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Olivia Tolson

Call: 2023

Olivia accepts instructions in the areas of company, insolvency and commercial law on both advisory and contentious matters.

In 2024, Olivia undertook a secondment to Slaughter and May's corporate/M&A department. She was involved in advising on a range of corporate matters, including in relation to a proposed takeover by a public company, and she also gained transactional experience. In 2025, Olivia was seconded to the Restructuring and Insolvency Team at Harrison Clark Rickerby and worked on a variety of matters including the £130 million liquidation of Rockfire Capital Limited.

Prior to joining Chambers, Olivia worked as a Judicial Assistant to Mr Justice Calver in the Commercial Court and to Mr Justice Fancourt in the Chancery Division. In that role, she assisted with *Suppipat & Ors v Narongdej & Ors* [2023] EWHC 1988 (Comm), one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2022", and *The Duke of Sussex & Ors v MGN Limited* [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch), part of the Mirror Newspapers Hacking Litigation.

Additionally, Olivia was the editor of a legal research project at University College London. The project investigated how autonomous shipping vessels, which utilise advanced technologies including artificial intelligence, should be regulated.

Olivia holds a first-class Law Degree from the University of Cambridge and an LLM, with a specialism in Corporate and Commercial Law, from the London School of Economics, in which she achieved a Distinction in every paper. She came first in her year on the Bar Course at City, University of London.

Corporate

Advisory

Companies: Olivia has been involved in a broad range of corporate advisory work, including:

- Frequently providing advice (unled) on the law and procedure applicable to various Companies Act applications, including those concerning company charges and rectification of the register.
- Advising on the application of the financial assistance rules to a proposed takeover by a public company (during secondment at Slaughter and May).
- Assisting with providing advice on the availability of rectification in relation to documents effecting an erroneous transfer of shares (led by Nigel Dougherty).
- Assisting with providing advice on the interpretation of board terms of reference, which involved accounting points, in the context of a significant property transaction (assisting Andrew Thompson KC).

- Assisting with providing advice on the validity of share buy-backs subject to procedural defects (during pupillage, assisting Ben Griffiths).
- Assisting with providing advice on how to address a historic but erroneous reduction of capital (during pupillage, assisting Stephen Horan).

Other bodies corporate: Olivia has also gained experience in advising other bodies corporate including:

Limited liability partnerships

- Assisted with providing advice concerning the compatibility of an LLP agreement with regulatory requirements (during secondment at Slaughter and May).

Registered societies

- Advised a nationally significant registered society in relation to the conduct of its affairs (during secondment at Slaughter and May).
- Provided advice in relation to how the administration and winding up of registered societies can be initiated and conducted (during secondment at HCR).

Advocacy

Olivia has appeared unled in various Companies Act applications.

Contentious litigation

Olivia's litigation experience is addressed in full in the 'Litigation' section below, but recent instructions include:

- *Yodel Delivery Network Ltd v Corlett and others* [2025] EWHC 1435 – assisting Andrew Thompson KC, Ben Griffiths and Samuel Parsons in successfully opposing an application for an injunction to restrain Yodel Delivery Network from, *inter alia*, combining its business or operations with those of companies associated with its current owner.

Restructuring and Insolvency

Advisory

- Prepared advice for insolvency practitioners in regard to a broad variety of corporate insolvency matters, including removal, replacement and remuneration (during secondment at HCR).
- Provided advice in relation to how the administration and winding up of registered societies can be initiated and conducted (during secondment at HCR). Olivia has also written an article on this topic which can be viewed [here](#).
- Provided advice in relation to the methods by which an unincorporated association can be dissolved (during secondment at HCR).

Advocacy

Olivia has experience of appearing unled in insolvency proceedings.

Litigation

- Assisted with the drafting of applications and written evidence relating to the £130 million voluntary liquidation of Rockfire Capital Limited and associated claims made against its former directors (during secondment at HCR).

- Assisted with the distillation of evidence in relation to a matter concerning the proposed removal of the liquidators of a limited liability partnership in the hotel industry (during secondment at HCR).
- *HMRC v Purity Ltd* [2024] EWHC 2965 (Ch) – during pupillage, Olivia worked on this case, on which Matthew Parfitt was instructed, which is the first to consider HMRC's new power to wind up companies on the grounds of public interest under s. 85 Finance Act 2022.

