

Celia Rooney

Year of call: 2015
Degree: LLB (Hons) First Class; BCL (Oxon); BPTC (City) Outstanding
Languages: French (some knowledge)



Celia practises across all of Chambers' main areas of work, with particular experience of commercial disputes, sports law, public law and human rights, and employment. She is frequently instructed in cases where there is significant degree of overlap between her specialisms, such as commercial judicial reviews and sports and employment cases involving allegations of fraud. Similarly, from October to December 2016, Celia acted as sole legal counsel for the Payment Systems Regulator, advising on a 'super-complaint' by the consumer group, Which?, concerning authorised push payment fraud.

She has experience before a range of tribunals, including the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court and has also appeared in cases before a number of regulatory bodies, such as The FA Regulatory Commission and Appeal Board.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of commercial litigation. She has a particular interest and experience in fraud disputes.

Cases

Calor Gas Limited v South West Bottle Gas Centre Limited & Andrew Daniell

Represented Calor Gas in a lengthy fraud trial in the High Court, in which the company brought claims for unlawful means conspiracy, bribery, inducement of a breach of contract, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt and unjustified enrichment (led by Anthony Peto QC).

Confidential advice on injunctive relief in aid of foreign proceedings (US)

Instructed to assist in a substantial multi-jurisdictional fraud claim, in which the claimant sought a freezing order in aid of foreign proceedings (led by Anthony Peto QC and Victoria Windle). The claimant sought advice on: the merits of an application under s.25 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, the availability of disclosure orders in aid of foreign proceedings, the significance of the availability of treble damages in the US on the relief sought, the availability of tipstaff relief and the privilege against self-incrimination.

Confidential injunctive relief in aid of foreign proceedings (Saudi Arabia)

Instructed in a claim for a freezing order in aid of foreign proceedings in Saudi Arabia (led by Andrew Green QC).

Confidential fine art dispute

Instructed by a purchaser of various 'Old Master' paintings in a claim for deceit against a well-established fine art dealer (led by Andrew Green QC).

Representing a musician in a partnership dispute

Instructed to represent a musician in a claim for unfair prejudice and winding up, following his expulsion from a chart-topping band.

Confidential royalties dispute (representing the artist)

Representing a Grammy-award and Brit-award winning musician in a dispute with his record company, concerning the royalties payable to the artist in respect of revenue generated by 'streaming'.

Green Pass v ABC Electrification

Represented the defendant in an application to strike out the claim against it in a contractual dispute.

Evergreen t/a Datatech v Next Retail Ltd

Successfully defended a claim in a contractual dispute for sums allegedly owed for the provision of recruitment services.

Commercial cricket dispute

Instructed by a commercial agency to advise in respect of proposed contractual claim against Cricket South Africa, arising out of the newly established T20 league (led by Nick de Marco QC).

Appear Here Ltd v Lifestyle Lets

Counsel for the Claimant in a contractual dispute for unpaid commission.

Chatwani & Ors v National Crime Agency

High Court (QBD), 2016

A case in which the National Crime Agency is defending a High Court claim for over £11 million in damages relating to the execution of search warrants upon a large business (assisting James Segan).

Contractual dispute concerning unpaid consultancy fees

Counsel for the Defendant in a contractual dispute concerning sums allegedly due and owing for the provision of consultancy and recruitment services.

Williams v Betvictor Limited

Successfully applied to set aside default judgment, strike out the claim and recover costs associated with both hearings as counsel for the Defendant.

Public & Regulatory

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of public and regulatory work, and has acted for regulators, NGOs, corporate entities and individuals. From October to December 2016, Celia was sole legal counsel to the Payment Systems Regulator (PSR), advising on a 'super-complaint' by the consumer group, Which?, concerning authorised push payment fraud. She has also gained significant experience in the field of energy regulation, having been instructed by Ofgem to provide advice and assistance on various matters including the licensing of electricity and the so-called "cash for ash" scandal.

