# **Fiona Whiteside**

Barrister at Twenty Essex, 20 Essex St, London WC2R 3AL fwhiteside@twentyessex.com / +44 (0)7444 556489

A highly capable and adaptable barrister from one of London's leading commercial chambers. Recently described by an instructing solicitor as "the most talented junior counsel I have ever encountered" with particular ability in contractual disputes. Award-winning leadership skills and a strong team player. Seeking new challenges within a growing global business.

#### EDUCATION

#### **City Law School**

Bar Professional Training Course

• Grade: Outstanding (10th in year)

#### Universität Passau

Master in deutschem Recht f
ür ausl
ändische Studierende LL.M. (Master's in German Law)
Grade: Summa cum laude (distinction, 13 Punkte, 83-85%\*) including 16 Punkte (92-94%) in LL.M. thesis

**University College London** (with one year at **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität** in Munich) *Law with German Law LL.B.* 

Grade: First class with honours

#### Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

"Erasmus" study abroad year

• Grade: 10,2 Punkte (75%)

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### Twenty Essex (formerly 20 Essex Street)

Barrister (formerly Pupil)

I am a barrister specialising in complex commercial litigation, predominantly with an international dimension. My international commercial practice focuses on services contracts, shipping and commodities, the conflict of laws and energy. The majority of my practice is arbitration (LMAA, LCIA, ICC, SIAC, DIFC, FOSFA, GAFTA and ad hoc arbitration). For details of my practice, please refer to my website https://twentyessex.com/people/fiona-whiteside/.

#### House of Commons (Civil Service Fast Stream - secondment)

Second Clerk to the Petitions Committee

- I ran the joint inquiry into workplace dress codes by the UK Parliament Petitions Committee and the Select Committee on Women and Equalities. This was a high-profile inquiry which featured widely in the national media and resulted in changes to Government policy. I drafted all briefings, selected and invited witnesses, drafted questions for the Committees to put to witnesses, ran an online public consultation, handled written submissions, conducted scientific and socio-political research, and drafted the inquiry report.
- I managed the Petition Committee Chair's correspondence, including drafting correspondence to secretaries of state and public figures.
- I redrafted the parliamentary rules (Standing Orders) governing the acceptance of e-petitions from the public by the House of Commons.

#### Department for Communities and Local Government (Civil Service Fast Stream)

Affordable Housing Policy

- Leading the commercialisation of the £4.1 billion shared ownership housebuilding programme 2016-21, I worked with private equity
  investors and international governments to source private funding of £13 billion. Before leaving the role, I successfully found potential
  funding, although due to political sensitivities surrounding the London mayoral election 2016, it was decided not to proceed.
- I led a complex IT procurement project for the extension of Right to Buy discounts to housing association tenants in England, for which I
  had to secure special funding from HM Treasury, as the Department lacked statutory power to raise or spend funds on the project.
- I led bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia on housing matters for the Department, wrote briefings for the Saudi Arabian Housing Minister and worked with ministerial Private Office to arrange a bilateral ministerial meeting.
- I developed new affordable housing policies, and worked closely with a wide range of stakeholders, for example, HM Treasury, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Department for Work and Pensions, the regulator, housing association chief executives and directors, private investors, and departmental Private Office, Comms and Press Office.
- I provided frequent briefings to the Secretary of State, the Housing Minister and the Senior Civil Service, and wrote several speeches for the latter. I also wrote speech lines for the Prime Minister and Chancellor, and briefings for the Prime Minister.

#### Department for Education (Civil Service Fast Stream)

\*For the percentage equivalent of the German "Punkte" grading system, please see: http://www.uni-passau.de/internationales/nach-passaukommen/rund-ums-studium/notensystem/notensystem-jura

#### London, United Kingdom

London, United Kingdom

01.04.16 - 16.09.16

18.09.17 to present

## London, United Kingdom

London, United Kingdom

01.10.15 - 31.03.16

London, United Kingdom 19.09.16 – 31.07.17

Passau, Bavaria, Germany 14.10.13 – 12.11.14

London, United Kingdom 22.09.08 – 01.08.13

Munich, Bavaria, Germany

17.10.11 - 27.07.12

## Digital Skills and Capability Lead

I worked with Microsoft's Director for Central Government and Chief Technology Officer in the UK to brief the Department's Management Committee on the future of technology. I also represented the Department alongside directors and directors general from other departments at the cross-government Digital Leaders' Network, and the cross-government working group on digital skills and capability.