Litigation

Recent and current instructions include:

- *Yodel Delivery Network Ltd v Corlett and others* [2025] EWHC 1435 – assisting Andrew Thompson KC, Ben Griffiths and Samuel Parsons in successfully opposing an application for an injunction to restrain Yodel Delivery Network from, *inter alia*, combining its business or operations with those of companies associated with its current owner.
- Olivia is currently instructed on an ongoing Bermudan case concerning a breach of confidence claim which has arisen in the private equity context (with Michael Todd KC and Andrew Blake).

During pupillage, Olivia worked on a number of contentious cases including *Re Jardine Strategic Holdings* [2024] CA (Bda) 7 Civ. This was an appeal heard in the Bermuda Court of Appeal and involving Martin Moore KC, Anna Scharnetzky and Andrew Blake. Olivia considered, in particular, the aspect of the appeal which concerned a company's ability to assert privilege against its shareholders (during pupillage).

As a High Court Judicial Assistant, Olivia was involved into two high profile trials in the Commercial Court and Chancery Division, namely:

- *Suppipat & Ors v Narongdej & Ors* [2023] EWHC 1988 (Comm) – this fraud claim involved a 20-week trial and was one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2022" (as judicial assistant to Mr Justice Calver)
- *The Duke of Sussex v MGN Limited* [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch) – this case, which involved a 7-week trial, was part of the fourth wave of the Mirror Newspapers Hacking Litigation and involved claims made by the Duke of Sussex (as judicial assistant to Mr Justice Fancourt).

International and Offshore

Olivia is currently instructed on an ongoing Bermudan case concerning a breach of confidence claim which has arisen in the private equity context (with Michael Todd KC and Andrew Blake).

During pupillage, Olivia worked on a number of offshore cases including *Re Jardine Strategic Holdings* [2024] CA (Bda) 7 Civ. This was an appeal heard in the Bermuda Court of Appeal and involving Martin Moore KC, Anna Scharnetzky, and Andrew Blake. Olivia considered, in particular, the aspect of the appeal which concerned a company's ability to assert privilege against its shareholders (during pupillage).

Commercial

Advisory

- Advised on the operation of an inventory management agreement involving a multinational bank, with a particular focus on the circumstances in which a breach may occur and the remedies which would be available in such a scenario (during secondment at Slaughter and May).

- Assisted with the provision of advice on the interpretation of a change of control provision in a telecommunications services agreement (during secondment at Slaughter and May).

Litigation

- *Yodel Delivery Network Ltd v Corlett and others* [2025] EWHC 1435 – assisted Andrew Thompson KC, Ben Griffiths and Samuel Parsons in successfully opposing an application for an injunction to restrain Yodel Delivery Network from, *inter alia*, combining its business or operations with those of companies associated with its current owner.
- Assisted with the preparation of a defence in relation to a multi-million dollar breach of contract claim arising in the financial services sector (during pupillage, assisting Edward Davies KC and Anna Scharnetzky).
- In her role as judicial assistant to Mr Justice Calver in the Commercial Court, Olivia worked on *Supipat & Ors v Narongdej & Ors* [2023] EWHC 1988 (Comm), a fraud claim which involved a 20-week trial and was one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2022".

Memberships

Memberships:

- Chancery Bar Association
- COMBAR

Publications:

- '*Insolvent registered societies – what can be done?*' for HCR's Restructuring and Insolvency Bulletin (available [here](#))

Education and awards

Education:

City, University of London, Bar Vocational Studies Course - Distinction (first in year) (2021-2022)

The London School of Economics, LLM with Corporate and Commercial Law specialism - Distinction (2019-2020)

The University of Cambridge, Robinson College, BA Hons Law - First Class (2016-2019)

Prizes and scholarships:

Bar course:

- City, University of London, Senior Scarman Prize for the highest overall result on the Bar Vocational Studies programme (2022)
- City, University of London, Bar Vocational Studies Scholarship (2021)
- Lincoln's Inn, Lord Denning Scholarship (a Major Scholarship) (2021)

University:

Olivia Tolson

- Letter of Commendation from the Chair of Examiners of Part II of the Law Tripos at Cambridge University for the highest first in the Crime and Criminal Justice seminar paper (2019)
- Robinson College Scholarship and College Prize for first class result (2019)
- Nicola Blakeman Memorial Prize for joint-top performance in Robinson College in Part 1A of the Law Tripos (2017)
- Robinson College Mooting Cup (2017)