Cases

R (on the application of British Telecommunications PLC) v HM Treasury

Instructed by BT in a two-day judicial review challenge of the decision of the Treasury to implement an extension of the indexation of certain benefits in public sector pension schemes in a way which increased the company's liabilities in respect of its pension scheme by £120 million (led by Dinah Rose QC and Fraser Campbell).

Privacy International & Ors v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs & Ors

Instructed by Privacy International, Reprieve, the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Pat Finucane Centre in a challenge to the so-called 'Third Direction' from the Prime Minister to the Intelligence Services Commissioner. By that direction - the existence of which was only disclosed during other proceedings - the Prime Minister invited the Commissioner to oversee the application of hitherto undisclosed guidelines which purport to authorise the Intelligence Services to authorise agents to participate in criminal conduct in the UK (led by Ben Jaffey QC).

Payment Systems Regulator super-complaint

Celia acts as sole legal counsel advising the Payment Systems Regulator on its response to a 'super-complaint' by the consumer group, Which?, concerning authorised push payment fraud.

Disability discrimination claim

Instructed to advise on a potential disability discrimination claim by a junior doctor against the GMC, Health Education England and various local education and training boards.

Advising a non-departmental government body

Instructed to advise a non-departmental public body on potential claims against it arising from a funding competition.

Advising the Payment Systems Regulator

Advising the Payment Systems Regulator on the scope and extent of its powers under the Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act 2013.

R (Holmcroft Properties Ltd) v KPMG LLP

[2016] EWHC 323 (Admin); [2016] A.C.D. 67

A case in which the claimant sought to judicially review the 'decision' of KPMG as an independent reviewer of the sale of Interest Rate Hedging Products by Barclays (assisting Ben Jaffey).

Mountstar v Charity Commission / Cup Trust

[2016] EWHC 876 (Ch); [2016] 3 W.L.R. 218

A tax dispute, in which HMRC had refused the Claimant's claim for gift aid (assisting Ben Jaffey).

Shawcroft v HMRC

High Court (Admin), 2016

A case in which a taxpayer sought to avoid paying tax on a redundancy payment in purported reliance of one of HMRC's statutory concessions (assisting Ben Jaffey).

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties and human rights litigation, and has extensive experience in this field.

Celia has been involved in a wide range of public law and human rights cases, most notably before the Administrative Court, the Investigatory Powers Tribunal and the Supreme Court. She has been instructed by NGOs, regulators, individuals and various corporate entities.

Cases

Privacy International & Ors v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs & Ors

Instructed by Privacy International, Reprieve, the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Pat Finucane Centre in a challenge to the so-called 'Third Direction' from the Prime Minister to the Intelligence Services Commissioner. By that direction - the existence of which was only disclosed during other proceedings - the Prime Minister invited the Commissioner to oversee the application of hitherto undisclosed guidelines which purport to authorise the Intelligence Services to authorise agents to participate in criminal conduct in the UK (led by Ben Jaffey QC).

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Ab Ali Hameed Al Waheed v Ministry of Defence

(Supreme Court, 2016)

A case challenging the lawfulness of detention in Iraq and Afghanistan by HM armed forces under international law, the European Convention on Human Rights and domestic law, which was heard by nine Justices of the Supreme Court (assisting Ben Jaffey).

Privacy International v GCHQ

(Investigatory Powers Tribunal, 2016)

A case involving a number of 'campaign claimants', each of which had brought claims arising out of earlier litigation in the IPT, concerning bulk surveillance, the receipt of intercepted private material from foreign security and intelligence services (assisting Ben Jaffey).

R (Public Law Project) v Lord Chancellor

(Supreme Court, 2016)

An application for a protective costs order made by the Public Law Project on appeal to the Supreme Court in its challenge to the legal aid residence test (assisting Ben Jaffey).

R (Hicks) v Commissioner for the Police of the Metropolis

(Supreme Court, 2016)

An appeal to the Supreme Court in a claim in which a number of individuals had been detained on the day of the Royal Wedding and sought to challenge the lawfulness of their detention under the ECHR and domestic law (assisting Ben Jaffey).

