

Celia Rooney

“Celia is wise beyond her years; she is always calm in a crisis.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Year of call: **2015**
Degree: **LLB (Hons) First Class; BCL (Oxon); BPTC (City) Outstanding**
Languages: **French (some knowledge)**



Celia practises across all of Chambers' main areas of work, with particular experience of commercial disputes, sports law, public law and human rights, and employment. She is on the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel, and is ranked in Chambers & Partners and in The Legal 500 (as a "rising star") for public law, employment, sports law and media and entertainment. Celia has experience before a range of courts and tribunals, including the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, and various regulatory bodies such as the The FA Regulatory Commission.

EXPERIENCE

Commercial

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of commercial litigation. She has a particular interest and experience in fraud disputes.

Cases

Vneshprombank LLC v Bedzhamov

Celia represented the Defendant, Mr Georgy Bedzhamov, in a £1.2 billion fraud claim brought by the Claimant - a Russian bank. The claim involved various allegations of fraud and complex issues of Russian law. (With Robert Anderson QC, Tom Richards and Andrew Trotter).

The Public Institution for Social Security v Fahad Maziad Al-Rajaan & Ors

Celia acts for a Lebanese defendant in a c.£600 million fraud claim brought by a Kuwaiti public body (led by Andrew Hunter QC).

Calor Gas Limited v South West Bottle Gas Centre Limited & Andrew Daniell

Represented Calor Gas in a lengthy fraud trial in the High Court, in which the company brought claims for unlawful means conspiracy, bribery, inducement of a breach of contract, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt and unjustified enrichment (led by Anthony Peto QC).

Calor Gas v Chorley Bottle Gas Limited

Celia (led by Anthony Peto QC) successfully represented Calor Gas in its application for a search order against Chorley Bottle Gas, in which it was alleged that Chorley was unlawfully refilling Calor's liquefied petroleum gas cylinders.

Art Arbitration

Celia acted for the buyer of two Old Masters paintings in his multi-million pound claim against a major international gallery (led by Andrew Green QC). The claim was one for alleged deceit arising out of the provenance list for each painting.

Confidential injunctive relief in aid of foreign proceedings (Saudi Arabia)

Instructed in a claim for a freezing order in aid of foreign proceedings in Saudi Arabia (led by Andrew Green QC).

Confidential advice on injunctive relief in aid of foreign proceedings (US)

Instructed to assist in a substantial multi-jurisdictional fraud claim, in which the claimant sought a freezing order in aid of foreign proceedings (led by Anthony Peto QC and Victoria Windle). The claimant sought advice on: the merits of an application under s.25 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, the availability of disclosure orders in aid of foreign proceedings, the significance of the availability of treble damages in the US on the relief sought, the availability of tipstaff relief and the privilege against self-incrimination.

Republic of Cyprus v John & Pascalis

Celia represented the Republic of Cyprus in an appeal concerning the cancellation of its trade mark for halloumi cheese (led by Monica Carss-Frisk QC). The High Court dismissed the decision of the Registrar of Trade Marks. The Ministry challenged that decision on appeal.

Peter Denton v the Kooks

Instructed to represent the former bassist in the Kooks in a claim for unfair prejudice and dissolution of a partnership, following his expulsion from a chart-topping band.

Fraud Claim

Celia represents two recording artists in a fraud claim against their former band mate. The claim arises from the alleged appropriation of the profits of a joint venture established between the parties.

Jones v the Royal Academy of Dance

Celia represents the RAD in a contractual dispute brought by one of its former ballet dancers.

Evergreen t/a Datatech v Next Retail Ltd

Successfully defended a claim in a contractual dispute for sums allegedly owed for the provision of recruitment services.

Commercial cricket dispute

Instructed by a commercial agency to advise in respect of proposed contractual claim against Cricket South Africa, arising out of the newly established T20 league (led by Nick de Marco QC).

Civil Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctive Relief

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of civil fraud litigation and has extensive experience in this field.

Cases

Vneshprombank LLC v Bedzhamov

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Barclays v Serious Fraud Office

Celia advised Barclays in its opposition to the SFO's application for a voluntary bill of indictment (led by Lord Pannick QC). The SFO sought that relief after Mr Justice Jay dismissed all criminal charges against the bank arising out its 2008 capital raising exercise. The case concerned complex issues of corporate criminal attribution.

Fraud Claim

Celia represents two recording artists in a fraud claim against their former band mate. The claim arises from the alleged appropriation of the profits of a joint venture established between the parties.

Public & Regulatory

Celia is ranked in administrative and public law in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, in the latter as a "rising star". She accepts instructions in all areas of public and regulatory work, and has acted for regulators, NGOs, corporate entities and individuals.

From October to December 2016, Celia was sole legal counsel to the Payment Systems Regulator (PSR), advising on a 'super-complaint' by the consumer group, Which?, concerning authorised push payment fraud.

“She has sound judgement and is able to think a problem through to its conclusion.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Miller v Prime Minister

Celia was instructed by the Welsh Government (with Michael Fordham QC and Hollie Higgins) in Gina Miller's challenge to the decision of the Prime Minister to prorogue parliament. The case was heard by the Supreme Court and is considered to be one of the most constitutionally significant public law cases in a generation.