## Ministry of Justice (Civil Service Fast Stream)

Family Justice Policy, Public Law Strategy

- I led policy development on public funding in family public law proceedings (predominantly taking children into care), an area of high political sensitivity. I managed a broad range of stakeholder relationships in domestic and international jurisdictions, and used my bilingual German skills to work with colleagues in the Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz to develop a range of innovative approaches for ministers in this area.
- I wrote a speech for the Minister for Justice and Civil Liberties, and provided regular written and oral briefings for the Secretary of State, Justice Minister and Senior Civil Service.
- I led the Ministry of Justice's contribution on a joint report with Cabinet Office into private law family mediation. This was one of five highprofile cross-government projects trialling new "open policy making" techniques.

## Universität Passau

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin (Research Assistant), part-time (50%)

- I worked for the Chair of Public Law, European Law and European and International Economic Law (Prof. Herrmann) and the Chair of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Public International Law, European and International Economic Law (Prof. Dederer)
- Responsibilities: course convenor and lecturer for "Case Law of the WTO"; wrote course materials for "World Trade Law" course; edited European Yearbook of International Economic Law; edited submissions for the European Encyclopedia of Private International Law 14.10.13 - 01.08.14

Lehrbeauftragte (Teacher), part-time (50%)

- Three two-hour lectures per week in English Administrative and EU Law:
  - Course convenor with responsibilities including: establishing course topics and objectives; writing course materials; devising lesson o plans; lecturing; providing feedback on students' progress; setting written examination; holding oral exams; marking written exams
- One two-hour tutorial per week in American Constitutional Law:
  - Tutor with responsibilities including: establishing tutorial topics and objectives, writing tutorial materials, teaching, providing feedback, 0 holding oral examinations, marking written examinations

## EXAMPLES OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Mentor at the Bar Council and Mentor at Bridging the Bar (social mobility campaign) Lincoln's Inn Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee (formerly Steering Group), appointed member Bar Council, Legal Services Committee, appointed member	2020-present 2019-present 2019-present
Parochial Church Council, Holy Trinity Sloane Square, elected member	2019-present
South Westminster Legal Advice Clinic (pro bono centre), volunteer legal advisor	2015-present
Arts and Crafts Festival Committee, Holy Trinity Sloane Square, committee member	2018-2019
Lincoln's Inn Junior Members' Association, President (a committee representing over 1,600 students, pupils and junior barriste	ers) 2017-18
Fast Stream Conference 2016, Treasurer and Head of Logistics (2-day conference held in high security government buildings	
with Ambassadors, Government ministers and the Senior Civil Service – managed a budget of £36,000)	2015-16
Lead analyst on disability in a landmark report on the experiences of BAME and disabled Fast Streamers which was	2010 10
commended by Sir Jeremy Heywood (Head of the Civil Service) and used to inform equality reforms across the Civil Service	2014-15
Publications	
Contributor to the White Book 2019 (sections on European jurisdiction and service out of the jurisdiction)	2019
Contributor to Dicey & Morris on the Conflict of Laws, fifth cumulative supplement (chapter 11, jurisdiction in personam)	2018
Research assistant on Cullen, Freedom of Information in the UK (Thomson Reuters)	2015-17
Editor of European Yearbook of International Economic Law	2014
Selection of prizes and awards (last 5 years)	

Lincoln's Inn academic scholarships: Buchanan Prize, Shelford Scholarship and Pupil Accommodation Award (all 2017-18) and Hardwicke Scholarship (2016-17) Lincoln's Inn advocacy prizes: Crowther Shield (winner, 2016-17), Sir Louis Gluckstein Prize (finalist, 2016-17) and Debating Shield (finalist, 2015-16 and 2016-17) City University Postgraduate Scholarship 2016-17 Civil Service Leadership Award for work relating to the Chancellor's Spending Review in November 2015 2016 Inter-Inn Debating Competition, finalist representing Lincoln's Inn 2016

01.04.15 - 30.09.15

London, United Kingdom

29.09.14 - 31.03.15

07.04.14 - 30.09.14

Passau, Bavaria, Germany