Sport

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of sports work and is an upcoming junior in this field. She is both a panelist on the Sports Resolution Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel and co-editor of the Blackstone Chambers' Sports Law Bulletin.

Celia has extensive experience in the field of sports law, having advised and represented the Premier League, The FA, the Lawn Tennis Association, and a number of national rugby associations, amongst others. She has been instructed in disputes involving various Premier League and Championship football clubs, and acts for sports governing bodies, clubs and athletes alike.

Cases

Representing the British Boxing Board

Representing the British Boxing Board of Control in various appeals against the Board's decisions to withdraw the boxer's licence.

Middlesbrough Football & Athletic Co (1986) v Flahavan

Instructed by Middlesbrough FC in a High Court claim in which the Club sought to enforce the restrictive covenants in the employment contracts of each member of its backroom team, following the departure of its then manager, Mr Garry Monk. While the matter did not proceed to trial, the Club successfully applied to expedite the proceedings (led by Ian Mill QC).

Rule K arbitration for The FA

Represented The FA in a two-day Rule K arbitration against the owner of a football club (led by Kate Gallafent QC). The case, which involved alleged breaches of the betting rules, was ultimately determined on a preliminary issue of jurisdiction.

Rule K arbitration for the Premier League

Instructed by the Premier League in a Rule K arbitration involving a Premier League club (led by Michael Beloff QC).

Advising the Premier League

Instructed to advise the Premier League in respect of a case involving allegations of so-called 'tapping up'.

Advising The Football Association

Advising The FA on its 2018-19 Safeguarding Policy (with Kate Gallafent QC).

Advising the Premier League on a potential claim under EU law

Advising the Premier League as to potential claims under EU competition law and the rules of free movement in respect of a proposed rule change.

Advising golfers on a potential claim for discrimination

Advising female golfers as to their potential claims under the Equality Act 2010 in respect of the discriminatory rules of their club.

A v The Wisley

Represented a golfer at a disciplinary hearing at which she sought to challenge a ban imposed upon her by the prestigious golf club in respect of allegations of cheating.

Commercial cricket dispute

Instructed by a commercial agency to advise in respect of proposed contractual claim against Cricket South Africa, arising out of the newly established T20 league (led by Nick de Marco QC).

Advising a national rugby union

Instructed to advise a national rugby union as to its potential claims against World Rugby in respect of the Rugby World Cup Qualifiers 2019.

Advice on safeguarding

Advising a football club in respect of potential safeguarding allegations against it (led by Nick de Marco QC).

A v The Lawn Tennis Association

Represented the LTA in a safeguarding case, in which the individual sought to challenge the sanction imposed upon him by the sports governing body.

ECB & SKY v Fanatix

[2016] EWHC 575 (Ch); [2016] Bus. L.R. 641

A copyright claim brought by the English Cricket Board and SKY TV against a website and App creator that was using clips of their footage (assisting Robert Howe QC and Nick De Marco).

UKAD Case

Instructed to represent an athlete in a challenge to UKAD's proposed sanction in respect of an anti-doping violation, in which he sought to establish 'no significant fault' on his part, in light of his personal circumstances.

FA v Jake Livermore

FA Regulatory Commission, 2015

Assisted Nick De Marco in a case in which he successfully represented football player, Jake Livermore, in an FA Anti-Doping hearing following Mr Livermore's positive test for cocaine.

FA v Reading

FA Regulatory Appeal Commission, 2015

A case in which Reading FC, which had been fined £100,000 by The FA for a celebratory pitch invasion, successfully appealed that sanction (assisting Nick De Marco).

Disciplinary hearing for racism

FA Disciplinary Panel, 2015

A case before the FA Disciplinary Panel involving allegations of on-field racism (assisting Nick De Marco).

Independent review for the UK Anti-Doping Agency

(UKAD)

An independent review of UKAD's conclusions on whether there was sufficient evidence to bring anti-doping proceedings against an individual (assisting Nick De Marco).