Privacy International & Ors v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs & Ors

Instructed by Privacy International, Reprieve, the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Pat Finucane Centre in a challenge to the so-called 'Third Direction' from the Prime Minister to the Intelligence Services Commissioner. By that direction, the Prime Minister invited the Commissioner to oversee the application of hitherto undisclosed guidelines which purport to authorise the Intelligence Services to authorise agents to participate in criminal conduct in the UK (led by Ben Jaffey QC).

The Queen (on the application of Mohammed Zahir Khan) v Secretary of State for the Justice Department

Celia is junior counsel to the Secretary of State in a legal challenge to the Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Act 2020, which changed the legislative regime applicable to the early release of terrorist offenders in the wake of the terrorist attacks at Fishmongers' Hall and Streatham. Led by James Eadie QC and Jason Pobjoy.

UTAG and LTDA v TfL and Mayor of London

Celia represents both TfL and the Mayor of London in an ongoing challenge to the 'Streetspace Guidance', and associated traffic management orders. The purpose of the guidance is to ensure safe travel during the pandemic, by widening footpaths and otherwise encouraging walking and cycling. The challenge is brought by trade bodies which represent black cabs, who oppose the resulting restrictions to their access of London's bus lanes, and includes an A1P1 claim.

R (on the application of British Telecommunications PLC) v HM Treasury

Instructed by BT in a judicial review challenge of the decision of the Treasury to implement an extension of the indexation of certain benefits in public sector pension schemes in a way which increased the company's liabilities in respect of its pension scheme by £120 million. Celia was instructed both in the High Court and Court of Appeal, where she was led by Dinah Rose QC and Fraser Campbell.

Barclays v Serious Fraud Office

Celia advised Barclays in its opposition to the SFO's application for a voluntary bill of indictment (led by Lord Pannick QC). The SFO sought that relief after Mr Justice Jay dismissed all criminal charges against the bank arising out its 2008 capital raising exercise. The case concerned complex issues of corporate criminal attribution.

A Bank v the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission

Celia was instructed by a private bank in a successful judicial review of the GFSC (led by Michael Fordham QC). The regulator's decision to appoint inspectors under money laundering legislation was found to be unlawful and to amount to an unlawful interference with the bank's constitutional rights.

NA v Secretary for State for Work and Pensions

[2019] 1 WLR 6321

Celia (acting pro bono) represents the sole-surviving spouse of a polygamous marriage, in a challenge concerning her entitlement to various 'survivor benefits'. The Upper Tribunal held in her client's favour, finding that the Secretary of State's decision refusing her such benefits was discriminatory under Article 14 of the ECHR. The trial judge recognised the case as raising an important point of public interest. The Secretary of State is appealing the decision, which is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal.

MK v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Celia represented a victim of trafficking in her successful challenge to the Home Office's decision refusing her asylum claim. The claimant was a child at the time she was trafficked from Albania to Italy and a vulnerable witness. The decision was held to be unlawful on several grounds.

Advice on the Government's 'Consolidated Guidance'

Celia was instructed, with Ben Jaffey QC, by a leading charity in potential proceedings concerning the Government's purported authorisation of conduct amounting to complicity in torture and inhuman and degrading treatment under s.7 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994.

Crossley & Others v Volkswagen & Ors

Instructed by VW in the trial of a preliminary issue in the NOx emissions group litigation: whether vehicles which react to emissions testing by reducing emissions contains a 'defeat device' within art. 3(10) of Regulation 715/2007/EC (with, inter alia, Michael Fordham QC and Warren Fitt).

Payment Systems Regulator super-complaint

Celia acted as sole legal counsel advising the Payment Systems Regulator on its response to a 'super-complaint' by the consumer group, Which?, concerning authorised push payment fraud.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Celia is ranked in administrative and public law in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, where she is described as a "rising star". She accepts instructions in all areas of civil liberties and human rights litigation, and has extensive experience in this field.

"She is an exceptionally high-quality junior counsel"

– THE LEGAL 500, 2021

Celia has been involved in a wide range of public law and human rights cases, most notably before the Administrative Court, the Investigatory Powers Tribunal and the Supreme Court. She has been instructed by NGOs, regulators, individuals and various corporate entities.

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Privacy International & Ors v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs & Ors

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Sport

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of sports work, and is ranked as a "rising star" in the field of sports law by The Legal 500. She is both a panelist on the Sports Resolution Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel and co-editor of the Blackstone Chambers' Sports Law Bulletin.

Celia has extensive experience in the field of sports law, having advised and represented the Premier League, The FA, the Lawn Tennis Association, and a number of national rugby associations, amongst others. She has been instructed in disputes involving various Premier League and Championship football clubs, and acts for sports governing bodies, clubs and athletes alike.

