary judgment on an application before Neuberger J.

Fisher v Barclays Stockbroking Limited (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for BSL in this dispute about the scope of the duty of care of a stockbroker offering an advisory stockbroking service.

Financial Institutions Services Ltd v Negril Negril Holdings Ltd and another [2004] UKPC 40: Sonia appeared in the Privy Council (instructed by Lovells) on this appeal from the Court of Appeal of Jamaica (Appeal No. 37 of 2003). This was a substantial banking dispute concerning the Bank's right to charge interest on "unauthorised" borrowing at penal rates, the effect of a conclusive evidence clause, and the construction of banking contractual and security documentation.

McCall v Telewest: Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Telewest in relation to a challenge to the Scheme of Arrangement. Eurobet v Girobank: Sonia acted on this claim arising from the operation of an international money transmission service. She was instructed by Taylor Wessing.

Royal Bank of Scotland v XL Insurance (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed to act for RBS by Allen & Overy in this dispute concerning a credit default swap transaction as the claim was for rectification and/or contractual relief.

Libra Bank v Financiera de la Republica [2002] EWHC 821: Sonia acted in this dispute arising from the terms of an assignment of debts owed by the Republic of Ecuador to the Claimant; involving (1) the construction of an assignment under US Law (2) the construction of Past Due Interest Bonds (3) Claims in contract and restitution. Sonia was instructed by Allen & Overy.

Starlight Inc v Bruce Metcalfe: Sonia was instructed by Richards Butler in this dispute involving prime bank instruments and fraudulent investment programmes.

Smith v Lloyds (2000] 3 WLR 1725; CA, Pill Potter and Stuart-Smith LJJ Sonia appeared in this important case concerning the fraudulent alteration of a cheque and s64 Bills of Exchange Act.

Lloyds Bank v Voller (2000] All ER (D) 1465; CA, Potter and Wall LJJ: Sonia acted for Lloyds Bank in this leading case on a bank's right to charge interest on unauthorised overdraft.

Commerzbank v Arvind Mills & others: Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for Commerzbank in this claim for repayment of monies due under a security and trust agreement entered into between a syndicate of 13 banks. The

case also concerned an alleged conspiracy to defraud between the security agent and trustee and the borrower.

A Y Bank v Promstroybank of Russia: Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for AY Bank in this dispute about the repayment of substantial borrowing and set off and charge-backs. She appeared on a successful summary judgment application.

Sonia was instructed by Lovells in the BCCI and ICIC v Adham litigation.

Crest Holmes (South East) v Browne (Jacob J, 28 October 1999): Sonia was instructed by Denton Wilde Sapte.

ING Bank v McGoona: Sonia was instructed by Lovells for ING Bank in this dispute concerning monies stolen from an account with ING.She obtained freezing injunctions and ancillary disclosure orders and most of the stolen funds were successfully recovered.

Rodney Toogood v SBG Holdings Limited and others (1996): Sonia appeared at this trial before Neuberger J instructed by Allen & Overy. The case involved claims for commercial fraud, negligent misstatement, misrepresentation and banking.

Commercial Litigation

Sonia Tolaney KC has significant experience of leading large counsel teams in very substantial and complex commercial disputes. She acted for WEX in relation to a £1.7 billion transaction; for RBS and its former directors in the RBS Rights Issue Litigation; for Deutsche Bank in the high profile 16 week trial against Sebastian Holdings (and in multiple appeals thereafter); for the FCA in judicial review proceedings concerning the sanctions imposed on Rosneft in relation to Russia; for Airbus in a litigation concerning pre-delivery financing arrangement for aircraft; and for Sotheby's in various fine art disputes.

Over the years she has appeared in a huge number of landmark commercial cases including (to name a few) BCCI; Equitable Life v Bowley; the Bank Charges litigation; the Berezovsky v Abramovich litigation; Centrica v Accenture; the litigation over the Eggborough Power Station; the Arrows litigation; the Box Clever litigation; the Algosaibi litigation; Lehmans and Kaupthing related litigation.

She is widely regarded as one of the top Commercial Silks at the Bar. She was awarded the "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year 2017" (Chambers UK Bar Awards 2017) and was named the "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year 2014" (The Legal 500 Bar Awards 2014).

"Sonia is the best advocate at the London Bar. She is just that good that she can read the judge's mind. She knows how the judge wants a case and delivers it in a super powerful but not aggressive way." "Sonia is brilliant and a superstar. She strikes fear without even being there. Incredibly effective, she is very incisive and can look at both the big picture and the little picture extremely well." "Putting her in front of clients is the best thing about her. As well as being very technical and good in court, she presents and explains things fantastically." "Sonia is the best there is, and she wins the biggest cases. She is rock-solid and gets the ear of the judge because of her incredible manner in court. Judges find her very persuasive." "Sonia is a go-to KC. She is as smart and charming as they come and gets the client and judiciary to adore her." Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Sonia is very good and highly commercial in her approach. She is excellent in court and always in the biggest cases." "Her mind is incredibly lively and interesting, as well as crammed with legal knowledge. It is a pleasure to work with Sonia." "Sonia is genuinely wonderful, brilliant on her feet and extremely bright. She is also a genuine team player, who has no airs and graces and is a delight to work with." "The judges clearly appreciate Sonia's advocacy style." Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Chancery

"Sonia possesses exceptional advocacy skills combined with a razor-sharp intellect. She is one of the best commercial trial advocates available." Legal 500 2026, Commercial Litigation

"Sonia absolutely lives up to the hype. She is in a league of her own – utterly extraordinary, and on top of this she is utterly charming and lovely." "Sonia is a rockstar. She is excellent on her feet, tenacious and charming, and is undeniably respected by her peers and judges." Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Chancery

"Sonia is just so in tune with everything that is happening in the courtroom – the way the arguments are unfolding, the next move the opposition is going to make and the mood of the Bench." "In terms of advocacy, you couldn't find someone who is more silky smooth; she's just so calm and utterly charming." Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Sonia really packs a punch and is very good at weaving the law into the facts." "Super charming and super bright., she's a heavyweight figure in the litigation market." "A fantastic advocate and a straight talker." "One of the superstars of the Bar. Sonia is an incredibly impressive courtroom advocate." "Trusted by clients - they want her on their cases." Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution

"A brilliant, tough performer, who has strong judgment." Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Chancery

Notable cases in which Sonia has been instructed are as follows:

White & Others v Uber London Ltd & Others [2026] EWHC 1610 (Comm): Sonia acts for Uber in proceedings brought by more than 11,000 black-cab drivers. In 2026, the Commercial Court determined an application concerning litigation privilege over the funders' initial assessment of the claim.

Caxton International Ltd & Ors v Essity Aktiebolag [2025] EWHC 1477 (Ch): Sonia acted for Essity in proceedings concerning an alleged event of default under its Euro Medium Term Note Programme and issues relating to intermediated securities.

Dieselgate: Advised a manufacturer of diesel vehicles in respect of threatened group litigation concerning alleged breaches of NOx emissions requirements.

Premier League disciplinary proceedings: Sonia acted for a Premier League football club in proceedings concerning alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial rules.

Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc [2023] CAT 15; [2024] CAT 41; [2025] CAT 28: Sonia was instructed by Mastercard in this long-running litigation comprising a claim on behalf of 46.2 million individuals for damages for increased multilateral interchange credit card fees that had been held to infringe competition law and had potentially been passed on to them through increased retail prices. Instructed by Freshfields to appear in the CA on a limitation point and in the CAT on a variety of legal issues. Sonia acted for Mastercard in its successful application for a collective settlement approval order, resolving long-running collective proceedings once valued at around £16 billion.

Breeze and others v TSB Bank plc (Whistletree Group Litigation) [2024] EWHC 2427 (Ch); [2026] EWCA Civ 32: Sonia acts for TSB, instructed by Hogan Lovells, in this landmark group claim by a large number of TSB's customers, whose Northern Rock-originated mortgages were acquired by TSB as part of the Government's disposal of nationalised Northern Rock assets. At least four other lenders with similar cohorts of borrowers are also threatened with claims. The Claimants contend they overpaid interest and pursue claims on several bases, including breach of contract, breach of statutory duty, unfair relationship provisions of CCA 1974, and under Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations. TSB succeeded in 4-day preliminary issues trial (July 2024), resulting in dismissal of the claim for breach of the express terms of the mortgage contract and an important ruling on the operation of s.140A CCA 1974. The Claimants challenged that decision in 2-day Appeal hearing (January 2026) where Sonia successfully represented TSB ([2026 EWCA Civ 32]. The proceedings are closely watched by other lenders that acquired ex-Northern Rock mortgages, and the market generally, as they raise important issues of wider application concerning duties of a regulated lender that acquires mortgages and enforceability of interest-rate-variation clauses.

Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch): Sonia acted for Credit Suisse, instructed by Freshfields. This claim against Japan's Softbank Group arose out of March 2021 collapse of finance specialist firm Greensill Capital, which saw 1,000+ professional investors across Europe and Asia lose control of $10bn, as the money became trapped in Credit Suisse's Greensill-backed supply-chain finance funds. Having already recouped $7.4bn, Credit Suisse brought claim to pursue monies owed to their customers by Katerra, a Californian construction company funded by Greensill. Sonia led the counsel team representing Credit Suisse in 5-week High Court trial (June 2025). Lex Greensill gave evidence; Sonia successfully cross-examined him to prove his improper purpose in executing the transaction.

CalSTRS & Ors v Boohoo: Sonia acts for Boohoo, instructed by HSF Kramer, defending "stock-drop" class action proceedings brought by shareholders, arising out of alleged breaches of ESG requirements by the fashion retailer, pursuant to s.90A/Schedule 10A FSMA. During 2-day High Court CMC (February 2026), the judge gave important guidance in relation to s90A FSMA claims.

R (Linear Investments Limited) v Financial Ombudsman Service Limited [2025] EWCA Civ 1369: Sonia acted in the CA for Linear Investments in judicial review proceedings in which the decision of the Financial Ombudsman Service was partially quashed.

Alimov v Mirakhmedov & Ors [2024] EWHC 3322 (Comm): Sonia acted for Genesis Digital Assets, one of the world's biggest cryptocurrency miners, in a dispute concerning its shareholding. The jurisdiction challenge was heard in October 2024 and the decision was handed down in December 2024.

BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Ltd v Uro Property Holdings S.A. [2022] EWHC 3251 (Comm): Sonia acted for the Defendant in a claim for over €250 million allegedly due under a set of financing documents. The case involved issues of Spanish law and bond-market practice. The Commercial Court considered on a summary judgment basis whether it could substitute its own calculation of sums payable on the early termination or repayment of a loan, whether relevant pricing data could be obtained and applied retrospectively, and the implications of failing to certify a sum due within a prescribed time limit.

Fiesta Hotels and Resorts SL and others v Deutsche Bank AG: Sonia acted for DB defending claims for damages of about €500 million for alleged fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation, which involve allegations of mis-selling of foreign exchange rate derivatives to the claimants, who are part of a very large Spanish hotel business called Palladium Hotel Group.

Vestia v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith to act for BNPP in relation to a c. €300mn claim arising out of derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA v Comune di Venezia (CA-2023-000161 and CA-2023-000221) [2023] EWCA Civ 1482: Sonia acted for the two Italian banks, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and Dexia Crédit, in the Court of Appeal, overturning the Commercial Court's finding that English law swaps under the ISDA Master Agreement were void for lack of capacity. In rejecting Venice's cross-appeal, the decision also considered significant issues in the conflict of laws and the law of restitution.

BM Brazil & Ors v Sibanye [2024] EWHC 2566 (Comm): Sonia acted for the defendants, instructed by Clifford Chance, in this major commercial claim relating to a >US$1bn Brazilian mine acquisition. The case concerned whether the defendants were entitled to invoke a MAE clause to terminate the acquisition contracts following the occurrence of a geotechnical event at one of the mines subject to the acquisition.

PA(GI) Limited v Cigna Insurance Services (Europe) Limited [2023] EWHC 1360 (Comm): Sonia successfully acted for PA(GI) in its claim for over £35m for indemnification in respect of PPI mis-selling liability under two contractual indemnities.

Federal Deposit Insurance Company v Barclays & ors (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high-profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claimed substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

Maroil Trading Inc & Ors v Cally Shipholdings Inc & Ors (Comm): Sonia acted for Burford Capital and Daniel Hall (the Third Parties) in complex and high profile proceedings for sums in excess of US$85 million. The Third Parties are alleged to have committed breaches of confidence and made fraudulent misrepresentations.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Travelport v WEX (2020): Sonia acted for WEX instructed by Freshfields, in this claim concerning a US$1.7bn corporate acquisition.WEX has invoked a material adverse effect clause following the Covid-19 pandemic. Following an expedited trial of preliminary issues this summer, this is now the leading case on MAC clauses in this jurisdiction.

Deutsche Bank AG v Provincia di Brescia (Comm) (2022): important decision of Knowles J on the scope and effect of the exclusive jurisdiction clause in an ISDA Master Agreement, and the application of Article 25 of the Recast Brussels Regulation, in the circumstances of a dispute about the validity and effect of a subsequent contract between

the parties without a jurisdiction clause; application of the Extended Fiona Trust Principle.

Deutsche Bank v Busto di Arsizio [2021] EWHC 2706 (Comm) Sonia acted for DB in the first of the Italian swaps cases to consider the landmark Italian Supreme Court decision in Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro S.P.A v Municipality of Cattolica. The Commercial Court held that it was open to the English Court to diverge from an authority of the highest Court in a foreign legal system if satisfied on the evidence that the authority does not represent the law.