FC Utrecht v Swansea City FC

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2016

A dispute concerning the transfer of goalkeeper Michel Vorm, Ben Davies and Gylfi Sigurðsson (assisting Nick De Marco).

Macron v Leeds United FC

High Court (QBD), 2016

A case in which an Italian kit manufacturer sought payment from a football club for sums owed under contract (assisting Nick De Marco).

QPR v The Football League

(Arbitration)

An arbitration between the Football League and QPR FC concerning the legality of the Championship Financial Fair Play Rules (assisting James Segan).

Employment

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of employment law. She has been instructed in a variety of employment law cases before both the Employment Tribunal and the High Court, and has particular experience in cases concerning issues of employee competition, whistleblowing and discrimination. She is a regular contributor to the Blackstone Chambers Employee Competition Bulletin and has presented on the new Trade Secrets Regulations.

Cases

Middlesbrough Football & Athletic Co (1986) v Flahavan

Instructed by Middlesbrough FC in a High Court claim in which the Club sought to enforce the restrictive covenants in the employment contracts of each member of its backroom team, following the departure of its then manager, Mr Garry Monk. While the matter did not proceed to trial, the Club successfully applied to expedite the proceedings (led by Ian Mill QC).

A individual v A law firm

Celia is instructed by a law firm in a claim for pregnancy and maternity discrimination, victimisation and harassment (led by Kate Gallafent QC).

A individual v A law firm

Celia was instructed by a law firm in a claim for discrimination, victimisation and harassment brought against it by a practice development lawyer (appearing on her own for the CMC, otherwise led by Kate Gallafent QC).

Disability discrimination claim

Instructed to advise on a potential disability discrimination claim by a junior doctor against the GMC, Health Education England and various local education and training boards.

Advice on dismissal and discrimination

Counsel for the Respondent opposing a claim for unfair dismissal, race discrimination, and unpaid holiday pay.

Citibank N.A. unfair dismissal claims

A number of cases involving various claims by former Foreign Exchange traders arising from their dismissal for sharing client confidential information in Bloomberg Chats, which have been widely reported in the press (assisting Paul Goulding QC and Diya Sen Gupta).

Unfair dismissal and unlawful deductions claim

Drafted witness statements on behalf of the claimants in a dispute in the employment tribunal involving allegations of discrimination, detriment and dismissal for whistleblowing, unlawful deductions from wages and unfair dismissal.

Unpaid commission dispute

Employment Tribunal, 2016

A claim for unpaid commission in the Employment Tribunal (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Unpaid wages claim

High Court (QBD), 2016

A case in the High Court in which a number of care home workers brought claims for breach of contract claim for unpaid wages (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Harassment claim

Employment Tribunal, 2016

A case before the Employment Tribunal involving multiple claims of harassment (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Whistleblowing claim

Employment Tribunal, 2016

A whistleblowing claim brought by a broker against his former employers (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Directors' duties and database right claim

High Court (QBD), 2016

A company brought claims for misuse of confidential information, breach of contract, breach of common law and statutory directors' duties, and infringement of the database right against a former employee (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Team move case

High Court (QBD), 2016

A team move case (assisting Paul Goulding QC and Diya Sen Gupta).

Advice on pregnancy discrimination

A potential claim of unfair dismissal and pregnancy discrimination (assisting Diya Sen Gupta).

Media & Entertainment

Celia regularly acts for media law clients. She has particular experience of royalty disputes, the most recent of which have concerned the revenue generated by online streaming.

Cases

Confidential royalties dispute (representing the artist)

Representing a Grammy-award and Brit-award winning musician in a dispute with his record company, concerning the royalties payable to the artist in respect of revenue generated by 'streaming'.

Representing a musician in a partnership dispute

Instructed to represent a musician in a claim for unfair prejudice and winding up, following his expulsion from a chart-topping band.

Advising a media and news company

Advising an internet media and news company as to its potential liability for publication of a report prepared by the FCA under s.166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

EU & Competition

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of EU law and has a particular interest in the free movement of persons.

