

LAURA GUNN

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SUMMARY

3+PQE UK dual qualified litigator with significant experience representing corporate clients in insolvencies and restructurings, civil and criminal proceedings, regulatory investigations and inquests. Working in a relatively small team, I have a high level of responsibility in client matters and strong interpersonal skills. The varied nature of my practice means that I am incredibly adaptable and a very quick learner. I am detail-oriented and able to distil complex issues into a concise and commercially-minded format. I am a passionate litigator that enjoys evaluating strategic options and developing creative solutions for effective conflict resolution.

KEY SKILLS

- Insolvency and restructuring
- Asset recovery
- Wills, estates and probate
- Civil and criminal proceedings
- Regulatory investigations and inquests
- Disclosure and statements of case
- Regulatory compliance
- Transactional due diligence
- Red flag reports
- Horizon scanning
- Communication and matter management
- Creative solutions to complex problems

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Litigation, Insolvency and Restructuring Associate – *Campbells,* Nov 2021 – Present
British Virgin Islands

Work highlights:

- Acting for the liquidators of a cryptocurrency trading platform that sustained losses of approximately USD 165 million as a result of alleged unlawful actions by an officer of the company, including advising on asset tracing and unfair preference claims and representing the liquidators in court applications related to the liquidation.
- Acting for redemption creditors of a Madoff feeder fund that has been in liquidation since 2007 to progress claims and distribution issues with the liquidators.
- Acting for the provisional liquidators of Luckin Coffee Inc, a holding company for a group owning and running coffee shops throughout China, to successfully restructure the company's debt through a settlement with the majority of its shareholders and through a Court sanctioned scheme of arrangement with the company's bondholders.
- Acting for a BVI telecoms provider in successful judicial review proceedings against the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission in respect of an attempt to impose a statutory levy on telecoms license holders without adequate consultation.
- Representing clients in probate proceedings and debt claims.

Professional Associations:

- Recently appointed as a board member of the Women's Offshore Network (WON), a non-profit organisation to support and bring together women in the offshore financial industry in the BVI.
- Active member of RISA (BVI).

Contentious:

- Representing corporate clients in complex regulatory investigations and criminal cases in respect of alleged environmental and health and safety offences.
- Successfully defending the world's largest building materials company in a dispute with HM Revenue & Customs regarding an alleged underpayment of Landfill Tax.
- Defending Biffa in a high-profile criminal trial brought by the Environment Agency regarding alleged breaches of waste shipment legislation in respect of waste exports to China.
- Defending a global resource management company in respect of various group actions relating to alleged civil nuisance claims and drafting defence documentation to prevent the case going to court with a view to settlement.
- Acting for FCC Environment in judicial review proceedings brought against the Environment Agency in respect of proposed changes to charges for landfill sites.
- Representing clients in criminal cases brought by the Health and Safety Executive in respect of breaches of health and safety law including corporate manslaughter.
- Defending an alcoholic beverage manufacturer in criminal proceedings brought by the Environment Agency in respect of an alleged fish kill pollution incident.
- Providing crisis management advice to a Chinese technology company in respect of a product liability incident that resulted in a multi-jurisdictional product recall.
- Acting for an international airline in an investigation by the Environment Agency in respect of alleged breaches of the Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).
- Advising FCC Environment on a dispute with Natural England relating to Great Crested Newt (protected species) habitats and licencing.
- Advising a global company in relation to packaging waste offences including advice on preparing an enforcement undertaking proposal and subsequently negotiating with the Environment Agency as to the terms of the enforcement undertaking.
- Attending inquests and court hearings and managing court deadlines.
- Obtaining witness statements, drafting statements of case and letters of instruction to Counsel, experts and costs draftsmen.
- Preparing lists of documents, directions questionnaires, proposed directions, statements of cost and applications for strike out and summary judgment.
- Attending conferences with Counsel and client meetings to develop litigation strategy.
- Reviewing disclosure documents and technical expert reports to identify key issues, supporting information and potential areas of risk/weakness.

Transactional:

- Undertaking due diligence and preparing both detailed and red flags reports on a wide range of regulatory issues in corporate, banking and real estate transactions, including advising:
 - SSE on the separation of green and brown assets through corporate restructuring to facilitate green financing opportunities and address residual environmental liabilities.
 - a Chinese sovereign wealth fund on the environmental risks and liabilities associated with the acquisition of a real estate portfolio.
 - Dragon LNG in relation to facilities decommissioning, demolition and liabilities.
 - a UK gas distribution company in respect of hazardous substances consents and COMAH.
 - Korian SA on health and safety and COVID-19 risk exposure in connection with the acquisition of Berkeley Care Group.
 - a private equity fund on potential risk exposure and risk management issues in connection with the acquisition of a group of hotels with historic pollution liabilities.

