

# Hugo Murphy

Year of call: 2023  
Degree: BA (Oxford, First), MPhil (Cambridge, Distinction, top of year), GDL (City, Distinction), BVS (City, Distinction)



Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' practice, including in public law, human rights and discrimination law, sports law, commercial law and employment law. He combines commercial work with a substantial pro bono practice.

Recent highlights of Hugo's experience include working on the following matters:

- A constitutional challenge to laws persecuting individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation in a foreign Commonwealth jurisdiction.
- The disciplinary proceedings brought by the Premier League against Everton FC for breaches of financial fair play regulations in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons.
- A challenge to the European Parliament's refusal to provide information about expenses claimed by an MEP convicted for leading a criminal organisation: Case T-375/22 Izuzquiza & Ors v European Parliament.
- The first appeal concerning the correct approach to sanctions designations under the post-Brexit Russia sanctions regime: Dalston Projects Ltd v SST; Shvidler v SSFCDA [2024] EWCA Civ 172.
- Judicial review claims brought by Tamil asylum-seekers stranded at the UK-US military base on the British Indian Ocean Territory of Diego Garcia.
- Proceedings concerning an alleged conspiracy to seize strategic Russian assets with a claimed quantum of over US\$10 billion: Magomedov v TPG & Ors.
- A civil fraud claim brought by the Public Institute for Social Security of Kuwait against its former director general for damages alleged to be in excess of US\$850 million: Public Institution for Social Security v Al-Rajaan & Ors.

Before coming to the Bar, Hugo worked as the Judicial Assistant to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Burnett of Maldon. He worked on a broad range of appeals, including the landmark challenge to the Government's Rwanda Removal Policy.

Previously, Hugo studied under scholarships at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, graduating top of his year at the latter. While qualifying for the Bar, Hugo worked as a part-time adviser at Citizens Advice and as a pro-bono advocate in appeals against decisions to exclude children from schools.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Public & Regulatory

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of public & regulatory law.

### Cases

#### **Law Society v Lord Chancellor**

[2024] EWHC 155 (Admin)

For the Law Society in its challenge to the UK Government's failure to implement the findings of the Bellamy Review in the legal aid system (assisting Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy).

#### **R (CWJ) v Director of Legal Aid Casework & Anor**

For the Lord Chancellor in judicial review proceedings concerning the compatibility of legal aid policy with the right to a fair trial under Article 6 ECHR in the context of appeals against permanent school exclusions (assisting Shane Sibbel).

#### **Izuzquiza & Ors v European Parliament**

Case T-375/22

For journalists in a challenge to the European Parliament's decision to refuse to provide public access to documents relating to expenses of a Member of Parliament who had been found guilty of the crime of membership and leadership of a criminal organisation (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

#### **Dyer v Information Commissioner & Ors**

For the Cabinet Office in an appeal under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (assisting Fraser Campbell).

#### **XT v Secretary of State for the Home Department**

For the Claimant in an appeal against the Secretary of State's refusal of a protection claim based on a risk of persecution resulting from the Claimant's sexual orientation (assisting Fraser Campbell).

#### **Citizenship Advice**

Advising the Secretary of State for the Home Department on questions of nullity in the context of mistakenly granted citizenship (assisting Sir James Eadie KC and Shane Sibbel).

**Advising on environmental duties**

Advising Ofwat on the applicability of various environmental duties in the context of its 2024 Price Review (with Ravi Mehta).

**Advising the BBC**

Advising the BBC on various matters, including freedom of information (FOI) requests, equality impact assessments and due impartiality obligations (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

**[School] v Secretary of State for Education**

For the Secretary of State in an appeal against a decision to deregister an independent special educational institution for failures to meet educational and welfare standards (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**XC v Secretary of State for Justice**

Assisting Harry Adamson, acting for the Secretary of State in judicial review proceedings concerning a decision to recategorize the status of a serving prisoner in light of his involvement in a serious incident in prison.

**Covid Inquiry Advice**

Advising the Cabinet Office on matters of constitutional and contractual law in relation to the UK Covid Inquiry (assisting Shane Sibbel).