As well as writing extensively on issues of European migration, Celia has been involved in various competition law cases, most notably involving claims for follow-on damages. She has also advised on a number of free movement cases, particularly in the sporting context. She is a committee member of the Bar European Group and has presented on the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Cases

Maritime Car Carriers ("Ro-Ro") Cartel Case

Instructed by a large car manufacturer in a claim for follow-on damages arising from a cartel between maritime car carriers in respect of the provision of "Ro-Ro" services (led by Thomas de la Mare QC).

Claims for follow on damages arising from a car bearings cartel

Celia is instructed by Peugeot and others in a claim for follow on damages in a matter relating to an automotive bearings cartel. The claims are pending before the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the High Court.

GLL BVK Internationaler Immobilien Spezialfonds & Ors v Revenue and Customs

Instructed (with Ravi Mehta) by HMRC in a dispute concerning the tax treatment of rental income from UK property, earned and received by foreign real estate investment funds. The Appellants are seeking to challenge and obtain repayment of income tax accounted for under self-assessment, claiming that their treatment, alternatively the requirement for their ultimate beneficial owners to register with HMRC to benefit from certain tax relief, is contrary to the principle of equal treatment under EU law and amounts to an unjustified restriction on the free movement of capital.

Advising on a potential competition claim arising from the 'tuning' of bespoke, luxury vehicles

Advising a company that specialised in the modification (or 'tuning') of luxury vehicles as to its potential competition law claims against the original manufacturer of the vehicles (led by Thomas de la Mare QC).

Advising the Premier League on a potential claim under EU law

Advising the Premier League as to potential claims under EU competition law and the rules of free movement in respect of a proposed rule change.

Advice on consumer law for imports

Advising an importer as to the regulatory obligations under EU and English consumer law and trading standards associated with labelling and packaging.

FRAND licensing dispute

High Court (Chancery), 2016

A case before the High Court concerning competition law damages, in a dispute between Huawei, Unwired Planet, Samsung, Google and Ericsson relating to the technical standards for 4G, 3G and 2G devices (assisting James Segan).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

LLB (Hons) (Glasgow) First Class; BCL (Oxon); BPTC (City) Outstanding

Prizes & Scholarships

- Peter Duffy Scholar (Bar European Group, 2016)
- Megarry Scholar and Buchanan Prize (Lincoln's Inn, 2015)
- Lord Denning Scholar (Lincoln's Inn, 2014)
- Harwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn, 2013)

- Theodore David Lowe Prize for most distinguished graduate in public law honours subjects (University of Glasgow)
- Club 21 Business Partnership Scholarship (University of Glasgow)

Publications

- Rooney, C. Back to Basics: the Administrative Court Judicial Review Guide 2016. Judicial Review, Vol 22, Issue 1 (May 2017).
- McNamara, L. and Rooney, C. Corrupt Justice: a sign of the times... or an aberration? New Law Journal, Vol 163 7572, 9 August 2013: 6.
- Celia is a researcher for the University of Oxford Borders Criminologies Group. In that capacity, she has written extensively on issues of migration, on topics such as the Dublin Regulations, citizenship deprivation, fast track detention and age determination procedures. She is currently co-editor of a themed series entitled 'Current Legal Issues in Migration', which, most recently, has focused on issues affecting unaccompanied minors.

Memberships

- Celia is a member of the committee of the Bar European Group (BEG).
- She is also a member of the Commercial Bar Association (ComBar), the British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL), the Howard League for Penal Reform, the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA), and the Employment Lawyers Association (ELA). Celia is also a panellist on the Sports Resolution Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel.
- Before coming to the Bar, Celia worked as a caseworker and/or policy researcher for a number of pro bono organisations, including Bail for Immigration Detainees, the Free Representation Unit and the Bar Pro Bono Unit. She also interned in the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and taught debating in a number of prisons around London with Vocalise (an organization affiliated with Gray's Inn).