- Cox Automotive on environmental obligations and contaminated land liabilities in connection with the acquisition of vehicles services provider and Bruntingthorpe airfield operator C Walton Ltd.
- Honda on contractual transfer of risk and apportionment of liability in connection with the sale of its flagship manufacturing site in the UK.
- iCON Infrastructure investment group on the risks associated with its acquisition of interests in operating energy from waste facilities.
- various clients on the requirements for, and interpretation of, environmental permits, licences and consents and assisting with permit and licence applications, variations, surrenders, appeals, compliance and enforcement.
- Drafting and agreeing warranties and indemnities.
- Drafting various contractual documents including consultant appointments and remediation agreements.

Advisory:

- Preparing monthly horizon scanning reports for Amazon on proposed measures at EU and UK level relating to the European Green Deal and Net Zero, including, in particular, EU Taxonomy and measures relating to sustainable finance and corporate governance, the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), clean energy, transport, infrastructure and sustainable products initiatives.
- Advising Warner Music Group on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, energy and carbon reporting and non-financial disclosure obligations.
- Drafting detailed advice notes on complex regulatory issues including, for example, advising a car insurer and underwriter on the legal implications of (a) selling written off vehicles to a waste dealer for international export and (b) allowing policyholders to retain written off vehicles.
- Preparing quarterly updates for the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) on key ESG legal developments and potential implications for USS and its investments.
- Providing NatWest Group with a sustainability tracker product covering all applicable UK and EU environmental legislation and advice on required actions to ensure compliance.
- Advising Unilever on the European Chemicals Strategy and related measures in both the EU and UK including an assessment on the impact upon Unilever's sustainability strategy.
- Advising corporate, banking and investment clients on carbon reduction and energy efficiency related laws including ESOS, CRC, SECR, EU ETS and UK ETS.
- Advising manufacturers and distributors on EU and UK product compliance laws and producer responsibility regimes (e.g. WEEE, batteries, packaging), REACH, RoHS, F-gases, eco-design and energy labelling, circular economy initiatives, green advertising and Brexit implications.
- Providing ad hoc regulatory compliance advice on a range of issues to various consumer products and technology companies including Microsoft, Sky, Facebook and Coca Cola European Partners (CCEP).
- Providing compliance advice to international food businesses including Associated British Foods, Nestle, Del Monte, Barilla and Deliveroo in respect of food safety and hygiene, product formulation and labelling requirements, food contact materials legislation and health and nutrition and marketing claims.
- Advising various US retailers on licencing and compliance issues related to the manufacture and sale of CBD in the UK and EU, including assisting with submitting novel food applications to EFSA and the FSA.

Business Development:

- Regularly publishing articles and briefing papers on recent legal developments and forthcoming measures.
- Involvement in client presentations and training sessions and attending networking events.

- Drafting pitch documents, presentations, promotional materials and fee proposals.

Corporate Social Responsibility:

- As a first-generation university graduate, I am passionate about social mobility and have been involved in various initiatives to improve diversity in law, as well as more widely in society, including as a:
 - mentor for the Springboard Consultancy’s Sprint Programme, a professional development initiative for female undergraduates which seeks to address the gender pay gap by providing young women with the confidence and skills to succeed in their professional lives.
 - mentor for the UEA Law School, providing career support for undergraduates.
 - GCSE English Tutor for The Access Project, a programme to help motivated students in disadvantaged areas progress to top universities.

Trainee Solicitor – Nabarro LLP / CMS LLP, London

Aug 2016 – Aug 2018

During my training contract at Nabarro, the firm underwent a three-way merger with CMS and Olswang. This process made me more resilient and adaptable to change, improved my ability to integrate with new teams and adopt different and improved ways of working.

Seats:

- Regulatory (Environment, Health and Safety)
- Dispute Resolution
- Construction and Engineering
- Real Estate
- Planning

EDUCATION

Admitted as a Solicitor in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (<i>practicing</i>)	November 2021
Admitted as a Solicitor in England and Wales (<i>non-practicing</i>)	September 2018
LPC with Business, Distinction - BPP Law School, London	2015 – 2016
LLB (Hons) Law, 2:1 (68%) - University of East Anglia	2011 – 2014
5 A Levels (AAABB) - Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, Faversham	2009 – 2011
10 GCSES (A* - B); 1 AS Level (B) - Community College Whitstable	2004 – 2009