Qatar Airways v Airbus (2022) (TCC): Sonia acted for Airbus, instructed by Clifford Chance to resist Qatar's application to compel Airbus to build A321 aircraft. Waksman J refused the application holding that Qatar could lease similar or equivalent aircraft and that, accordingly, damages would be an adequate remedy if Qatar succeeded at trial.

Re Lehman Brothers Holdings Plc and LB Holdings Intermediate 2 Limited [2021] EWCA Civ 1523: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank in its successful appeal in a landmark case arising out of applications by the administrators of two Lehman Group companies. The case concerned how the remaining surplus in the Lehman estate – estimated at £800m to £1bn – is to be distributed between its remaining creditors.

Lehmans v Barclays Capital and Wentworth Sons Sub Debt SARL (ChD): Sonia led a team for Barclays in this complex Lehmans dispute concerning the interrelationship between CMEs and unsecured claims; right to Statutory Interest; ex parte James; instructed by Boies Schiller.

Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In administration) v Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted in this substantial commercial dispute concerning repos entered into between Lehmans and DZ Bank. The case raised issues about the methodology used by Lehmans to value transactions when they were closed out upon Lehman's collapse; the state of the market in 2008 and the duties owed by a collateral manager. Sonia acted for Bank of New York Mellon (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Lonestar Communications v Kaye, Marziano, Cellcom, Polani and Orange [2020] EWHC 1890 (Comm): Sonia acted for Cellcom (instructed by Clifford Chance) in commercial Court proceedings arising out of alleged cyberattacks on a telecommunications company in Liberia, involving allegations of vicarious liability for economic torts in connection with the alleged cyberattacks.

Vale v Steinmetz & Ors (Comm, EWCA) [2021] EWCA Civ 1087: Sonia acted for the claimants in substantial (c.US$1.7 billion) civil fraud proceedings arising out of a JV to exploit mining rights in Guinea. The claimants alleged that the licences had been procured by bribery and corruption of Guinean government officials.

Roman Pipia v BGEO Group Limited [2020] EWHC 1359 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 402 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to defend BGEO Group Limited, the parent company of Bank of Georgia against a claim relating to the sale by Bank of Georgia of assets by auction following a default on a loan facility.

ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank [2018] EWHC 3045. Sonia acted for HSBC, instructed by Cleary Gottlieb, in this substantial currency trading dispute involving allegations of foreign exchange rate manipulation and front running.

(1) Agate Assets SA (2) Commerzbank AG, London Branch (3) Mr Peter Corner -v- (1) Banque Privee Edmond de Rothschild Europe SA (2) Adenium SICAV and 5 others. Sonia acted for Agate and Commerzbank in this substantial claim concerning a complex notes transaction and allegations of conspiracy and fraud. Instructed by Allen & Overy.

Avonwick Holding Limited v Azitio Holdings Limited & others: Sonia acted for a number of individuals and corporate defendants in the high-profile Avonwick proceedings between Ukrainian oligarchs. The claims against Sonia's clients were dismissed in their entirety following the Phase 1 trial in these proceedings.

Apache North Sea Limited v INEOS FPS Limited [2020] EWHC 2081 (Comm): Sonia acted for INEOS FPS Ltd concerning an agreement not to unreasonably withhold consent.

Tyndaris v VWM Ltd (Comm): Sonia acted for the claimant in this dispute relating to the performance of an artificial intelligence investment fund. The case was identified by the Lawyer of one of the Top 20 cases of 2020, and described as *"The first major UK case to involve machine learning".*

Sabbagh v Khoury [2019] EWHC 3004: Sonia was instructed by Latham & Watkins to act for the claimant in this long running and complex US$600 million dispute over the estate of Hassib Sabbagh, which involved actions for conspiracy under Lebanese and Greek law.

Cyrus Opportunities Master Fund v Oceanwood Opportunities Master Fund (2018, Commercial Court, Financial List): Sonia acted for the Claimants in a dispute concerning the validity of the exercise of a put option.

Sothebys v Meem (Commercial Court) – Sonia acted for Sothebys in this complex dispute over a fine art sale

Privatbank v Kolomoisky & Ors [2019] EWCA 1708 (Court of Appeal, a complex jurisdiction dispute concerning the "sole object" test).

LLB Verwaltung (Switzerland) AG v Group Seven & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 614 (Court of Appeal, dishonest assistance, vicarious liability). Sonia acted for the Appellant Bank on this substantial appeal and succeeded in overturning the decision of Morgan J on the facts (following an 8 week trial), to hold the law firm, Notable Services LLP and its member Mr Landman liable for dishonest assistance. The Court also considered the law of vicarious liability.

Deutsche Bank v Unitech (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Deutsche Bank in this long running litigation concerning the enforcement of a swap transaction. Judgment was obtained in the Bank's favour in 2019.

ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank [2018] EWHC 3045. Sonia is acting for HSBC, instructed by Cleary Gottlieb, in this substantial currency trading dispute. In this decision (in HSBC's favour) the Commercial Court considered ECU's application for prospective and retrospective permission in respect of the collateral use of documents disclosed by HSBC.

Deutsche Bank v Commune di Savona [2018] EWCA Civ 1740. Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy, on this appeal. Deutsche bank succeeded in overturning the decision below. The Court of Appeal held that the disputes in the English Proceedings fell within the scope of the jurisdiction clause in the Swap contracts.

Compucredit v Barclays Bank (Commercial Court) (2017): Sonia acted acting for Barclays in a substantial claim concerning alleged misselling in relation to a credit card portfolio; construction of indemnity provisions under an SPA; claims for fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of warranties; restitution; instructed by Hogan Lovells

Lehmans v Barclays Capital and Wentworth Sons Sub Debt SARL (ChD): Sonia led a team for Barclays in this complex Lehmans dispute concerning the interrelationship between CMEs and unsecured claims; right to Statutory Interest; ex part James; Instructed by Boies Schiller.

Edgeworth Capital v Aabar Investments (Commercial Court): Sonia wasinstructed by Freshfields for Aabar in a dispute concerning the enforceability of security agreements in relation to a loan of c£100m. She successfully cross examined Robert Tchenguiz and obtained judgment in Aabar's favour in 2019.

Cornwall Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v International Game Technology Plc [2018] EWHC 42 (Comm), Cockerill J. Sonia successfully acted for IGT in this dispute concerning the true construction of an Italian statute, introduced in 2003, in order to effect sweeping Italian company law reforms and to increase minority shareholder protections (instructed by Cleary Gottlieb).

Deutsche Bank AG v Commune Di Fiumicino (Commercial Court): (2017) Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy. The claim was for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps entered into under an ISDA Master Agreement, including a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the ISDA standard form jurisdiction clause.

Flyington Freighters v Airbus (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for Airbus, instructed by Arnold & Porter in relation to a claim for c$1bn concerning pre-delivery financing for aircraft.

Greenwood & ors v Goodwin & Ors (Chancery Division): Sonia was instructed in this substantial and high profile litigation. This group claim was brought by thousands of claimants seeking to recover £4 bn in respect of the RBS Rights Issue (in 2008). Essentially, it was alleged that the prospectus included misleading statements, untrue statements and/or omissions (in breach of s90 FSMA).The Bank and Directors denied this and denied causation and loss. The case settled mid-2017. Sonia appeared for the Bank in numerous interlocutories, including an application made for disclosure of material over which the Bank claimed privilege: [2016] EWHC 3161 Hildyard J granted the application but gave permission for a leapfrog appeal the Supreme Court. The application ultimately settled.

Rosneft v HM Treasury & ors [2015] EWHC 248 (Admin) and proceedings before the CJEU: Sonia acted for the FCA in this high profile and widely followed judicial review brought by the Russian oil and gas giant Rosneft in respect of measures taken by the Treasury, BIS and the Financial Conduct Authority in implementing EU Council Regulations

concerning the EU sanctions imposed on Rosneft in view of Russia's destabilising actions in Ukraine. The case was referred to the CJEU and Sonia appeared before the Grand Chamber in February 2016. Judgment in favour of the FCA was handed down on 28 March 2017 (Case C-72/15). The CJEU affirmed that it had jurisdiction to rule on the matter and upheld the lawfulness of the sanctions.

Barclays Bank Plc v. Ente Nazionale Di Previdenza Ed Assistenza [2016] EWCA Civ 1261. The Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the judgment of Blair J at first instance dismissing ENPAM's application for a declaration under CPR Part 11 and giving summary judgment for the respondent. The Court of Appeal considered a number of important questions of EU law, including the correct interpretation of Article 27 of the Judgments Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 44/2001) and the application of the principle of mutual trust in EU law. The Court found in favour of Barclays, on all points, and dismissed the appeal. Sonia acted for Barclays instructed by Freshfields.

Midtown Acquisitions LP v Essar Global Fund Ltd [2017] EWHC 519 (Comm); the Commercial Court rejected Essar's jurisdiction challenge to a claim to enforce a New York judgment at common law, and granted Midtown (for whom Sonia acted, instructed by Boies Schiller) summary judgment on its claim. This was the first reported English decision on the question of whether a judgment by confession based in a cognovit clause can be enforced as a judgment in English law.

GAC / Maud v Aabar [2017] EWCA Civ 37: Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Aabar on this appeal. The Court of Appeal dismissed Glenn Maud's claims to enforce an alleged €250 million contract for the sale of valuable debt interests. The Court of Appeal's judgment highlighted the importance of taking account of the whole course of the parties' dealings when deciding whether a contract has been made.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222; Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Deutsche Bank AG v Comune Di Savona [2017] EWHC 1013 (Comm); Sonia is acting for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy in this claim for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps transaction entered into under an ISDA master agreement. Savona have mounted a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the standard jurisdiction clause in an ISDA master agreement and that challenge is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal next year.

Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In administration) v Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted in this substantial commercial dispute concerning repos entered into between Lehmans and DZ Bank. The case raised issues about the methodology used by Lehmans to value transactions when they were closed out upon Lehman's collapse; the state of the market in 2008 and the duties owed by a collateral manager. Sonia acted for Bank of New York Mellon (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Goldman Sachs International v Videocon [2016] EWCA 130 CA; Sonia acted for Goldman Sachs on this important appeal concerning the interpretation of key provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement (Section 6) and the giving of notice.

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander v UBS [2016] EWCA Civ 319; [2014] EWHC 2540 (Comm) (Andrew Smith J): Sonia successfully defended UBS on this substantial claim brought by Kaupthing in relation to a payment made by mistake. The first instance decision considers a number of legal arguments with particular focus on estoppel and the operation of close out provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement. The decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.

Deutsche Bank v Vik [2016] EWCA Civ 23; [2014] EWHC 2073 (Comm); Sonia successfully acted for Deutsche Bank at first instance and on appeal, instructed by Freshfields, in obtaining a landmark non-party costs order against Mr Vik personally for £35 million (the largest ever such order).

Golden Belt v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for BNPP in this substantial claim concerning a complex Shari'ah law financing transaction; instructed by Clifford Chance.

Chesterfield United & Anr v Deutsche Bank [2016] (Ch D): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May, in this Kaupthing related litigation. The dispute concerned c$500m credit linked notes.

McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited v Deutsche Apotheker-Und Artzebank EG & Ors [2014] EWHC 2436

(Comm)(Cooke J): Sonia acted for Standard & Poor (instructed by King & Wood Malleson). BThe litigation concerned the duties owed by the rating agencies when rating financial products. Cooke J determined that the Commercial Court had the jurisdiction to hear the proceedings.

Inna Gudavadze & ors v Vasily Anisimov: Sonia acted in this high profile and heavyweight Commercial Court dispute between the estate of the late Georgian oligarch 'Badri' Patarkatsishvili and Russian businessman Vasily Anisimov.The case concerned rights to investments derived from a USD 600 million payment made by Roman Abramovich in 2004 following the sale of his stake in Russian aluminium company Rusal.The dispute was mammoth in every sense.One of The Lawyer's 'top 20' cases of the year for 2014; its timespan stretched back to the 1990s; it gave rise to multiple, hotly contested interim hearings; and it involved claims into the billions of dollars. Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Mr Anisimov.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Bank of Ireland, Deutsche Hypothebank AG, HSH Nordbank AG, Nationwide Building Society & Ors: This dispute arose out of a complex and substantial restructuring, concerning the correct interpretation of standard form(waterfall) payment provisions {of a type included in many restructuring deeds) . Sonia was instructed by Linklaters to act for the Defendant banks (who together constituted a syndicate of bank shareholders).

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2014] EWCA Civ 1100: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields. Deutsche obtained a landmark order from the Court of Appeal that Sebastian Holdings' appeal from the judgment of Cooke J (the trial judge) be made subject to payment into court of US$250m {probably the largest ever such condition).

Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A; Dexia Creditop S.p.A v Regione Piedmonte [2014] EWCA Civ 1298 and [2013] EWHC 1994 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa Sanpaolo S,p.A and Dexia Crediop S.p.A in proceedings against Regione Piedmont concerning the enforceability of derivative transactions entered into between the parties in connection with Piedmont's bond issues.At first instance, Eder J upheld the transactions and affirmed the declaratory relief previously granted by Cooke J [2012] EWHC 2561 (Comm).The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Eder J and considered in detail Piedmont's arguments that it lacked the capacity to enter into the transactions as a matter of Italian law. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

HSH Nordbank AG v Intesa Sanpaolo SpA [2014] EWHC 142 (Commercial Court); Sonia successfully acted for Intesa SanPaolo in resisting a substantial and complex restitutionary claim brought by a German bank in connection with a swap transaction entered into by an Italian municipality.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings Inc [2013] EWHC 3463 (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Freshfields).The Bank brought substantial claims in the Commercial Court for the FX and Equities trading debts of Sebastian Holdings Inc, a company owned and controlled by Norwegian internet billionaire Alexander Vik. Sebastian counterclaimed for heavily loss making exotic FX transactions put on by its FX trader through Deutsche Bank's FX prime brokerage platform, and for losses arising from huge FX positions put on for Sebastian by Mr Vik himself. Sebastian counterclaimed $8 billion in consequential losses, making this one of the largest claims in Commercial Court history. This high profile dispute raised a number of topical issues, including the obligations of FX prime brokers, the nature and proper classification of certain exotic FX derivatives and many important ISDA construction points. It also raised fundamental issues about the recovery of consequential losses (including whether Sebastian could recover losses on the basis of a hypothetical trading portfolio). Sonia appeared for Deutsche Bank at the 16 week trial in the Commercial Court, which involved nearly 30 fact witnesses and experts from eight different disciplines. The case was a comprehensive victory for the Bank, with the Judge ordering Sebastian to pay a large proportion of the costs on an indemnity basis.