**Surrey Searches Ltd v Northumbrian Water Ltd & Ors**

[2024] EWHC 1643 (Ch)

For the Severn Trent Defendants in a restitution claim concerning the provision of information by water and sewerage companies to personal search companies, for a claimed quantum of over £150 million (assisting Monica Carss-Frisk KC and Jason Pobjoy). The decision is the first High Court ruling on the scope and application of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

**R (VW) v CMA; BMW v CMA**

[2023] EWCA Civ 1506

For Volkswagen in an appeal concerning the application of the presumption against extraterritoriality to the CMA's enforcement powers (assisting Brian Kennelly KC and Jason Pobjoy).

**Leasehold Reform Advice**

Advising on the compatibility of proposed leasehold reforms with the protections under Article 1, Protocol 1 ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

### **Re: A Director**

Assisting Andreas Gledhill KC and Harry Adamson, acting for the director in significant director disqualification proceedings brought by the Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

## **Civil Liberties & Human Rights**

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties & human rights law.

### **Cases**

#### **Appeal with the Human Dignity Trust**

Assisting counsel in a foreign Commonwealth jurisdiction with a Supreme Court appeal in relation to government decisions discriminating against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation (pro bono, through the Human Dignity Trust, with Tim Otty KC).

#### **UK Deaf Sport**

Advising UK Deaf Sport on discrimination and public law issues in relation to the Government's decision to cease funding pathways for elite deaf athletes in the UK (pro bono).

#### **Constitutional Challenge with the Human Dignity Trust**

Assisting counsel in a foreign Commonwealth jurisdiction on a strategic challenge to laws which persecute individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation (pro bono, through the Human Dignity Trust, with Tim Otty KC and Jessica Boyd KC).

#### **Law Society v Lord Chancellor**

[2024] EWHC 155 (Admin)

For the Law Society in its challenge to the UK Government's failure to implement the findings of the Bellamy Review in the legal aid system (assisting Tom de la Mare KC and Jason Pobjoy).

#### **R (CWJ) v Director of Legal Aid Casework & Anor**

For the Lord Chancellor in judicial review proceedings concerning the compatibility of legal aid policy with the right to a fair trial under Article 6 ECHR in the context of appeals against permanent school exclusions (assisting Shane Sibbel).

**XT v Secretary of State for the Home Department**

For the Claimant in an appeal against the Secretary of State's refusal of a protection claim based on a risk of persecution resulting from the Claimant's sexual orientation (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**Citizenship Advice**

Advising the Secretary of State for the Home Department on questions of nullity in the context of mistakenly granted citizenship (assisting Sir James Eadie KC and Shane Sibbel).

**Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Ltd v Global Media Group Services Ltd & Ors**

For a UK media group defending claims for alleged religious discrimination by a US evangelistic association (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

**Leasehold Reform Advice**

Advising on the compatibility of proposed leasehold reforms with the protections under Article 1, Protocol 1 ECHR (assisting Jason Pobjoy).

## Sport

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of sports law.

## Cases

**Advising the Premier League**

Hugo regularly advises the Premier League on regulatory, disciplinary, contractual and competition law matters.

**Premier League v Everton FC (FY23)**

For the Premier League in disciplinary proceedings (now settled) against Everton FC concerning alleged breaches of financial fair play regulations in the 2022/23 season (with Jason Pobjoy).

**Premier League v Everton FC (FY22)**

For the Premier League in disciplinary proceedings against Everton FC concerning breaches of financial fair play regulations in the 2021/22 season (assisting Adam Lewis KC and Jason Pobjoy). The case was the first to be decided under the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules.

**Football Agents v FA & FIFA**

For the English Football Association (FA) in a challenge to its implementation of FIFA regulations concerning the maximum fees agents can charge for their services (assisting Adam Lewis KC and Jason Pobjoy).

**[Boxing Promoter] v [Boxer]**

For the defendant boxer in a claim brought by his former promoter for an alleged failure to honour a matching right in his promotional agreement (with Nick De Marco KC).

**[PL Football Club] v [PL Football Club]**

For a Premier League football club seeking to enforce post-termination restrictive covenants against a departing senior employee who intended to take up a new role at a competitor club (with Nick De Marco KC and Navid Pourghazi).

**H v W**

Advising a sports agency on its claim for inducing breach of contract, relating to a competitor agency poaching a player under representation (assisting Shane Sibbel).

