



JESSICA SIMOR QC

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Regulatory & Public Law
Competition Law
EU Law
Human Rights & Civil Liberties

Called to the Bar 1992

Appointed to Silk 2013

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LANGUAGES:

French

With extensive and recognised expertise in a number of areas, Jessica Simor QC is considered one of the country's leading EU and public law barristers, with particular expertise in human rights law. Jessica acts for a wide range of clients, from multinational corporations and commercial regulatory bodies, to government departments and individuals.

EXPERIENCE

Qualified in 1992, Jessica was a founding member of Matrix in 2000, taking silk in 2013. She appears regularly in the higher courts, including over ten cases in the Supreme Court, appearances before Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In 1993, she worked in the European Commission in Brussels, 1995-1996 in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and during 1997 as legal adviser to the Human Rights Ombudsman in Bosnia. She was the author and now General Editor of Sweet and Maxwell's leading looseleaf: *Human Rights Practice*. From 2010, she served as a member of the Attorney General's A Panel of Counsel, having previously served on the B and C panels. In 2014, she featured in *The Lawyer's Hot 100*.

EXPERTISE

Covering a number of aspects of EU law over various sectors, her clients range from international corporations and companies (Google, GE, Welsh Water, Vodafone and GNER), regulatory bodies and government departments (Ofgem, CMA, and HMRC), to NGOs and private individuals (WWF, Privacy International and Liberty).

Jessica's regulatory work covers environment, energy, water, finance, transport, including labelling, integrated pollution control, track access, transport pricing, water and sewerage access rights, off-shore wind licensing, fisheries and data protection and European Stability Mechanisms. Jessica has advised in the complex litigation involving the position of various clients in relation to their lost deposits in Cypriot bank accounts, as a consequence of measures adopted by the EU institutions and the Cypriot government in 2013 in response to the Cypriot banking crisis. In the early years of her practice, her focus was largely in EU and competition law, including on large cartel and merger cases such as *Blue Circle Plc v Commission of the European Communities* and *General Electric Co v Commission of the European Communities*. Jessica has significant experience in human rights law, including in relation to international jurisdiction questions and in inter-state cases. She was counsel in *R (Smith) v MoD*, the case that established UK jurisdiction over its soldiers serving overseas.

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Jason Housden, Senior Practice Manager

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**DIRECTORIES'
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Jessica has been recognized and recommended in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500 for a number of years:

"[V]ery intelligent, responsive and able lawyer. A persuasive advocate, who's well prepared and very good on her feet"

"She is very clever, works very hard and is unparalleled on issues relating to the ECHR"

"Her taking silk was well deserved – she gives great drive and direction to cases"

Chambers & Partners 2015

"an amazing work ethic and very considerable knowledge"

Chambers & Partners 2014

"first rate"

Legal 500 2013

"brilliant and unparalleled" knowledge of the ECHR

"very bright, very driven and very hard working"

"she has the full set of skills and is always very good at client care."

Chambers & Partners 2013

"see[s] things very clearly and can be relied upon to be totally frank about the prospects of any case."

Chambers & Partners 2012

praised for her "thoroughness and enthusiasm"

Chambers & Partners 2011**NOTABLE RECENT CASES**

A selection of Jessica's cases can be found below. A detailed list of her cases is on her Matrix web page.

R (Whistl UK Ltd (formerly TNT Post UK Ltd)) v Revenue and Customs Commissioners [2014] EWHC 3480 (Admin) Postal Services Directive; universal service obligation, competition/fiscal neutrality.

R (Watson and Davies) and the Open Rights Group and Privacy International v S/S Home Department [2015 EWHC 2092] Acting for Privacy International and Open Rights Group in its intervention in a challenge to the emergency legislation adopted to require telecom companies to retain data showing the identity, time, location and duration of electronic communications.

Welsh Water v Barratt Homes [2013] EWCA Civ 233 Acted for Welsh Water in its appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the meaning and effect of s 106 of the Water Industry Act.

Smith & Anor v Ministry of Defence and other cases [2013] UKSC 41 Acting for the Claimants in claim against the Ministry of Defence, defending a strike out application based on lack of jurisdiction under Article 1 of the Convention.

Axel Springer AG v Germany (No.2) (App No. 48311/10) judgment 10 July 2014 Legality of a restriction on publication by Bild of a story regarding the former Chancellor Schroder. Acted for Media Legal Defence Initiative (MDLI).

HJ (Iran) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] UKSC 31 Jessica acted for the EHRC, which intervened in this landmark case to argue (successfully) that it was not permissible to refuse a claim for asylum on the basis that someone with a particular sexual orientation could be expected to 'be discrete'.

Delfi v Estonia (App No. 64569/09) Liability for comments on news website; intermediary liability under e-commerce directive; relationship with ECHR, article 10/Strasbourg; freedom of expression. Acted for the industry interveners.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bencher Middle Temple

Fellow Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, BIICL

Accredited Mediator

Member of Steering Committee of international climate change litigation project, first meeting held November 2008 at Michigan Law School

Member of the UNHCR panel of specialised counsel

Former executive member of Justice and the British Institute of Human Rights, of which she was also Chair.

QUALIFICATIONS

St Catherine's College, Oxford (MA); City University (Dip Law); King's College, London (postgraduate Dip EC Law); Harmsworth scholar and Inns of Court scholar (Middle Temple).

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Human Rights in Bosnia Herzegovina [1997] 6 EHRLR 644.

Contributor to *The Law of Criminal Cartels, Practice and Procedure*, Michael O'Kane (OUP, 2006)

Contributor to *UK Competition Law: The New Framework*, R Kellaway, R Thompson and C Brown (eds) (OUP, 2015)