Berezovsky v Abramovich & Ors [2012] EWHC 2463 (Commercial Court) Sonia was instructed in this substantial litigation by Freshfields acting for Russian Oligarch, Vasily Anisimov. The litigation concerned claims made by the late Boris Berezovsky against Roman Abramovich and Vasily Anismov for damages estimated at $5bn. Sonia successfully represented Mr Anisimov at the historic joint Commercial Court and Chancery Division CMG and at the four month trial before Gloster J in the Commercial Court.

Berezovsky v Hine & Ors (Chancery Division). These related proceedings comprised a number of separate actions worth in excess of US$1 billion and concerned claims made by the late Boris Berezovsky against the estate of his former business partner, Arkady Patarkatsishvili, together with claims against Vasily Anismov, and others.Sonia was instructed in this substantial litigation by Freshfields, acting for Russian Oligarch, Vasily Anisimov. Issues raised involved breach of trust and fiduciary duty, Russian law, private international law and complex factual issues.In the end, Mr Berezovsky discontinued the proceedings against Vasily Anisimov in their entirety in October 2012.

UBS v Commune di Firenze (Commercial Court).Sonia acted for UBS as its lead advocate in this highly publicised litigation with the City of Florence concerning the validity of derivative transactions entered into prior to the global financial crisis.The dispute formed part of wider and high profile litigation in England and Italy between financial institutions and Italian public authorities inrelation to such derivative transactions and involved complex jurisdiction and substantive law issues. The case recently settled before trial. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Akers and anr v Deutsche Bank (re Chesterfield United Inc and Partridge Management Group SA) [2012]: EWHC 244 (Ch). Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank instructed by Slaughter and May in this dispute which arose out of the collapse of Kaupthing Bank.

Forsta AP-Fonden v Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court) Sonia acted at the interlocutory stages (2011-2012) for the Claimant pension fund on this substantial claim concerning the investment of the fund's assets in the assets of the now insolvent SIV, Sigma Finance.

UBS v Calabria [2012] EWHC 699 (Commercial Court); Sonia acted for UBS Limited and UBS AG in this jurisdiction battle; the case provided important guidance on the purpose and effect of Articles 27, 28 and 30 of the Judgments Regulation.

Centrica v Accenture (Commercial Court) [2010] EWCA Civ 912]: [2009] EWHC 2734 (Comm) and [2009] EWHC 2966 (Comm). Sonia acted for British Gas is its widely publicised dispute with Accenture, in respect of the British Gas customer billing system (instructed by Linklaters). The claim was for over £100m and involves issues of contractual construction, notification and IT and systems issues. Sonia successfully represented Centrica in a substantial trial of preliminary issues in the Commercial Court in June 2009 and on the appeal in 2010 in which she was led by Jonathan Sumption KC. The litigation settled just before the main trial last summer ,

Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi & Brothers Co bank litigation (Commercial Court). Sonia successfully acted for BNP Paribas in these high-profile proceedings against a Saudi Arabian industrial conglomerate (AHAB) in respect of substantial sums owing by AHAB to BNP Paribas under a callable interest rate swap. Sonia was instructed by Clifford Chance.

UBS v Region of Lombardia (Commercial Court) Sonia acted for UBS as its lead Counsel in this high-profile litigation concerning the alleged mis selling of a derivative transaction entered into between UBS and the Italian Region of Lombardy in connection with the latter's USO 1 billion bond issue. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Bloomsbury International Limited (in administration) & Ors v Holyoake & Ors: Sonia represented the administrators of the British Seafood group (partners in Deloitte), instructed by Freshfields, in relation to an alleged £200 million fraud perpetrated by the group's former Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director.Of particular significance was an application by two defendants for the removal of the administrators which gave rise to important questions of principle regarding conflicts of interest in the context of administrations: see [2010] EWHC 1150 (Ch).

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2010] EWCA Civ 998: another of the landmark jurisdiction cases that has informed modern law. Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Freshfields) on Sebastian Holding's jurisdiction challenge. The Court of Appeal considered and gave guidance about the approach to competing jurisdiction clauses in transaction documents.

Fanmail/UK.Com v Cooper & Ors [2010] EWHC 2647 (Ch) Sonia successfully represented Standard Chartered Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May in a contested non-party disclosure application. The decision considered the relevant principles to be applied pursuant to CPR 31.17

Brophy v HFC Bank Limited [2011] EWCA Civ 354 ; [2010] EWHC 819 (QB) Sonia successfully represented HSBC at firstinstance and on appeal (in the Court of Appeal) in this important case concerning the definition of "credit limit" in credit card agreements.

Teasdale v HSBC [2010] EWHC 612 (QB); Brookes v HSBC [2011] EWCA 354 Sonia successfully represented HSBC at first instance and in the Court of Appeal in this test case concerning costs.

Carey v HSBC [2009] EWHC 3417 (Times Law Reports, Jan 25 2010). Sonia successfully represented HSBC in this test case (to determine the true construction of provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 applicable to certain credit card facilities advanced by various banks).

Office of Fair Trading v Abbey National plc & others [2009] UKSC 6 (Supreme Court); [2009] EWCA 116, (CA), [2008] 2 All ER (Comm) 625; [2008] All ER (D) Sonia acted for the Nationwide Building Society (instructed by Slaughter and

May) in the much publicised bank charges litigation commenced by the Office of Fair Trading against eight major banks to determine whether bank charges levied on unauthorised overdrafts by each of the banks contravene the requirements of consumer protection legislation. Sonia represented Nationwide in two trials of preliminary issues in January and July 2008 and on the appeal to the Court of Appeal in November 2008 and on the further appeal to the House of Lords in 2009 in which the Banks had a landmark victory.

UBS AG and another v HSH Nordbank AG [2009] EWCA Civ 585 (CA); [2008] 2 Lloyd's Rep 500 (Commercial Court) Sonia acted for UBS (instructed by Simmons & Simmons) in this high profile dispute which arose in the context of a substantial CDO transaction. A preliminary issue on jurisdiction was heard by Walker J in July 08 (Commercial) and by the Court of Appeal in April 09.

JPMorgan v Pollux (Commercial Court) Sonia acted for JPMorgan instructed by Clifford Chance. The case raised similar issues to the Springwell litigation (alleged investment advice in the sale of emerging markets debt instruments).

Office of Fair Trading v Lloyds TSB Bank and others [2007] UKHL 48 , HL: Lord Hoffman, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe, Lord Brown Sonia was instructed by Lovells and SJ Berwin Uointly) to appear in the House of Lords to represent Lloyds Bank and Tesco Personal Finance (as representative defendants for the UK Credit Card Industry). The case determined that overseas use of credit cards will attract the same protection as domestic usage (pursuant to section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act)

British Energy Power & Energy Trading Ltd and others v Credit Suisse and others [2007] 2 Lloyd's Rep 427. Sonia acted forCredit Suisse (instructed by Linklaters) in the high profile dispute over the Eggborough Power Station. The case involved complex issues arising from the securitisation of British Energy.

Haller v Deutsche Bank (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Slaughter and May) in this sizeable dispute arising in the context of debt arbitrage trading activities.

IXIS v Corporate & Investment Bank v WestLB AG & ors. Sonia was instructed by Lovells (at the interlocutory stages) to act for Terra Firma in the substantial Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the collapse of the Box Clever Group. Claims innegligence and deceit relating to the securitisation of receivables.

Equitable Life Assurance Society v Bowley & Others Sonia acted for two of the former executive directors (instructed by Fox Williams) in this high profile claim by the Society against its former directors for breach of breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.

AY Bank Ltd (in liquidation) v Bosnia and Herzegovia and others [2006] All ER (D) 177 (Apr). Sonia acted for the Joint Liquidators of AY Bank seeking directions about the payment of dividends in respect of accounts held with bank in the name of the former National Bank of Yugoslavia. Competing entitlements were raised by the Successor States to the former SFRY. A preliminary jurisdiction dispute was determined by the Chancellor Sonia was instructed by Lovells.

Morgan Grenfell & others v Arrows Autosports Limited & others. Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Morgan Grenfell in this high profile litigation involving the demise of the former Arrows formula one team. She appeared at the interlocutory hearing before Lightman J ([2002] EWHC 1329); the trial before Pumfrey J [2003] All ER (D) 417 and the further trial on the construction and scope of an indemnity given by Tom Walkinshaw before Lindsay J [2004] All ER (D) 76.

Acorncrest v Natwest [2003] All ER (D) 82. Sonia was instructed to act for Natwest by DLA in this commercial and banking dispute which raised issues about the true construction of security, condition precedent and estoppels). Sonia obtained summary judgment on an application before Neuberger J.

Fisher v Barclays Stockbroking Limited (Commercial Court). Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for BSL in this dispute about the scope of the duty of care of a stockbroker offering an advisory stockbroking service.

Financial Institutions Services Ltd v Negril Negril Holdings Ltd and another [2004] UKPC 40: Sonia appeared in the Privy Council (instructed by Lovells) on this appeal from Jamaica (CA) to the Privy Council (Appeal No 37 of 2003). This was a substantial banking dispute (concerning the Bank's right to charge interest on "unauthorised" borrowing at penal rates, the effect of a conclusive evidence clause, and the construction of banking contractual and security documentation).

Royal Bank of Scotland v XL Insurance (Commercial Court).Sonia was instructed to act for RBS by Allen & Overy in

this dispute concerning a credit default swap transaction as the claim was for rectification and/or contractual relief.

Libra Bank v Financiera dela Republica [2002] EWHC 821. Sonia acted in this dispute arising from the terms of an assignment of debts owed by the Republic of Ecuador to the Claimant; involving (1) the construction of an assignment under US Law (2) the construction of Past Due Interest Bonds (3) Claims in contract and restitution.Sonia was instructed by Allen & Overy.

Smith v Lloyds [2000] 3 WLR 1725; CA, Pill Potter and Stuart-Smith LJJ Sonia appeared in this important case concerning the fraudulent alteration of a cheque and s64 Bills of Exchange Act.

Lloyds Bank v Voller [2000] All ER (D) 1465; CA. Potter and Wall LJJ: Sonia acted for Lloyds Bank in this leading case on a bank's right to charge interest on unauthorised overdraft.

Commerzbank v Arvind Mills & others: Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for Commerzbank in this claim for repayment of monies due under a security and trust agreement entered into between a syndicate of 13 banks. The case also concerned an alleged conspiracy to defraud between the security agent and trustee and the borrower.

A Y Bank v Promstroybank of Russia: Sonia was instructed by Lovells to act for AY Bank in this dispute about the repayment of substantial borrowing and set off and charge-backs.She appeared on a successful summary judgment application.

Sonia was instructed by Lovells in the ***BCCI and ICIC v Adham litigation***.

Sonia was instructed by Lovells in football finance litigation arising from the terms of a business sale and purchase agreement. Breach of warranty dispute.

Kolon v Government of Ghana (Commercial Court).Sonia acted for Kolon UK in relation to the enforcement of arbitration awards obtained against the Government of Ghana. The case raised important state immunity issues. Sonia was instructed by Holman Fenwick & Willan.

ING Bank v McGoona: Sonia was instructed by Lovells for ING Bank in this dispute concerning monies stolen from an account with ING.She obtained freezing injunctions and ancillary disclosure orders and most of the stolen funds were successfully recovered,

New Millennium Experience Company v Brophy and others: Sonia acted for the Dome in relation to claims for damages for conspiracy to defraud. She was instructed by BLP.

News International v Michael Clinger and others Sonia was instructed at interlocutory stages in 1998 by Allen & Overy to act for News.

Rodney Toogood v SBG Holdings Limited and others (1996) Sonia appeared at this trial before Neuberger J instructed by Allen & Overy. The case involved claims for commercial fraud, negligent misstatement, misrepresentation, banking.

Kensington International Ltd v the Republic of Congo [2005] EWHC 2684 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Dechert to act for Kensington in these substantial third party debt proceedings brought by Kensington against the Congo. The case involved issues of piercing the corporate veil, defrauding creditors and sham transactions.

Banco Santander e Acores SA v JPMorgan Chase (Commercial Court). Sonia was instructed by Allen & overy in this claim for the millions alleged to be due under a swap transaction.The case raised important issues of construction, commercial purpose and unilateral mistake.

Competition/EU

Sonia Tolaney KC is renowned for her expertise in commercial litigation, including in cases involving competition law. Her work in this area has included: breaches of EU and UK competition law; abuse of dominant position under Article 102 TFEU / s.18 Competition Act 1998; cartels and anti-competitive agreements under Article 101 TFEU / s. 2 Competition Act 1998; collective redress and follow-on damages actions, including resisting collective proceedings orders (CPO); and merger control and market investigations.