**GD v SR**

For the Defendants in a conspiracy claim concerning the control of an international sport promoter and commercial rights holder (assisting Fraser Campbell).

## Employment

Hugo accepts instructions for both claimants and respondents across all areas of employment law. He balances statutory tribunal work (including on an unled basis) with employee competition proceedings in the High Court.

## Cases

**McCartney v Marshmallow & Ors**

Employment Tribunal

For the Claimant in a claim for direct disability discrimination by association (unled).

**Expedited LCIA arbitration**

For the claimant in an expedited LCIA arbitration concerning the enforceability of non-compete agreements in the field of quantitative trading (with Thomas Croxford KC and Zafar Ansari).

**[PL Football Club] v [PL Football Club]**

For a Premier League football club seeking to enforce post-termination restrictive covenants against a departing senior employee who intended to take up a new role at a competitor club (with Nick De Marco KC and Navid Pourghazi).

**Re: A Firm**

Advising an international partnership on the enforceability of post-termination restrictive covenants agreed between its partners (led by Thomas Croxford KC).

**SI v KM & Ors**

For the Claimant in a claim against its former employee and competitor companies, seeking relief for the wrongful dissemination of the Claimant's confidential information and the diversion of business opportunities (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**A Company v GD**

For the Claimant seeking negative declaratory relief against its former employee, an investment analyst claiming to be entitled to a bonus worth almost £8m (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**Whistleblowing and Discrimination**

Advising and drafting in relation to various whistleblowing and discrimination claims (assisting Craig Rajgopaul KC and Navid Pourghazi).

## Arbitration

Hugo regularly appears in arbitrations for sports, employment and commercial disputes, including expedited arbitrations for employee competition disputes.

## Cases

**Expedited LCIA arbitration**

For the claimant in an expedited LCIA arbitration concerning the enforceability of non-compete agreements in the field of quantitative trading (with Thomas Croxford KC and Zafar Ansari).

**[Boxing Promoter] v [Boxer]**

For the defendant boxer in a claim brought by his former promoter for an alleged failure to honour a matching right in his promotional agreement (with Nick De Marco KC).

**Football Agents v FA & FIFA**

For the English Football Association (FA) in a challenge to its implementation of FIFA regulations concerning the maximum fees agents can charge for their services (assisting Adam Lewis KC and Jason Pobjoy).

**[PL Football Club] v [PL Football Club]**

For a Premier League football club seeking to enforce post-termination restrictive covenants against a departing senior employee who intended to take up a new role at a competitor club (with Nick De Marco KC and Navid Pourghazi).

**Premier League v Everton FC (FY22)**

For the Premier League in disciplinary proceedings against Everton FC concerning breaches of financial fair play regulations in the 2021/22 season (assisting Adam Lewis KC and Jason Pobjoy). The case was the first to be decided under the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules.

## Commercial

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of commercial law.

## Cases

**Magomedov v TPG & Ors**

For the Tenth Defendant in proceedings concerning an alleged conspiracy to seize strategic Russian assets with a claimed quantum of over US\$10 billion (assisting Leona Powell).

**Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad**

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

For the Claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising out of proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (assisting Anthony Peto KC and Shane Sibbel).

**Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors**

Assisting Tom Weisselberg KC and Harry Adamson, acting for the First and Second Defendants in a civil fraud claim brought by the Kuwaiti Public Institution for Social Security for a claimed quantum of over US\$850 million.



**Surrey Searches Ltd v Northumbrian Water Ltd & Ors**

[2024] EWHC 1643 (Ch)

For the Severn Trent Defendants in a restitution claim concerning the provision of information by water and sewerage companies to personal search companies, for a claimed quantum of over £150 million (assisting Monica Carss-Frisk KC and Jason Pobjoy). The decision is the first High Court ruling on the scope and application of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

**[Boxing Promoter] v [Boxer]**

For the defendant boxer in a claim brought by his former promoter for an alleged failure to honour a matching right in his promotional agreement (with Nick De Marco KC).

**H v W**

Advising a sports agency on its claim for inducing breach of contract, relating to a competitor agency poaching a player under representation (assisting Shane Sibbel).

