



SAMANTHA KNIGHTS QC

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Commercial & Arbitration
EU Law
Human Rights Law
Immigration, Asylum & Free
Movement
International Law
Public Law

Called to the Bar 1996

Appointed to Silk 2018

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Manager
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LANGUAGES:

French
German
Portuguese
Russian

Samantha is a versatile and established barrister recommended in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 with a broad practice, but focusing on commercial litigation, EU, and international law. She also practices in immigration and asylum, human rights, and public law. Her cases have involved ground breaking developments in law before the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, European Court of Human Rights, and Court of Justice of the European Union.

INTERNATIONAL

Much of Samantha's work involves cases with an international dimension including group litigation claims under foreign and English law, and a number of cases arising from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including cases concerning the protection of individuals fleeing from conflict zones, liabilities of the British government for locally engaged workers, and cases involving national security issues.

Samantha has also been involved in a wide range of cases before foreign courts, including the Russian Federation, the US and in Bermuda. On behalf of the Bar Human Rights Committee, Samantha was involved in the filing of an amicus brief before the US Supreme Court in a case involving trial by military tribunal and issues of habeas corpus. She also has expertise in relation to the law on mutual assistance and in particular under the proceeds of crime legislation.

COMMERCIAL & ARBITRATION

Samantha has a wide-ranging commercial practice. She has recently been instructed in a number of complex international group claims including a claim by Tanzanian villagers against a gold mine for foreign law torts relating to injuries and deaths at the mine, and a claim by Cambodian villagers against a sugar company in conversion, unjust enrichment and knowing receipt. She has experience of arbitrations including a complex ICC arbitration under Kazakh law; proceeds of crime, insolvency (having practised insolvency law for seven years prior to joining Matrix), and large multi-national disputes involving complex issues of fact and law.

She has considerable experience of high-profile complex international actions, including the Thyssen-Bornemisza trust litigation in Bermuda, arbitrations and litigation involving Russian and Kazakh clients and entities, and the Al-Zayat litigation involving commercial and criminal proceedings in Iran and the UK.

EU

Samantha's work has encompassed a number of cases involving EU law in particular in the sphere of commercial/insolvency law and also in relation to refugee and immigration law. She has previously acted and advised in a number of cases involving the EC Regulation on Insolvency Proceedings. She has been

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involved in a number of cases before the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and the CJEU which have raised issues of fundamental rights and the EU Charter and provisions of EU Regulations and Directives.

DIRECTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chambers & Partners 2017 recommends Samantha in Civil Liberties & Human Rights Immigration. **'She is very measured in her advice and takes pains to see the other side's point of view so that she can better demolish it.'** **'She's very incisive and reliably provides top-quality support and assistance.'** **'She is extremely responsive and her written submissions are absolutely first-class.'**

Legal 500 2016 describes Samantha as **'experienced and smart, with a track record of heavyweight cases.'**

Chambers & Partners 2016 recommends Samantha in Immigration and Civil Liberties & Human Rights. She is noted to be a **'greatly experienced immigration practitioner'** who is **'sought after for her expertise in citizenship, refugee and human rights law.'**

Legal 500 2015 describes Samantha as **'a very tenacious fighter; well prepared and highly regarded.'** **'She has notable experience in high profile international human rights cases.'**

Chambers & Partners 2014 stated **"she is an authority on religious rights and freedom of belief"** and **"her written work is outstanding"**.

Chambers & Partners 2013 also recommends Samantha Knights in Civil Liberties and Human Rights and Immigration, praising her **"skill at unravelling complex facts and arguments in unusual human rights cases."**

KEY CASES

Tchenguiz & Ors v Grant Thornton UK LLP & Ors [2015] EWHC 1864 (Comm) Case seeking dismissal of the proceedings brought against Kaupthing Bank, which were held to be in breach of a prohibition on legal action against them contained in the Bankruptcy Act, art 116

Al-Jedda v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] UKSIAC SC_66_2008 Case concerning deprivation of British nationality raising issues of foreign law, EU protections on disclosure.

K & Ors v The Secretary of State for Defence & Anor [2014] EWHC 4343 (Admin) Case concerning protection of Afghan agents by British under public, private law and ECHR obligations.

Kesabo & Ors v ABG Plc & Anor, QBD 2013-15

Song Mao & Ors v Tate & Lyle Industries Ltd & Anor, Comm Court, 2013-15

NS v SSHD (C-411/10) Case concerning Dublin II transfers to Greece and first case before CJEU to consider the meaning of the right to asylum recognised in Art 18 of the EU Charter.

Zatuliveter v SSHD SC/103/2010 Deportation of a Russian national on grounds of national security and first case before SIAC to concern espionage.

QD (Iraq) & anor. v SSHD [2009] EWCA Civ 620 Test case on the interpretation of Art 15c of the Qualification Directive and protection for individuals seeking protection from situations of armed conflict.

Ministry of Defence and Support of the Armed Forces of Iran v FAZ Aviation Ltd & Or [2007] EWHC 1042 (Commercial) Jurisdiction: domicile of company.

Director of the Serious Fraud Office v A [2007] EWCA Crim 1927 Proceeds of crime and request for assistance from Iranian Court.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Samantha is currently chair of the International Steering Committee of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre. EHRAC assists individuals, lawyers and NGOs within the Russian Federation in taking cases to the ECtHR. She has worked as a consultant on numerous international projects on behalf of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales including an FCO funded rule of law project in Afghanistan 2005-8.

PUBLICATIONS

Freedom of Religion, Minorities and the Law (OUP, 2007)

Human Rights Practice (ed. J Simor) (author of chapter on Article 9 ECHR)

EDUCATION

LLM (Human Rights), London School of Economics 2004

Diploma in Law, City University 1994

BA Hons (Modern History), Oxford University 1993

Samantha accepts instructions under Standard Contractual Terms, details of which can be found [here](#).