"She is a very clear communicator and a very persuasive advocate. She has a really strong reputation that she's able to use to get results." "Sonia has incredible gravitas in the courtroom. She knows how to make a point lightly, with real authority, using

the fewest words necessary for it to hit home with the court." "She's a leading light at the Bar, you can absolutely see why. She is a really terrific advocate. She has the respect of the judges and is superb to deal with." Competition Law, Chambers UK 2026

"Very strong oral advocate" Competition, Legal 500 2026

Notable cases in which Sonia is currently or has been instructed are as follows:

Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc [2023] CAT 15; [2024] CAT 41; [2025] CAT 28: Sonia was instructed by Mastercard in this long-running litigation comprising a claim on behalf of 46.2 million individuals for damages for increased multilateral interchange credit card fees that had been held to infringe competition law and had potentially been passed on to them through increased retail prices. Instructed by Freshfields to appear in the CA on a limitation point and in the CAT on a variety of legal issues. Sonia acted for Mastercard in its successful application for a collective settlement approval order, resolving long-running collective proceedings once valued at around £16 billion.

Sonia is also acting for Mastercard in defence of hundreds of claims for infringement of Article 101 TFEU that are being managed together in the "Umbrella Proceedings". The claims relate to (1) interchange fees charged to the banks used by merchants for transactions on Mastercard debit and credit cards and (2) various restrictions imposed on participating banks in accordance with the card scheme rules.

Commercial and Interregional Card Claims I Limited v Mastercard Incorporated & Others (CICC I): Sonia acts for Mastercard Inc. in collective proceedings under section 47B of the Competition Act 1998. The claims relate to two separate categories of Merchant Interchange Fees ("MIF"): first, the MIF applicable to inter-regional transactions in the EEA by non-European cardholders; and second, the MIF applicable to commercial card transactions in the UK and EEA involving cards issued to businesses rather than consumers.

This is a collective action on both an opt-in and opt-out basis for UK and European merchants.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) v Deutsche Bank & Ors: Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claimed substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

Microsoft Corporation/Activision Blizzard, Inc. v CMA: Sonia acted for Activision as intervener, supporting Microsoft in connection with its application to the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) under section 120 of the Enterprise Act 2002 to quash the CMA's original decision to prohibit the proposed US$68.7 billion acquisition of Activision by Microsoft, on the basis that the CMA's decision was irrational, procedurally unfair and disproportionate. Ultimately, the CAT stayed Microsoft's application in order to review the CMA's original decision and adjourned the hearing of the application, which had been due to commence on 23 October 2023. Following this review, the CMA granted consent for Microsoft to acquire Activision Blizzard, Inc. in October 2023, excluding Activision's non-EEA cloud streaming rights.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

Sonia Tolaney KC is widely recognised as one of the go to silks in this area. She has vast experience of fraud and asset tracing work (domestic and international) including obtaining freezing and disclosure orders in the UK and Worldwide; ancillary orders; equitable remedies; unjust enrichment; restitution. She has acted in numerous high profile cases, including BCCI; ICIC v Adnam; Kensington v Congo; Deutsche v Sebastian Holdings; Berezovksy v Abramovich; the Box Clever litigation; the News International litigation; the Algosaibi litigation, the RBS Rights Issue litigation; Privatbank v Kolomoisky.

"Sonia's wealth of experience and advocacy style make her the safest pair of hands at the commercial Bar." "She has remarkable ability to run teams of barristers. She is a very gifted leader." "Sonia's courtroom advocacy is extremely strong, and her commercial and strategic awareness is second to none." Chambers UK 2026, Civil Fraud

"Incisive and compelling, she really commands the room. Sonia is absolutely first rate." Legal 500 2026, Civil Fraud

"Sonia is a real heavyweight. She has many strings to her bow and is absolutely devastating in cross-examination. If you need someone forensically picked apart, Sonia's who you go to." "One of Sonia's great skills is her ability to read the court and get a sense of what is troubling the judge and react. She has a tremendous intellect and is a fantastic communicator." "Sonia is simply the best silk to have on your team. She is super bright, a terrific advocate and brilliant with clients." Chambers UK

2025, Civil Fraud

"If you need someone to get it right first time, every time, explain it brilliantly to a client, destroy a witness through cross-examination and totally persuade the court, then Sonia is the woman for the job." "Sonia is one of the big stars of the Bar. She is a terrific cross-examiner with a unique ability to read judges and know what is happening in their mind. A unique and valuable skill." "She is clear, commercial and sensible." Chambers UK 2024, Civil Fraud

Notable cases in which Sonia is currently or has been instructed are as follows:

Breeze and others v TSB Bank plc (Whistletree Group Litigation) [2024] EWHC 2427 (Ch); [2026] EWCA Civ 32: Sonia acts for TSB, instructed by Hogan Lovells, in this landmark group claim by a large number of TSB's customers, whose Northern Rock-originated mortgages were acquired by TSB as part of the Government's disposal of nationalised Northern Rock assets. At least four other lenders with similar cohorts of borrowers are also threatened with claims. The Claimants contend they overpaid interest and pursue claims on several bases, including breach of contract, breach of statutory duty, unfair relationship provisions of CCA 1974, and under Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations. TSB succeeded in 4-day preliminary issues trial (July 2024), resulting in dismissal of the claim for breach of the express terms of the mortgage contract and an important ruling on the operation of s.140A CCA 1974. The Claimants challenged that decision in 2-day Appeal hearing (January 2026) where Sonia successfully represented TSB ([2026 EWCA Civ 32]. The proceedings are closely watched by other lenders that acquired ex-Northern Rock mortgages, and the market generally, as they raise important issues of wider application concerning duties of a regulated lender that acquires mortgages and enforceability of interest-rate-variation clauses.

Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch): Sonia acted for Credit Suisse, instructed by Freshfields. This claim against Japan's Softbank Group arose out of March 2021 collapse of finance specialist firm Greensill Capital, which saw 1,000+ professional investors across Europe and Asia lose control of $10bn, as the money became trapped in Credit Suisse's Greensill-backed supply-chain finance funds. Having already recouped $7.4bn, Credit Suisse brought claim to pursue monies owed to their customers by Katerra, a Californian construction company funded by Greensill. Sonia led the counsel team representing Credit Suisse in 5-week High Court trial (June 2025). Lex Greensill gave evidence; Sonia successfully cross-examined him to prove his improper purpose in executing the transaction.

R (Linear Investments Limited) v Financial Ombudsman Service Limited [2025] EWCA Civ 1369: Sonia acted in the CA for Linear Investments in judicial review proceedings in which the decision of the Financial Ombudsman Service was partially quashed.

Yermek Alimov v. Genesis Digital Assets Limited & Ors [2024] EWHC 3322 (Comm): Sonia acted for Genesis Digital Assets, one of the world's biggest cryptocurrency miners, in a dispute in respect of its shareholding. Jurisdiction challenge heard in October 2024 and decision handed down in December 2024.

Phillip v Barclays [2023] UKSC 25: Sonia was instructed by UK Finance to intervene (on behalf of the Banking and Finance industry) in the Supreme Court hearing of this important appeal concerning the Quincecare duty.

Federal Deposit Insurance Company v Barclays & ors (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claimed substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

Borelli & Ors v Otaibo & Ors: Sonia acted for the 23rd Defendant in a highly complex fraud claim brought against 23 defendants (based in numerous jurisdictions) in the Commercial Court. The Claimants were the liquidators of four investment funds and various of their subsidiaries. They sought damages arising from various alleged frauds, including allegedly fraudulent property, art and aviation transactions.

Fiesta Hotels and Resorts SL and others v Deutsche Bank AG: Sonia acted for DB defending claims for damages of about €500 million for alleged fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation, which involve allegations of mis-selling of foreign exchange rate derivatives to the claimants, who are part of a very large Spanish hotel business called Palladium Hotel Group.

Vestia v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith to act for BNPP in relation to a c. €300mn claim arising out of derivative transactions entered into by a Dutch social housing association.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation.

Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Banca Intesa SanPaolo SPA v Comune Di Venezia (CA-2023-000161 and 000221) [2023] EWCA Civ 1482: Sonia acted for the two Italian Banks, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and Dexia Crédit, in the Court of Appeal, overturning the Commercial Court's finding that English law swaps under the ISDA Master Agreement were void for lack of capacity. In rejecting Venice's cross-appeal, the decision also considered significant issues in the conflict of laws and the law of restitution.

Lonestar Communications v Kaye, Marziano, Cellcom, Polani and Orange [2020] EWHC 1890 (Comm): Sonia acted for Cellcom (instructed by Clifford Chance) in Commercial Court proceedings arising out of alleged cyberattacks on a telecommunications company in Liberia, involving allegations of vicarious liability for economic torts in connection with the alleged cyberattacks.

Privatbank v Kolomoisky & Ors [2019] EWCA 1708: Sonia acted for the English Defendant companies in this substantial claim concerning an alleged fraud in the Ukraine.

Roman Pipia v BGEO Group Limited [2020] EWHC 1359 (Comm); [2020] EWHC 402 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to defend BGEO Group Limited, the parent company of Bank of Georgia against a claim relating to the sale by Bank of Georgia of assets by auction following a default on a loan facility.

Sabbagh v Khoury [2019] EWHC 3004: Sonia was instructed by Latham & Watkins to act for the claimant in this long running and complex US$600 million dispute over the estate of Hassib Sabbagh, which involved actions for conspiracy under Lebanese and Greek law.

ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank [2018] EWHC 3045. Sonia acted for HSBC, instructed by Cleary Gottlieb, in this substantial currency trading dispute involving allegations of foreign exchange rate manipulation and front running. In this decision (in HSBC's favour) the Commercial Court considered ECU's application for prospective and retrospective permission in respect of the collateral use of documents disclosed by HSBC.

LLB Verwaltung (Switzerland) AG v Group Seven & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 614 (Court of Appeal, dishonest assistance, vicarious liability). Sonia acted for the Appellant Bank on this substantial appeal and succeeded in overturning the decision of Morgan J on the facts (following an 8 week trial), to hold the law firm, Notable Services LLP and its member Mr Landman liable for dishonest assistance. The Court also considered the law of vicarious liability.

Deutsche Bank v Unitech (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Deutsche Bank in this long running litigation concerning the enforcement of a swap transaction. Judgment was obtained in the Bank's favour in 2019.

Deutsche Bank v Commune di Savona [2018] EWCA Civ 1740. Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy, on this appeal. Deutsche bank succeeded in overturning the decision below. The Court of Appeal held that the disputes in the English Proceedings fell within the scope of the jurisdiction clause in the Swap contracts.

Compucredit v Barclays Bank (Commercial Court) (2017): Sonia acted acting for Barclays in a substantial claim concerning alleged misselling in relation to a credit card portfolio; construction of indemnity provisions under an SPA; claims for fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of warranties; restitution; instructed by Hogan Lovells.

Lehmans v Barclays Capital and Wentworth Sons Sub Debt SARL (ChD): Sonia led a team for Barclays in this complex Lehmans dispute concerning the interrelationship between CMEs and unsecured claims; right to Statutory Interest; ex part James; Instructed by Boies Schiller.

Edgeworth Capital v Aabar Investments (Commercial Court): Sonia wasinstructed by Freshfields for Aabar in a dispute concerning the enforceability of security agreements in relation to a loan of c£100m. She successfully cross examined Robert Tchenguiz and obtained judgment in Aabar's favour in 2019.

(1) Agate Assets SA (2) Commerzbank AG, London Branch (3) Mr Peter Corner -v- (1) Banque Privee Edmond de Rothschild Europe SA (2) Adenium SICAV and 5 others: Sonia is acting for Agate and Commerzbank in this substantial claim concerning a complex notes transaction including allegations of conspiracy and fraud. Instructed by Allen & Overy.

Flyington Freighters v Airbus (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for Airbus, instructed by Arnold & Porter in relation

to a claim for c$1bn concerning pre-delivery financing for aircraft.

Greenwood & ors v Goodwin & Ors: (Chancery Division) Sonia was instructed in this substantial and high profile litigation. This group claim was brought by thousands of claimants seeking to recover £4 billion in respect of the RBS Rights Issue (in 2008). Essentially, it was alleged that the prospectus included misleading statements, untrue statements and/or omissions (in breach of s90 FSMA).The Bank and Directors denied this and denied causation and loss. The case settled mid-2017. Sonia appeared for the Bank in numerous interlocutories, including a high profile application made for disclosure of material over which the Bank claimed privilege: [2016] EWHC 3161 Hildyard J granted the application but gave permission for a leapfrog appeal the Supreme Court. The application ultimately settled.

Midtown Acquisitions LP v Essar Global Fund Ltd [2017] EWHC 519 (Comm); the Commercial Court rejected Essar's jurisdiction challenge to a claim to enforce a New York judgment at common law, and granted Midtown (for whom Sonia acted, instructed by Boies Schiller) summary judgment on its claim. This was the first reported English decision on the question of whether a judgment by confession based in a cognovit clause can be enforced as a judgment in English law.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222; Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander v UBS [2016] EWCA Civ 319; [2014] EWHC 2540 (Comm) (Andrew Smith J): Sonia successfully defended UBS on this substantial claim brought by Kaupthing in relation to a payment made by mistake. The first instance decision considers a number of legal arguments with particular focus on estoppel and the operation of close out provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement. The decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.

Deutsche Bank v Vik [2016] EWCA Civ 23; [2014] EWHC 2073 (Comm): Sonia successfully acted for Deutsche Bank at first instance and on appeal, instructed by Freshfields, in obtaining a landmark non-party costs order against Mr Vik personally for £35 million (the largest ever such order).

Chesterfield United & Anr v Deutsche Bank [2016] (ChD): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May, in this Kaupthing related litigation. The dispute concerned c$500m credit linked notes.