**SR v PY**

For the Defendants in a civil fraud claim relating to investments in a resort in Thailand, raising questions of Thai law (assisting Shane Sibbel).

**GD v SR**

For the Defendants in a conspiracy claim concerning the control of an international sport promoter and commercial rights holder (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**Jones v Mallett**

For the Claimants in a claim alleging the wrongful retention and dissemination of confidential information in breach of a settlement agreement and equitable duties of confidence (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**A Company v GD**

For the Claimant seeking negative declaratory relief against its former employee, an investment analyst claiming to be entitled to a bonus worth almost £8m (assisting Fraser Campbell).

**SI v KM & Ors**

For the Claimant in a claim against its former employee and competitor companies, seeking relief for the wrongful dissemination of the Claimant's confidential information and the diversion of business opportunities (assisting Fraser Campbell).

### **Re: A Director**

Assisting Andreas Gledhill KC and Harry Adamson, acting for the director in significant director disqualification proceedings brought by the Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

## **Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief**

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of civil fraud, asset recovery & injunctive relief law.

### **Cases**

#### **Magomedov v TPG & Ors**

For the Tenth Defendant in proceedings concerning an alleged conspiracy to seize strategic Russian assets with a claimed quantum of over US\$10 billion (assisting Leona Powell).

#### **Al-Aggad v Al-Aggad**

[2024] EWHC 673 (Comm)

For the Claimant in a jurisdiction challenge arising out of proceedings for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy, involving issues of Saudi and Canadian law (assisting Anthony Peto KC and Shane Sibbel).

#### **Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & Ors**

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#### **SR v PY**

For the Defendants in a civil fraud claim relating to investments in a resort in Thailand, raising questions of Thai law (assisting Shane Sibbel).

#### **X v Y**

For the Claimant seeking urgent freezing relief on the basis of a conversion claim relating to the alleged theft of jewellery (assisting Fraser Campbell).

## **Sanctions**

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of sanctions law.

## Cases

### **Dalston Projects Ltd v SST; Shvidler v SSFCDA**

[2024] EWCA Civ 172

For the Secretaries of State in the first appellate consideration of sanctions designations under the post-Brexit Russia sanctions regime (assisting Sir James Eadie KC and Jason Pobjoy).

### **Gutseriev v European Council**

Case T-526/21

For the individual in a challenge to a designation by the Council of the European Union under the Belarus sanctions regime (assisting Brian Kennelly KC and Jason Pobjoy).

## Environment

Hugo accepts instructions in all areas of environmental law.

## Cases

### **Shell UK Ltd & Anor v Greenpeace UK Ltd & Ors**

King's Bench Division

Advising Greenpeace UK Ltd on costs protection under the Aarhus Convention in proceedings brought by Shell UK Ltd in relation to protesting activities (with Ravi Mehta).

### **Advising on environmental duties**

Advising Ofwat on the applicability of various environmental duties in the context of its 2024 Price Review (with Ravi Mehta).

### **Surrey Searches Ltd v Northumbrian Water Ltd & Ors**

[2024] EWHC 1643 (Ch)

For the Severn Trent Defendants in a restitution claim concerning the provision of information by water and sewerage companies to personal search companies, for a claimed quantum of over £150 million (assisting Monica Carss-Frisk KC and Jason Pobjoy). The decision is the first High Court ruling on the scope and application of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Education

- BA English Language and Literature (University of Oxford, First)
- MPhil History and Philosophy of Science (University of Cambridge, Distinction, top of year)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (City Law School, Distinction)
- Bar Vocational Studies (City Law School, Distinction)

### Scholarships & Awards

- Everard Ver Heyden Foundation Prize for distinguished performance in Bar examinations (City Law School, 2022)
- Richard York Scholarship for Bar studies (Gray's Inn, 2021-22)
- MPhil Prize for excellence in academic research (St John's College, Cambridge, 2019-20)
- Cambridge Trust Scholarship (University of Cambridge, 2019-20)
- Gibbs Prize for distinguished performance in Final Examinations (University of Oxford, 2019)
- Tutorial Prize (Magdalen College, University of Oxford, 2018)
- Demyship for distinguished performance in Preliminary Examinations (Magdalen College, University of Oxford, 2017)

VAT registration number: 477207082

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