Inna Gudavadze & ors v Vasily Anisimov: Sonia acted in this high profile and heavyweight Commercial Court dispute between the estate of the late Georgian oligarch 'Badri' Patarkatsishvili and Russian businessman Vasily Anisimov.The case concerned rights to investments derived from a USD 600 million payment made by Roman Abramovich in 2004 following the sale of his stake in Russian aluminium company Rusal.The dispute was mammoth in every sense.One of The Lawyer's 'top 20' cases of the year for 2014; its timespan stretched back to the 1990s; it gave rise to multiple, hotly contested interim hearings; and it involved claims into the billions of dollars. Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Mr Anisimov.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Bank of Ireland, Deutsche Hypothebank AG, HSH Nordbank AG, Nationwide Building Society & Ors: This dispute arose out of a complex and substantial restructuring, concerning the correct interpretation of standard form(waterfall) payment provisions {of a type included in many restructuring deeds) . Sonia was instructed by Linklaters to act for the Defendant banks (who together constituted a syndicate of bank shareholders).

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2014] EWCA Civ 1100: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields. Deutsche obtained a landmark order from the Court of Appeal that Sebastian Holdings' appeal from the judgment of Cooke J(the trial judge) be made subject to payment into court of US$250m (probably the largest ever such condition).

Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A; Dexia Creditop S.p.A v Regione Piedmonte [2014] EWCA Civ 1298 and [2013] EWHC 1994 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. and Dexia Crediop S.p.A. in proceedings against Regione Piedmont concerning the enforceability of derivative transactions entered into between the parties in connection with Piedmont's bond issues. At first instance, Eder J upheld the transactions and affirmed the declaratory relief previously granted by Cooke J [2012] EWHC 2561 (Comm).The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Eder J and considered in detail Piedmont's arguments that it lacked the capacity to enter into the transactions as a matter of Italian law. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited v Deutsche Apotheker-Und Artzebank EG & Ors [2014] EWHC 2436 (Comm) (Cooke J): The litigation concerns the duties owed by the rating agencies (Standard & Poor and Moody's) when rating financial products. Sonia is acting for the Rating Agencies (instructed by King & Wood). By this decision, Cooke J determined that the Commercial Court has the jurisdiction to hear the proceedings.

Berezovsky v Abramovich & Ors [2012] EWHC 2463 (Commercial Court) Sonia was instructed in this substantial litigation by Freshfields acting for Russian Oligarch, Vasily Anisimov. The litigation concerned claims made by the late Boris Berezovsky against Roman Abramovich and Vasily Anismov for damages estimated at $5bn. Sonia successfully represented Mr Anisimov at the historic joint Commercial Court and Chancery Division CMC and at the four month trial before Gloster J in the Commercial Court.

Berezovsky v Hine & Ors (Chancery Division). These related proceedings comprised a number of separate actions worth in excess of US$1 billion and concerned claims made by the late Boris Berezovsky against the estate of his former business partner, Arkady Patarkatsishvili, together with claims against Vasily Anismov, and others Sonia was instructed in this substantial litigation by Freshfields, acting for Russian Oligarch, Vasily Anisimov . Issues raised involved breach of trust and fiduciary duty, Russian law, private international law and complex factual issues. In the end, Mr Berezovsky discontinued the proceedings against Vasily Anisimov in their entirety in October 2012.

UBS v Commune di Firenze (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for UBS as its lead advocate in this highly publicised litigation with the City of Florence concerning the validity of derivative transactions entered into prior to the global financial crisis. The dispute formed part of wider and high profile litigation in England and Italy between financial institutions and Italian public authorities in relation to such derivative transactions and involved complex jurisdiction and substantive law issues.The case recently settled before trial. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

UBS v Region of Lombardia (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for UBS as its lead Counsel in this high profile litigation concerning the alleged mis selling of a derivative transaction entered into between UBS and the Italian Region of Lombardy in connection with the latter's USO £1 billion bond issue. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb,

Bloomsbury International Limited (in administration) & Ors v Holyoake & Ors: Sonia represented the administrators of the British Seafood group (partners in Deloitte), instructed by Freshfields, in relation to an alleged £200 million fraud perpetrated by the group's former Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director. Of particular significance, was an application by two defendants for the removal of the administrators which gave rise to important questions of principle regarding conflicts of interest in the context of administrations: see [201OJ EWHC 1150 (Ch).

UBS AG and another v HSH Nordbank AG [2009] EWCA Civ 585 (CA); [2008] 2 Lloyd's Rep 500 (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS (instructed by Simmons & Simmons) in this high profile dispute which arose in the context of a substantial COO transaction. A preliminary issue on jurisdiction was heard by Walker J in July 08 (Commercial) and by the Court of Appeal in April 09. Sonia recently acted for Icelandic investors in Bulgarian banks in an arbitration involving allegations about the payment of secret commissions and disbursement of sale proceeds. The dispute involved complex claims in fraud and conspiracy as well as issues of contractual construction and conflicts of laws points. Sonia was instructed by Lovells.

Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi & Brothers Co bank litigation (Commercial Court). Sonia successfully acted for BNP Paribas in these high profile proceedings against a Saudi Arabian industrial conglomerate (AHAB) in respect of substantial sums owing by AHAB to BNP Paribas under a callable interest rate swap. Sonia was instructed by Clifford Chance.

IXIS v Corporate & Investment Bank v WestLB AG & ors: Sonia was instructed by Hogan Lovells (at the interlocutory stages) to act for Terra Firma in the substantial Commercial Court proceedings arising out of the collapse of the Box Clever Group. The case involved claims of negligence and deceit relating to the securitisation of receivables.

Equitable Life Assurance Society v Bowley & Others: Sonia acted for two of the former executive directors (instructed by FoxWilliams) in this high profile claim by the Society against its former directors for breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.

Kensington International Ltd v the Republic of Congo [2005] EWHC 2684 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Dechert to act for Kensington in these substantial third party debt proceedings brought by Kensington against the Congo. The case involved issues of piercing the corporate veil, defrauding creditors and sham transactions.

BBC Worldwide v Eurasia Management & others: Sonia acted for BBC Worldwide in a claim involving allegations of conspiracy to defraud, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, dishonest assistance. Instructed by Richards Butler.

Vardinoyannis v Ansel Limited: Sonia acted for the claimant in litigation in Guernsey and the UK (worldwide freezing order, ancillary freezing orders, and disclosure orders). She was instructed by Taylor Wessing.

New Millennium Experience Company v Brophy and others; Sonia acted for the Dome in relation to claims for damages for conspiracy to defraud. She was instructed by BCLP.

Starlight Inc v Bruce Metcalfe; Sonia was instructed by Richard Butler in this dispute involving prime bank instruments and fraudulent investment programmes.

ING Bank v McGoona; Sonia was instructed by Hogan Lovells for ING Bank in this dispute concerning monies stolen from an account with ING. She obtained freezing injunctions and ancillary disclosure orders and most of the stolen funds were successfully recovered.

News International v Michael Clinger and others; Sonia was instructed at interlocutory stages in 1998 by Allen & Overy to act for News.

Rodney Toogood v SBG Holdings Limited and others (1996): Sonia appeared at this trial before Neuberger J instructed by Allen & Overy. The case involved claims for commercial fraud, negligent misstatement, misrepresentation, banking. Sonia acted for a US Chapter 7 Trustee in bankruptcy in proceedings under the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.

Group Litigation

Sonia Tolaney KC is widely recognised as one of the top Commercial Silks at the Bar. She has extensive experience in group litigation. In recent years she has acted in high-profile collective actions including the landmark RBS Rights Issue litigation (in which Sonia defended RBS and its directors). Sonia is currently acting in a number of collective actions, including defending Boohoo and Mastercard. Sonia is also acting for an institutional claimant group of shareholders bringing claims against Glencore.

"Sonia is brilliant. A superstar at the Bar. She strikes fear without even being there. She is very incisive and can do the big picture and the little picture." "She is fabulous, extremely commercial and clever and a very, very good advocate. She is very respected by judges and she knows what points to lean on. You really want her on your side." "Sonia is a masterclass in action. Her advocacy style is like butter and she is second to none in breaking down complex concepts in a clear and persuasive way. She's at the top of her game." "Sonia is brilliant as an oral advocate. She has the ear of the court. She is robust but measured, with a very strong but charming way of making her points." "She has real stature." Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation

"Sonia is absolutely incredible and she has a deep knowledge of group litigation, with experience of both claimant and defendant sides." "Sonia has a very good reputation and she is very good with funders." "The court completely trusts her, she is an absolute pleasure to work with, and when the chips are down, she performs." "Sonia is at the top of her game. Her advocacy skills are unbeatable and she is able to cut through exceptionally complex issues to get to the core of the matter." "Sonia is excellent on her feet, tenacious and charming, and undeniably respected by her peers and judges." Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation

Notable cases in which Sonia is currently or has been instructed are as follows:

CalSTRS & Ors v Boohoo: Sonia is acting for the Defendant in claims brought by shareholders under section 90A and Schedule 10A Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Dieselgate: Sonia is advising a manufacturer of diesel vehicles in respect of threatened group litigation concerning alleged breaches of NOx emissions requirements.

White & Others v Uber London Ltd & Others: Sonia acts for Uber in proceedings brought by more than 11,000 black-cab drivers. In 2026, the Commercial Court determined an application concerning litigation privilege over the funders' initial assessment of the claim.

Various Claimants v Glencore plc & others: Sonia is acting for the Claimants, a group of institutional investors, bringing claims under section 90 of FSMA against Glencore plc, one of the world's largest diversified natural resources companies, its former CEO and its current CFO. The claims relate to allegedly false and misleading statements in, and material omissions from, various prospectuses issued by Glencore plc between 2010 and 2013.

Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc [2023] CAT 15; [2024] CAT 41; [2025] CAT 28: Sonia was instructed by Mastercard in this long-running litigation comprising a claim on behalf of 46.2 million individuals for damages for

increased multilateral interchange credit card fees that had been held to infringe competition law and had potentially been passed on to them through increased retail prices. Instructed by Freshfields to appear in the CA on a limitation point and in the CAT on a variety of legal issues. Sonia acted for Mastercard in its successful application for a collective settlement approval order, resolving long-running collective proceedings once valued at around £16 billion.

Merchant Interchange Fee Umbrella Proceedings [2025] CAT 37: Sonia is at the helm of Mastercard's Counsel team in collective proceedings brought by hundreds of merchants in relation to the interchange fees paid in respect of debit and credit card transactions, including acting in substantial trials in the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

Commercial and Interregional Card Claims I Limited v Mastercard Incorporated & Others. (CICC I): Sonia is acting for Mastercard Inc. in collective proceedings, under section 47B of the Competition Act 1998. The claims relate to two separate categories of Merchant Interchange Fees ("MIF") applied by Mastercard: First, the MIF applicable to inter-regional i.e. transactions in the EEA by non-European cardholders. Second, the MIF applicable to commercial card transactions in the UK and EEA i.e. cards issued to businesses rather than consumers. This is a collective action on both an opt-in and opt-out basis for UK and European merchants.

Commercial and Interregional Card Claims II v Visa & Others [2024] CAT 3: Sonia is acting for Mastercard, at the helm of a large counsel team in multiparty claims in the Competition Appeal Tribunal. These multi claims (collectively c. £10bn claim on behalf of 46m consumers) relate to the level of the Merchant Interchange Fee Visa and Mastercard have charged to merchants in respect of inter-regional card transactions and/or commercial card transactions. The case seeks compensation for businesses which were charged Multilateral Interchange Fees by their banks on Mastercard and Visa transactions.

Uber: Sonia acted for Uber in the "employee rights" claims brought by drivers.

Autonomy Corporation Limited and Hewlett-Packard v Lynch [2022] EWHC 1178 (Ch); [2025] EWHC 1877 (Ch): Sonia acted for Sushovan Hussain on the prospective appeal from the liability and quantum judgments in the Autonomy litigation, in which Hildyard J held that the estate of the late Mike Lynch and Mr Hussain had perpetrated a fraud and were liable to Hewlett Packard for £700m under s 90A/Sch 10A of FSMA, in the tort of deceit, under Section 2(1) of the Misrepresentation Act 1967, and for breaches of fiduciary duty. HP had been seeking $4.5 bn. Sonia was brought in to argue a prospective appeal on behalf of Mr Hussain. The appeal concerned novel questions of liability under FSMA, with Autonomy being the first and only claim under s 90A of FSMA to go to trial. Mr Hussain settled with HP shortly before the appeal was due to be filed.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (acting as receiver) v Barclays Bank & Ors: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank AG in its defence of a damages claim for billions of USD in relation to a claim brought by the FDIC against multiple banks and the BBA for the alleged collusion between London banks to suppress USD LIBOR, involving alleged infringements of Article 101 TFEU and alleged fraudulent misrepresentations as to the process by which LIBOR was set.

Greenwood & ors v Goodwin & Ors (Chancery Division): Sonia was instructed in this substantial and high profile litigation. This group claim was brought by thousands of claimants seeking to recover £4 bn in respect of the RBS Rights Issue (in 2008). Essentially, it was alleged that the prospectus included misleading statements, untrue statements and/or omissions (in breach of Section 90 of FSMA).The Bank and Directors denied this and denied causation and loss. The case settled mid-2017. Sonia appeared for the Bank in numerous interlocutories, including an application made for disclosure of material over which the Bank claimed privilege ([2016] EWHC 3161): Hildyard J granted the application but gave permission for a leapfrog appeal the Supreme Court. The application ultimately settled.

Office of Fair Trading v Abbey National plc and others [2009] UKSC 6 (Supreme Court); [2009] EWCA 116, (CA), [2008] 2 All ER (Comm) 625; [2008] All ER (D): Sonia acted for the Nationwide Building Society (instructed by Slaughter and May) in the much publicised bank charges litigation commenced by the Office of Fair Trading against eight major banks to determine whether bank charges levied on unauthorised overdrafts by each of the banks contravene the requirements of consumer protection legislation. Sonia represented Nationwide in two trials of preliminary issues in January and July 2008 and on the appeal to the Court of Appeal in November 2008 and on the further appeal to the House of Lords in 2009 in which the Banks had a landmark victory.

Carey v HSBC [2009] EWHC 3417 (Times Law Reports, Jan 25 2010): Sonia successfully represented HSBC in this test case (to determine the true construction of provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 applicable to certain credit card facilities advanced by various banks).

Insolvency

Sonia Tolaney KC is well established as a Leading Insolvency silk who is "highly regarded for her contentious insolvency work." (Chambers & Partners). "A barrister with an enviable reputation for her 'very compelling and incredibly focused' advocacy. She is a go-to silk for numerous financial institutions and frequently receives instructions in the highest-profile cases" (including, for example acting in disputes in relation to Lehmans, Kaupthing, Landesbanki, Madoff and others)."Sonia also has significant experience of restructuring work and is regularly instructed to advise in relation to transactional issues (including, recently, in relation to complex waterfall provisions).

She recently acted for Deutsche Bank in high-profile litigation arising from the collapse of Kaupthing, for Bank of New York Mellon in Lehmans' related litigation concerning repo transactions and for a syndicate of banks in relation to the interpretation of standard form (waterfall) payment provisions (of a type included in many restructuring deeds).

"A fantastic advocate" – Legal 500 2026, Insolvency

Notable cases in which Sonia is currently or has been instructed are as follows:

Credit Suisse Virtuoso SICAV-SIF v SoftBank [2025] EWHC 2631 (Ch): Sonia acted for Credit Suisse, instructed by Freshfields. This claim against Japan's Softbank Group arose out of the March 2021 collapse of finance specialist firm Greensill Capital, which saw 1,000+ professional investors across Europe and Asia lose control of $10bn, as the money became trapped in Credit Suisse's Greensill-backed supply-chain finance funds. Having already recouped $7.4bn, Credit Suisse brought a claim to pursue monies owed to their customers by Katerra, a Californian construction company funded by Greensill. Sonia led the counsel team representing Credit Suisse in a 5-week High Court trial (June 2025). Lex Greensill gave evidence; Sonia successfully cross-examined him to prove his improper purpose in executing the transaction.

Caxton International Ltd & Ors v Essity Aktiebolag [2025] EWHC 1477 (Ch): Sonia acted for Essity in proceedings concerning an alleged event of default under its Euro Medium Term Note Programme and issues relating to intermediated securities.

Federal Deposit Insurance Company v Barclays & ors (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claimed substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

BNP Paribas Trust Corp UK Ltd v Uro Property Holdings S.A. [2022] EWHC 3251 (Comm): Acted for the Defendant in a claim for over €250 million allegedly due under a set of financing documents. The case involved issues of Spanish law and bond market practice. The Commercial Court considered on a summary judgment basis whether it could substitute its own calculation of sums payable on early termination/repayment of a loan, whether relevant pricing data could be retrospectively obtained and applied, and also analysed the implications of failing to certify a sum due within a prescribed time limit.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm); [2016] EWHC 3222; Deutsche Bank AG v Alexander Vik [2026] EWCA Civ 581: Sonia has acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. She has led a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see [2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Re Lehman Brothers Holdings Plc and LB Holdings Intermediate 2 Limited [2021] EWCA Civ 1523: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank in its successful appeal in a landmark case arising out of applications by the administrators of two Lehman Group companies. The case concerned how the remaining surplus in the Lehman estate – estimated at £800m to £1bn – is to be distributed between its remaining creditors and the Court considered the rule against double proof. See also [2023] EWHC 3056 (Ch); [2023] EWHC 3317 (Ch) (Hildyard J) on statutory interest.

Lehmans v Barclays Capital and Wentworth Sons Sub Debt SARL (ChD): Sonia led a team for Barclays in this complex Lehmans dispute concerning the interrelationship between CMEs and undecured claims; right to Statutory Interest; ex parte James; Instructed by Boise Schiller.

Administrator claims: Sonia has been advising the directors of a collapsed national High Street business on claims

threatened by the business' administrators.

Cornwall Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v International Game Technology Plc [2018] EWHC 42 (Comm), Cockerill J. Sonia acted for IGT in this dispute concerning the true construction of an Italian statute, introduced in 2003, in order to effect sweeping Italian company law reforms and to increase minority shareholder protections (instructed by Cleary Gottlieb).

Edgeworth Capital v Aabar Investments (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Freshfields for Aabar in a dispute concerning the enforceability of security agreements in relation to a loan of c£100m. She successfully cross examined Robert Tchenguiz and obtained judgment in Aabar's favour in 2019.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913. Sonia is currently leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the $243m judgment owed by the insolvent Sebastian Holdings, including appointing equitable receivers.

Royal Bank of Scotland v Bank of Ireland, Deutsche Hypothebank AG, HSH Nordbank AG, Nationwide Building Society & Ors [2015]: This dispute arises out of a complex and substantial restructuring, concerning the correct interpretation of standard form (waterfall) payment provisions (of a type included in many restructuring deeds). Sonia is instructed by Linklaters to act for the Defendant banks (who together constitute a syndicate of bank shareholders).

Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In administration) v Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court) [2015]: Sonia is acting in this substantial commercial dispute concerning repos entered into between Lehmans and DZ Bank. The case raises issues about the methodology used by Lehmans to value transactions when they were closed out upon Lehman's collapse; the state of the market in 2008 and the duties owed by a collateral manager. Sonia is acting for Bank of New York Mellon (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander v UBS [2016] EWCA Civ 319; [2014] EWHC 2540 (Comm) (Andrew Smith J): Sonia successfully defended UBS on this substantial claim brought by Kaupthing in relation to a payment made by mistake. The decision considers a number of legal arguments with particular focus on estoppel, the operation of close out provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement and the effect of insolvency upon the claim. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.

Akers and anr v Deutsche Bank (re Chesterfield United Inc and Partridge Management Group SA) [2012]: EWHC 244 (Ch). Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank instructed by Slaughter and May in this dispute which arose out of the collapse of Kaupthing Bank.

Forsta AP-Fonden v Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court) Sonia acted at the interlocutory stages (2011-2012) for the Claimant pension fund on this substantial claim concerning the investment of the fund's assets in the assets of the now insolvent SIV, Sigma Finance.

Bloomsbury International Limited (in administration) & Ors v Holyoake & Ors Sonia represented the administrators of the British Seafood group (partners in Deloitte), instructed by Freshfields, in relation to an alleged £200 million fraud perpetrated by the group's former Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director. Of particular significance was an application by two defendants for the removal of the administrators which gave rise to important questions of principle regarding conflicts of interest in the context of administrations: see [2010] EWHC 1150 (Ch).

FanmailUK.Com v Cooper & Ors [2010] EWHC 2647 (Ch) Sonia successfully represented Standard Chartered Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May in a contested non-party disclosure application. The decision considered the relevant principles to be applied pursuant to CPR 31.17.

Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to advise in relation to restructuring options and structures and on the proper construction of banking documentation in the restructuring of a major healthcare group.

British Energy Power & Energy Trading Ltd and others v Credit Suisse and others [2007] 2 Lloyd's Rep 427. Sonia acted for Credit Suisse (instructed by Linklaters) in the high profile dispute over the Eggborough Power Station. The case involved complex issues arising from the securitisation of British Energy.

Haller v Deutsche Bank (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Slaughter and May) in this sizeable dispute arising in the context of debt arbitrage trading activities.

AY Bank Ltd (in liquidation) v Bosnia and Herzegovia and others [2006] All ER (D) 177 (Apr). Sonia acted for the Joint

Liquidators of AY Bank seeking directions about the payment of dividends in respect of accounts held with bank in the name of the former National Bank of Yugoslavia. Competing entitlements were raised by the Successor States to the former SFRY. A preliminary jurisdiction dispute was determined by the Chancellor Sonia was instructed by Lovells.

Sonia acted for an investment bank in a substantial arbitration claims concerning the scope of the bank's duties when acting as a financial advisor on the acquisition of pension and life assurance companies. Sonia was instructed by Allen & Overy (2005).

Kensington International Ltd v the Republic of Congo [2005] EWHC 2684 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Dechert to act for Kensington in these substantial third party debt proceedings brought by Kensington against the Congo. The case involved issues of piercing the corporate veil, defrauding creditors and sham transactions.

Morgan Grenfell & others v Arrows Autosports Limited & others. Sonia was instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Morgan Grenfell in this high profile litigation involving the demise of the former Arrows formula one team. She appeared at the interlocutory hearing before Lightman J ([2002] EWHC 1329); the trial before Pumfrey J [2003] All ER (D) 417 and the further trial on the construction and scope of an indemnity given by Tom Walkinshaw before Lindsay J [2004] All ER (D) 76.

McCall v Telewest: Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Telewest in relation to a challenge to the Scheme of Arrangement.

Eurobet v Girobank: Sonia acted on this claim arising from the operation of an international money transmission service. She was instructed by Taylor Wessing.

Libra Bank v Financiera de la Republica [2002] EWHC 821. Sonia acted in this dispute arising from the terms of an assignment of debts owed by the Republic of Ecuador to the Claimant; involving (1) the construction of an assignment under US Law (2) the construction of Past Due Interest Bonds (3) Claims in contract and restitution. Sonia was instructed by Allen & Overy.

Sonia was instructed by Lovells in the ***BCCI and ICIC v Adham*** litigation.

Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws

Sonia Tolaney KC is well established as one of the top Commercial Silks at the Bar. She was awarded the Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year 2017 (Chambers UK Awards 2017) and the "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year" 2014 (The Legal 500 Bar Awards). She was also awarded the Banking Silk of the Year 2015 (Chambers UK Bar Awards 2015).

"Sonia is the best advocate at the London Bar. She is just that good that she can read the judge's mind." Chambers UK 2026

She has very substantial experience of jurisdiction disputes and disputes raising conflicts of law issues, having advised and appeared in many of the leading cases including:

Walter Hugh Merricks v MasterCard Inc [2023] CAT 15; [2024] CAT 41; [2025] CAT 28: Sonia was instructed by Mastercard in this long-running litigation comprising a claim on behalf of 46.2 million individuals for damages for increased multilateral interchange credit card fees that had been held to infringe competition law and had potentially been passed on to them through increased retail prices. Instructed by Freshfields to appear in the CA on a limitation point and in the CAT on a variety of legal issues. Sonia acted for Mastercard in its successful application for a collective settlement approval order, resolving long-running collective proceedings once valued at around £16 billion.

Deutsche Bank AG v Provincia di Brescia (Comm) (2022): Sonia acted for DB on this important decision of Knowles J on the scope and effect of the exclusive jurisdiction clause in an ISDA Master Agreement, and the application of Article 25 of the Recast Brussels Regulation, in the circumstances of a dispute about the validity and effect of a subsequent contract between the parties without a jurisdiction clause; application of the Extended Fiona Trust Principle.

Deutsche Bank v Busto di Arsizio [2021] EWHC 2706 (Comm): Sonia acted for DB in the first of the Italian swaps cases to consider the landmark Italian Supreme Court decision in Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro S.P.A v Municipality of Cattolica. The Commercial Court held that it was open to the English Court to diverge from an authority of the highest Court in a foreign legal system if satisfied on the evidence that the authority does not represent the law.

Qatar Airways v Airbus (2022) (TCC): Sonia acted for Airbus, instructed by Clifford Chance to resist Qatar's application to compel Airbus to build A321 aircraft. Waksman J refused the application holding that Qatar could lease similar or equivalent aircraft and that, accordingly, damages would be an adequate remedy if Qatar succeeded at trial.

Privatbank v Kolomoisky & Ors [2019] EWCA 1708 (Court of Appeal, a complex jurisdiction dispute concerning the "sole object" test).

SCOR SE v Barclays [2020] EWHC 133 (Comm): Sonia acted for Barclays (instructed by Freshfields) in an application for a stay of proceedings for breach of confidence under Article 30 of the Recast Regulation, on the basis of related proceedings in France

Barclays Bank Plc v. Ente Nazionale Di Previdenza Ed Assistenza [2016] EWCA Civ 1261: The Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the judgment of Blair J at first instance dismissing ENPAM's application for a declaration under CPR Part 11 and giving summary judgment for the respondent. The Court of Appeal considered a number of important questions of EU law, including the correct interpretation of Article 27 of the Judgments Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 44/2001) and the application of the principle of mutual trust in EU law. The Court found in favour of Barclays, on all points, and dismissed the appeal. Sonia acted for Barclays instructed by Freshfields.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings [2010] EWCA Civ 998: Another of the landmark jurisdiction cases that has informed modern law. Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank (instructed by Freshfields) on Sebastian Holding's jurisdiction challenge. The Court of Appeal considered and gave guidance about the approach to competing jurisdiction clauses in transaction documents.

UBS AG and another v HSH Nordbank AG [2009] EWCA Civ 585 (CA); [2008] 2 Lloyd's Rep 500 (Commercial Court): One of the leading cases on Jurisdiction. Sonia acted for UBS (instructed by Simmons & Simmons) in this high-profile dispute which arose in the context of a substantial CDO transaction. The preliminary issue on jurisdiction was heard by Walker J in July 08 (Commercial) and by the Court of Appeal in April 09.

Other Notable Recent Cases

Cornwall Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v International Game Technology Plc [2018] EWHC 42 (Comm) (Cockerill J): Sonia acted for IGT in this dispute concerning the true construction of an Italian statute, introduced in 2003, in order to effect sweeping Italian company law reforms and to increase minority shareholder protections (instructed by Cleary Gottlieb).

Deutsche Bank v Commune di Savona [2018] EWCA Civ 1740: Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy, on this appeal. Deutsche bank succeeded in overturning the decision below. The Court of Appeal held that the disputes in the English Proceedings fell within the scope of the jurisdiction clause in the Swap contracts.

Deutsche Bank AG v Commune Di Fiumicino [2017] EWHC 1013 (Comm): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy. The claim for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps entered into under an ISDA Master Agreement, including a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the ISDA standard form jurisdiction clause.

Golden Belt v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for BNPP in this substantial claim concerning a complex Shari'ah law financing transaction and various jurisdiction / conflicts of law issues; instructed by Clifford Chance.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Midtown Acquisitions LP v Essar Global Fund Ltd [2017] EWHC 519 (Comm): The Commercial Court rejected Essar's jurisdiction challenge to a claim to enforce a New York judgment at common law, and granted Midtown (for whom Sonia acted, instructed by Boies Schiller) summary judgment on its claim. This was the first reported English decision on the question of whether a judgment by confession based in a cognovit clause can be enforced as a judgment in English law.

Barclays Bank Plc v. Ente Nazionale Di Previdenza Ed Assistenza [2016] EWCA Civ 1261: The Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the judgment of Blair J at first instance dismissing ENPAM's application for a declaration under

CPR Part 11 and giving summary judgment for the respondent. The Court of Appeal considered a number of important questions of EU law, including the correct interpretation of Article 27 of the Judgments Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 44/2001) and the application of the principle of mutual trust in EU law. The Court found in favour of Barclays, on all points, and dismissed the appeal. Sonia acted for Barclays instructed by Freshfields.

McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited v Deutsche Apotheker-Und Artzebank EG & Ors [2014] EWHC 2436 (Comm) (Cooke J)*:* Sonia acted for Standard & Poor (instructed by King & Wood Malleson). The litigation concerned the duties owed by the rating agencies when rating financial products. Sonia was successful in resisting a jurisdiction challenge by ABN Amro (a co-defendant). Cooke J determined that the Commercial Court had the jurisdiction to hear the proceedings.

Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A; Dexia Crediop S.p.A v Regione Piedmonte [2014] EWCA Civ 1298 and [2013] EWHC 1994 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. and Dexia Crediop S.p.A in proceedings against Regione Piedmont concerning the enforceability of derivative transactions entered into between the parties in connection with Piedmont's bond issues. At first instance, Eder J upheld the transactions and affirmed the declaratory relief previously granted by Cooke J [2012] EWHC 2561 (Comm). The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Eder J and considered in detail Piedmont's arguments that it lacked the capacity to enter into the transactions as a matter of Italian law. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Nordbank AG v Intesa Sanpaolo SpA [2014] EWHC 142 (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for Intesa SanPaolo in resisting a substantial and complex restitutionary claim brought by a German bank in connection with a swap transaction entered into by an Italian municipality.

UBS v Region of Lombardia (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS as its lead Counsel in this high-profile litigation concerning the alleged mis selling of a derivative transaction entered into between UBS and the Italian Region of Lombardy in connection with the latter's USO 1 billion bond issue. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi & Brothers Co bank litigation (Commercial Court): Sonia successfully acted for BNP Paribas in these high-profile proceedings against a Saudi Arabian industrial conglomerate (AHAB) in respect of substantial sums owing by AHAB to BNP Paribas under a callable interest rate swap. Sonia was instructed by Clifford Chance.

HSH Inna Gudavadze & ors v Vasily Anisimov: Sonia acted in this high profile and heavyweight Commercial Court dispute between the estate of the late Georgian oligarch 'Badri' Patarkatsishvili and Russian businessman Vasily Anisimov.The case concerned rights to investments derived from a USD 600 million payment made by Roman Abramovich in 2004 following the sale of his stake in Russian aluminium company Rusal..The dispute was mammoth in every sense.One of The Lawyer's 'top 20' cases of the year for 2014; its timespan stretched back to the 1990s; it gave rise to multiple, hotly contested interim hearings; and it involved claims into the billions of dollars. Sonia was instructed by Freshfields to act for Mr Anisimov.

UBS v Commune di Firenze (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for UBS as its lead advocate in this highly publicised litigation with the City of Florence concerning the validity of derivative transactions entered into prior to the global financial crisis. The dispute formed part of wider and high-profile litigation in England and Italy between financial institutions and Italian public authorities in relation to such derivative transactions and involved complex jurisdiction and substantive law issues. The case recently settled before trial. Sonia was instructed by Cleary Gottlieb.

Kolon v Government of Ghana (Commercial Court). Sonia acted for Kolon UK in relation to the enforcement of arbitration awards obtained against the Government of Ghana. The case raised important state immunity issues/conflict of law issues. Sonia was instructed by Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Akers and anr v Deutsche Bank (re Chesterfield United Inc and Partridge Management Group SA) [2012] EWHC 244 (Ch): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank instructed by Slaughter and May in this dispute which arose out of the collapse of Kaupthing Bank and raised complex conflicts of law issues.

UBS v Calabria [2012] EWHC 699 (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for UBS Limited and UBS AG in this jurisdiction battle; the case provided important guidance on the purpose and effect of Articles 27, 28 and 30 of the Judgments Regulation.

AY Bank Ltd (in liquidation) v Bosnia and Herzegovia and others [2006] All ER (D) 177 (Apr): Sonia acted for the Joint Liquidators of AY Bank seeking directions about the payment of dividends in respect of accounts held with bank in the name of the former National Bank of Yugoslavia. Competing entitlements were raised by the Successor States to the former SFRY. A preliminary jurisdiction dispute was determined by the Chancellor Sonia was instructed by

Lovells.

Kensington International Ltd v the Republic of Congo [2005] EWHC 2684 (Comm): Sonia was instructed by Dechert to act for Kensington in these substantial third party debt proceedings brought by Kensington against the Congo. The case involved issues of piercing the corporate veil, defrauding creditors and sham transactions.

Professional Negligence and Liability

Sonia Tolaney KC is recognised as a Leading Silk in this field. She has been instructed in a vast number of landmark cases ranging from Equitable Life to the RBS Rights Issue litigation and has significant experience of claims against (for example) banks, hedge fund managers, administrators, investment advisors, stockbrokers, solicitors, accountants, auditors, valuers and brokers.

"Sonia is brilliant and a superstar. She strikes fear without even being there." Chambers UK 2026

Notable cases in which Sonia is or has been instructed are as follows:

Federal Deposit Insurance Company v Barclays & ors (Commercial Court): Sonia is instructed by Slaughter and May to act for Deutsche Bank in this high profile claim brought by the FDIC, a US federal government agency, against leading European banks and the British Bankers' Association. The FDIC claims substantial damages for alleged LIBOR "lowballing", alleging claims under EC competition law and for fraudulent misrepresentation.

ECU Group Plc v HSBC Bank [2018] EWHC 3045: Sonia is acted for HSBC, instructed by Cleary Gottlieb, in this substantial currency trading dispute involving allegations of foreign exchange rate manipulation and front running.

Tyndaris v VWM Ltd (Comm): Sonia acted for the claimant in this dispute relating to the performance of an artificial intelligence investment fund. The case was identified by the Lawyer of one of the Top 20 cases of 2020, and described as *"The first major UK case to involve machine learning"*.

LLB Verwaltung (Switzerland) AG v Group Seven & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 614 (Court of Appeal, dishonest assistance, vicarious liability): Sonia acted for the Appellant Bank on this substantial appeal and succeeded in overturning the decision of Morgan J on the facts (following an 8 week trial), to hold the law firm, Notable Services LLP and its member Mr Landman liable for dishonest assistance. The Court also considered the law of vicarious liability.

Sotheby's v Meem (Commercial Court): Sonia is acted for Sothebys in this dispute over a fine art sale.

Greenwood & ors v Goodwin & Ors (Chancery Division): Sonia was instructed in this substantial and high profile litigation. This group claim was brought by thousands of claimants seeking to recover £4 billion in respect of the RBS Rights Issue (in 2008). Essentially, it was alleged that the prospectus included misleading statements, untrue statements and/or omissions (in breach of s90 FSMA).The Bank and Directors denied this and denied causation and loss. The case settled mid-2017. Sonia appeared for the Bank in numerous interlocutories, including a high profile application made for disclosure of material over which the Bank claimed privilege: [2016] EWHC 3161Hildyard J granted the application but gave permission for a leapfrog appeal the Supreme Court. The application ultimately settled.

Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings & Alexander Vik [2017] EWHC 459 (Comm); [2017] EWHC 913 (Comm) [2016] EWHC 3222: Sonia continues to act for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Freshfields, in this landmark litigation. Recently she has been leading a series of applications arising out of the enforcement of the c. $243m judgment debt (see ([2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)) in England and overseas, including contempt proceedings in England and Wales and equitable receivership and enforcement issues in Norway, Guernsey and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Deutsche Bank AG v Comune Di Savona [2017] EWHC 1013 (Comm): Sonia is acting for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Allen & Overy in this claim for declaratory relief in connection with several swaps transaction entered into under an ISDA master agreement. Savona have mounted a jurisdiction challenge concerning the construction of the standard jurisdiction clause in an ISDA master agreement and that challenge is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal next year.

Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In administration) v Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted in this substantial commercial dispute concerning repos entered into between Lehmans and DZ Bank. The case raised issues about the methodology used by Lehmans to value transactions when they were closed out upon Lehman's collapse; the state of the market in 2008 and the duties owed by a collateral manager. Sonia acted for Bank of New York Mellon (instructed by Simmons & Simmons).

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander v UBS [2016] EWCA Civ 319; [2014] EWHC 2540 (Comm) (Andrew Smith J): Sonia successfully defended UBS on this substantial claim brought by Kaupthing in relation to a payment made by mistake. The first instance decision considers a number of legal arguments with particular focus on estoppel and the operation of close out provisions of the ISDA Master Agreement. The decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP.

Deutsche Bank v Vik [2016] EWCA Civ 23; [2014] EWHC 2073 (Comm): Sonia successfully acted for Deutsche Bank at first instance and on appeal, instructed by Freshfields, in obtaining a landmark non-party costs order against Mr Vik personally for £35 million (the largest ever such order).

Golden Belt v BNP Paribas (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for BNPP in this substantial claim concerning a complex Shari'ah law financing transaction and the duties of the bank as arranger; instructed by Clifford Chance.

Chesterfield United & Anr v Deutsche Bank [2016] (ChD): Sonia acted for Deutsche Bank, instructed by Slaughter and May, in this Kaupthing related litigation. The dispute concerned c$500m credit linked notes.

McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited v Deutsche Apotheker-Und Artzebank EG & Ors [2014] EWHC 2436 (Comm) (Cooke J): Sonia acted for Standard & Poor (instructed by King & Wood Malleson). The litigation concerned the duties owed by the rating agencies when rating financial products. Cooke J determined that the Commercial Court had the jurisdiction to hear the proceedings.

Forsta AP-Fonden v Bank of New York Mellon (Commercial Court): Sonia acted at the interlocutory stages (2011-2012) for the Claimant pension fund on this substantial claim concerning the investment of the fund's assets in the assets of the now insolvent SIV, Sigma Finance.

Sonia was instructed by Freshfields in a sizeable arbitration arising out of the mismanagement of hedge fund investments and the mispricing of securities (2009).

Sonia was instructed by Clifford Chance to defend a leading investment bank against allegations that it undervalued securities in the context of a repo transaction (2009).

JPMorgan v Pollux: Sonia acted for JPMorgan instructed by Clifford Chance. The case raised similar issues to the Springwell litigation (alleged investment advice in the sale of emerging markets debt instruments).

Sonia acted in a substantial solicitors' negligence dispute.

Sonia acted for an investment bank in a substantial arbitration concerning the scope of the bank's duties when acting as a financial advisor on the acquisition of pension and life assurance companies.

Equitable Life Assurance Society v Bowley & Others: Sonia acted for two of the former executive directors (instructed by Fox Williams) in this high profile claim by the Society against its former directors for breach of breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.

Fisher v Barclays Stockbroking Limited (Commercial Court): Sonia was instructed by Hogan Lovells to act for BSL in this dispute about the scope of the duty of care of a stockbroker offering an advisory stockbroking service.

Ian Smith & David Waterhouse (Liquidators of the Flight Company) v Kounnis Freeman: Action by the liquidators against the former auditors of the company for negligence and misfeasance. (Subsequent action following Andrew v Kounnis Freeman [1999] 2 BCLC 641). Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith.

Credit Agricole v Gray Security: Claim against a security firm for the alleged negligence of its security guard at the premises of Credit Agricole. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith.

Insurance and Reinsurance

Sonia acts for insurers and reinsurers, Lloyds syndicates and brokers in relation to all aspects of insurance and reinsurance disputes (including coverage and presentation issues and professional negligence claims against brokers).

"She's a leading light at the Bar, you can absolutely see why. She is a really terrific advocate." **Chambers UK 2026**

Notable cases in which Sonia has been instructed are as follows:

CNA Insurance Co (Europe) Limited v La Boliviana and others (Commercial Court): Substantial Insurance/reinsurance dispute arising out of the rupture of the OSSA II pipeline in Bolivia; presentation and coverage issues. Sonia was instructed by Linklaters.

National Bank of Greece SA v RM Outhwaite 317 Syndicate at Lloyds and others (Commercial Court): Sonia acted for a broker in relation to claims brought against underwriters arising out of policies of building insurance in relation to the construction of a vessel. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith.

Anglian Water Services v Crawshaw Robbins [2001] BLR 173 (Burnton J, November 2000): A trial about the construction of an indemnity clause, issues of nuisance, negligence, breach of statutory duty. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith.

Casson & anr v Ostley PJ Ltd & ors [2001] EWCA Civ 1013; [2003] BLR 147 (Stuart-Smith, Sedley and Schiemann LJJ): Dispute about the construction of an exclusion clause in an insurance policy.

Acted for ING (Commercial Court) on its claim to recover trading losses from insurers. Sonia was instructed by Herbert Smith.

What the Directories Say

"She is super sharp, articulate, and thinks outside of the box. She has no weaknesses." (Legal 500 2027, Commercial Disputes)

"Sonia has this real smoothness in her submissions. Not overly argumentative, she is classy and cool, never raising her voice." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is always in demand because she is so skilled at both written and oral advocacy. Clients and instructing solicitors alike love her." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She is a fantastic brief who works so hard. If you are in a fight, she is someone you want on your side." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia had the client eating out of her hand. She presented her case so completely and brilliantly and wiped the floor with the opposition." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She has huge courtroom gravitas." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"She is the real deal. Sonia is at the top of the Bar. She is brilliant, and clients love her." (Chambers UK 2027, Banking & Finance)

"She communicates to the judge very effectively. She got the judges and spoke their language much more than other silks. " (Chambers UK 2027, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia is great luminary of the Bar. She is a brilliant advocate and reads the mind of the judge in a way that no one else can. She inspires enormous confidence with clients and projects absolute authority in cases in a way that is reassuring for clients and solicitors." (Chambers UK 2027, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia is a fantastic representative; she works so hard. If you are in a fight, she is someone you want on your side." (Chambers UK 2027, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia had an extremely structured delivery and made her arguments really focused. She went through points one by one and was analytical and structured. She takes a forensic approach to things." (Chambers UK 2027, Consumer Finance)

"A devastatingly good advocate who is easy to deal with, brilliantly prepared, great with clients, highly commercial and very pragmatic." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is the real deal, A brilliant barrister, loved by clients, she's one of the very top commercial silks in the country." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is simply the best. Very responsive, sophisticated in her advice and supremely commercially aware, she thinks three moves ahead of the opposition." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is a great luminary of the Bar, deservedly so, and probably one of the top two or three commercial silks. A brilliant advocate who reads the mind of the judge in a way that no-one else can, she inspires enormous confidence in clients." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is a force of nature. It's a real joy listening to her address court as she is a brilliant appellate advocate with a very forensic style." (Chambers UK 2027, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia Tolaney is one of the best barristers in the country." (Chambers UK 2027, Group Litigation)

"She is outstanding: she is one of the best barristers in London. She has great judgement, provides very clear and realistic advice and is good with court. We are very pleased every time we work with her." (Chambers UK 2027, Group Litigation)

"She is excellent: she's a superb advocate, a great strategist and clients love her. She commands the court." (Chambers UK 2027, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is really impressive both in court and with clients, and gets the right result on her feet." (Chambers UK 2027, Competition Law)

"Sonia is truly one of the outstanding stars of the Bar. She is one the best of the generation. Sonia is decisive and clear. She really leads barrister teams to the highest possible standard." (Chambers UK 2027, Competition Law)

"Superb advocate, great client handler, very responsive. Very good at seeking input from instructing solicitors rather than just taking over." (Legal 500 2027, Banking & Finance)

"Superb advocate, gains clients' confidence very quickly, very knowledgeable in the area of banking and finance litigation." (Legal 500 2027, Commercial Litigation)

"Sonia is an impressive advocate with a real feel for where the Judge's head is. She delivers submissions with sensitivity and a lightness of touch." (Legal 500 2027, Competition)

"Everything you want in a leading silk - an incredibly bright, brilliant advocate, a very strategic thinker, and someone who commands the court." (Legal 500 2027, Group Litigation)

"Brilliant advocate." (Legal 500 2027, Insolvency)

"Her ability to cut through to the key issues is superb and her advocacy and ability to win over the court are remarkable." (Chambers UK 2026, Banking & Finance)

"She really knows the area and is fantastic in court." (Chambers UK 2026, Banking & Finance)

"As an advocate Sonia is excellent. She is instinctive, efficient and knows how to read the judiciary perfectly." (Chambers UK 2026, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia is extremely commercial, very clever and a fine advocate. She is very strategic, good with clients and highly respected by judges." (Chambers UK 2026, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia has very significant technical expertise and is both academically astute and a succinct advocate" (Chambers UK 2026, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia is a safe pair of hands and a very smooth and effective advocate. She gives measured and sensible responses and builds a rapport with clients." (Chambers UK 2026, Consumer Finance)

"Her advice in complicated matters is comprehensive, easy to understand and concise. Very authoritative and super impressive, she's at the top of her game." (Chambers UK 2026, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia is the best advocate at the London Bar. She is just that good that she can read the judge's mind. She knows how the judge wants a case and delivers it in a super powerful but not aggressive way." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is brilliant and a superstar. She strikes fear without even being there. Incredibly effective, she is very incisive and can look at both the big picture and the little picture extremely well." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Putting her in front of clients is the best thing about her. As well as being very technical and good in court, she presents and explains things fantastically." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is the best there is, and she wins the biggest cases. She is rock-solid and gets the ear of the judge because of her incredible manner in court. Judges find her very persuasive." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is a go-to KC. She is as smart and charming as they come and gets the client and judiciary to adore her." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is very good and highly commercial in her approach. She is excellent in court and always in the biggest cases." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Chancery)

"Her mind is incredibly lively and interesting, as well as crammed with legal knowledge. It is a pleasure to work with Sonia." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is genuinely wonderful, brilliant on her feet and extremely bright. She is also a genuine team player, who has no airs and graces and is a delight to work with." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Chancery)

"The judges clearly appreciate Sonia's advocacy style." (Chambers UK 2026, Commercial Chancery)

"She is a very clear communicator and a very persuasive advocate. She has a really strong reputation that she's able to use to get results." (Chambers UK 2026, Competition Law)

"Sonia has incredible gravitas in the courtroom. She knows how to make a point lightly, with real authority, using the fewest words necessary for it to hit home with the court." (Chambers UK 2026, Competition Law)

"She's a leading light at the Bar, you can absolutely see why. She is a really terrific advocate. She has the respect of the judges and is superb to deal with." (Chambers UK 2026, Competition Law)

"Sonia's wealth of experience and advocacy style make her the safest pair of hands at the commercial Bar." (Chambers UK 2026, Civil Fraud)

"She has remarkable ability to run teams of barristers. She is a very gifted leader." (Chambers UK 2026, Civil Fraud)

"Sonia's courtroom advocacy is extremely strong, and her commercial and strategic awareness is second to none." (Chambers UK 2026, Civil Fraud)

"A leading silk in the banking space and she has real stature." (Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is brilliant. A superstar at the Bar. She strikes fear without even being there. She is very incisive and can do the big picture and the little picture." (Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation)

"She is fabulous, extremely commercial and clever and a very, very good advocate. She is very respected by judges and she knows what points to lean on. You really want her on your side." (Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is a masterclass in action. Her advocacy style is like butter and she is second to none in breaking down complex concepts in a clear and persuasive way. She's at the top of her game." (Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is brilliant as an oral advocate. She has the ear of the court. She is robust but measured, with a very strong but charming way of making her points." (Chambers UK 2026, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is a superstar of the Bar. A strategic thinker who is trusted by the judiciary." (Legal 500 2026, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia possesses exceptional advocacy skills combined with a razor-sharp intellect. She is one of the best commercial trial advocates available." (Legal 500 2026, Commercial Litigation)

"Incisive and compelling, she really commands the room. Sonia is absolutely first rate." (Legal 500 2026, Civil Fraud)

"Very strong oral advocate" (Legal 500 2026, Competition)

“A fantastic advocate” (Legal 500 2026, Insolvency)

"Sonia is phenomenal. She's really bright and very smooth." (Chambers UK 2025, Banking & Finance)

"She is a superstar. She provides very clear, sensible and commercial advice and the clients love her as well. She's one of the go-to people for difficult litigation." (Chambers UK 2025, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia is one of the top silks at the Bar, who conducts herself with a degree of confidence that few can match, who really works to understand the client's needs and knows how to set up a case to win." (Chambers UK 2025, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia is obviously a star of the Bar. She does the largest, most complex and most valuable cases in banking. She is an exceptional counsel who is absolutely devastating in cross-examination." (Chambers UK 2025, Banking & Finance)

"She is very good. Her oral advocacy is very strong and she cuts straight to the point and is very smart." (Chambers UK 2025, Banking & Finance)

"Sonia Tolaney has a brilliant mind. In court, she is fantastic on her feet and very, very robust." (Chambers UK 2025, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia is a very polished advocate, who is a major presence in the field. She is very crisp, succinct and effective in her advocacy." (Chambers UK 2025, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia Tolaney is a genuine superstar at the Bar. She is calm and utterly charming in court, and has a disarming advocacy style." (Chambers UK 2025, Consumer Finance)

"Sonia absolutely lives up to the hype. She is in a league of her own – utterly extraordinary, and on top of this she is utterly charming and lovely." (Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is a rockstar. She is excellent on her feet, tenacious and charming, and is undeniably respected by her peers and judges." (Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Chancery)

"Sonia is just so in tune with everything that is happening in the courtroom – the way the arguments are unfolding, the next move the opposition is going to make and the mood of the Bench." (Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"In terms of advocacy, you couldn't find someone who is more silky smooth; she's just so calm and utterly charming." (Chambers UK 2025, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Sonia is a real heavyweight. She has many strings to her bow and is absolutely devastating in cross-examination. If you need someone forensically picked apart, Sonia's who you go to." (Chambers UK 2025, Civil Fraud)

"One of Sonia's great skills is her ability to read the court and get a sense of what is troubling the judge and react. She has a tremendous intellect and is a fantastic communicator." (Chambers UK 2025, Civil Fraud)

"Sonia is simply the best silk to have on your team. She is super bright, a terrific advocate and brilliant with clients." (Chambers UK 2025, Civil Fraud)

"The court completely trusts her, she is an absolute pleasure to work with, and when the chips are down, she performs." (Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is at the top of her game. Her advocacy skills are unbeatable and she is able to cut through exceptionally complex issues to get to the core of the matter." (Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation)

"Sonia has a very good reputation and she is very good with funders." (Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is excellent on her feet, tenacious and charming, and undeniably respected by her peers and judges." (Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation)

"Sonia is absolutely incredible and she has a deep knowledge of group litigation, with experience of both claimant and defendant sides." (Chambers UK 2025, Group Litigation)

"Sonia's just a brilliant advocate. She is very good at explaining to the court and clients difficult issues in simple terms." (Chambers UK 2024, Banking and Finance)

"Sonia Tolaney is incredibly client-friendly whilst also having the trust of top judges for her analysis and grip on the detail. Her judgement is absolutely top-notch." (Chambers UK 2024, Banking and Finance)

"A really top-class advocate." (Chambers UK 2024, Banking and Finance)

"If you need someone to get it right first time, every time, explain it brilliantly to a client, destroy a witness through cross-examination and totally persuade the court, then Sonia is the woman for the job." (Chambers UK 2024, Civil Fraud)

"Sonia is one of the big stars of the Bar. She is a terrific cross-examiner with a unique ability to read judges and know what is happening in their mind. A unique and valuable skill." (Chambers UK 2024, Civil Fraud)

"She is clear, commercial and sensible." (Chambers UK 2024, Civil Fraud)

"Clear, commercial and sensible. Clients rave about her." (Chambers UK 2024, Consumer Finance)

"A brilliant, tough performer, who has strong judgment." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial: Chancery)

"Sonia really packs a punch and is very good at weaving the law into the facts." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Super charming and super bright., she's a heavyweight figure in the litigation market." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"A fantastic advocate and a straight talker." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"One of the superstars of the Bar. Sonia is an incredibly impressive courtroom advocate." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

"Trusted by clients - they want her on their cases." (Chambers UK 2024, Commercial Dispute Resolution)

Awards & Nominations

Awarded the "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" 2022 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Nominated as the “Silk of the Year” (Legal 500 Awards, 2022)

Nominated as the "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" 2021 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Nominated as the "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" 2019 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Sonia was identified as one of the "Hot 100" (The Lawyer, Jan 2018)

Awarded "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year” 2017 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Nominated as the "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year" 2017 (Legal 500 Bar Awards)

Awarded "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" 2015 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Awarded the "Commercial Litigation Silk of the Year" 2014 (The Legal 500 Bar Awards)

Nominated as the "Banking Litigation Silk of the Year" 2014 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Sonia was identified as one of the "Hot 100" (The Lawyer, Jan 2010)

Awarded the "Commercial Litigation Junior of the Year" 2009 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Awarded the "Commercial Litigation Junior of the Year" 2008 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Awarded the "Banking & Finance Junior of the Year" 2007 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Nominated as the "Banking & Finance Junior of the Year" 2005, 2008 and 2009 (Chambers UK Bar Awards)

Scholarships & Appointments

Appointed by the Queen as the Attorney-General of the Duchy of Lancaster (2020 -)

Served as the elected Chair of the Commercial Bar Association (2019-2021)

Elected Vice Chair of the Commercial Bar Association (2017-2019)

Appointed Deputy High Court Judge (QBD), authorised to sit in the Commercial Court (2016-2022)

Elected Secretary of the Commercial Bar Association (2015)

Elected a Bencher of Middle Temple (2013)

Appointed as Queens Counsel, 2011

Founder Member of the Times Law Panel (2007)

CEDR Accredited Mediator (2000)

Asbury Scholar of the Middle Temple

Parker Scholarship (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Jurisprudence)

Sheelagh Griffiths Award (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Jurisprudence)

Awards









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