“Celia acts on various complex matters and is definitely one to watch for the future.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

The FA v Kieran Trippier

Celia represented The FA in proceedings against Kieran Trippier concerning various breaches of The FA's Betting Rules. The Regulatory Commission found that four of the charges against Mr Trippier were made out, suspending him for 10 weeks and fining him £70,000.

Racing Point Appeal

Celia represented Racing Point in its appeal against a Stewards' Decision, which sanctioned the team for its use of brake duct data in the design of its rear brake ducts for its 2020 car. The part in question had, for the first time, become a 'listed part'. Led by Thomas de la Mare QC.

Claims against British Gymnastics

Celia represents a number of gymnasts who allege that they have suffered from abusive practices within British Gymnastics (led by Nick De Marco QC).

The New Saints v The Football Association for Wales Limited

Acted for the Welsh FA, opposing a legal challenge the termination of the 2019/20 football season in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The High Court dismissed the club's challenge on all grounds. Celia acted for the Welsh FA, led by Kate Gallafent QC.

South Shields Football Club 1888 Limited v The Football Association Limited

Acted for The FA in the South Shields case: the first legal challenge in the UK to the end of the 2019-20 football season, during the COVID-19 pandemic. A distinguished panel, chaired by Lord Dyson, found in The FA's favour, dismissing the challenge. Celia acted for The FA, led by James Segan QC.

Cooke v Arsenal Football Club

Representing Arsenal FC in an employment dispute (led by Jane Mulcahy QC)

Middlesbrough Football & Athletic Co (1986) v Flahavan

Instructed by Middlesbrough FC in a High Court claim in which the Club sought to enforce the restrictive covenants in the employment contracts of each member of its backroom team, following the departure of its then manager, Mr Garry Monk. While the matter did not proceed to trial, the Club successfully applied to expedite the proceedings (led by Ian Mill QC).

Rule K arbitration for The FA

Represented The FA in a two-day Rule K arbitration against the owner of a football club (led by Kate Gallafent QC). The case, which involved alleged breaches of the betting rules, was ultimately determined on a preliminary issue of jurisdiction.

Rule K arbitration for the Premier League

Instructed by the Premier League in a Rule K arbitration involving a Premier League club (led by Michael Beloff QC).

Red Tiger v West Ham United FC

Celia was instructed by West Ham United FC in CAS proceedings against Red Tiger FC.

Advising the Premier League

Instructed to advise the Premier League in respect of a case involving allegations of so-called 'tapping up'.

Advising the Premier League on a potential claim under EU law

Advising the Premier League as to potential claims under EU competition law and the rules of free movement in respect of a proposed rule change.

English Football League Arbitration

Celia represented a League One football club in its claims against a Championship club, in a dispute concerning the construction of an alleged 'release clause' in a player's contract (led by Nick De Marco QC).

A Manager v A Football Club

Celia is instructed by the former manager of a football club - himself a celebrated-footballer - in a confidential commercial dispute with his former club.

Confidential Manager Dispute

Advising the former manager on his employment law claims arising from his dismissal from a Championship Club.

Representing the British Boxing Board

Representing the British Boxing Board of Control in various appeals against the Board's decisions to withdraw the boxer's licence.

Advising The Football Association

Advising The FA on its 2018-19 Safeguarding Policy (with Kate Gallafent QC).

A v The Wisley

Represented a golfer at a disciplinary hearing at which she sought to challenge a ban imposed upon her by the prestigious golf club in respect of allegations of cheating.

Commercial cricket dispute

Instructed by a commercial agency to advise in respect of proposed contractual claim against Cricket South Africa, arising out of the newly established T20 league (led by Nick de Marco QC).

Advising a national rugby union

Instructed to advise a national rugby union as to its potential claims against World Rugby in respect of the Rugby World Cup Qualifiers 2019.

Advice on safeguarding

Advising a football club in respect of potential safeguarding allegations against it (led by Nick de Marco QC).

A v The Lawn Tennis Association

Represented the LTA in a safeguarding case, in which the individual sought to challenge the sanction imposed upon him by the sports governing body.

UKAD Case

Instructed to represent an athlete in a challenge to UKAD's proposed sanction in respect of an anti-doping violation, in which he sought to establish 'no significant fault' on his part, in light of his personal circumstances.

Employment

Celia accepts instructions in all areas of employment law. She is ranked for employment law in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, in the latter as a "rising star". Celia has been instructed in a variety of employment law cases before both the Employment Tribunal and the High Court, and has particular experience in cases concerning issues of employee competition, whistleblowing and discrimination. She is a regular contributor to the Blackstone Chambers Employee Competition Bulletin and has presented on the new Trade Secrets Regulations.

“She is an exceptionally bright barrister.”

– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Previtha Kunjuraman v Zaha Hadid Limited

Celia was instructed (with Paul Goulding QC) to advise in respect of complex allegations of whistleblowing and discrimination made by the former General Counsel of the internationally renowned firm of architects.

Confidential Restrictive Covenant Dispute

Celia acts for the former partner of one of the 'Big 4' accountancy firms in a confidential arbitration (led by Thomas Croxford QC), challenging the enforceability of various restrictive covenants.

Roubahie-Fissa v Lycée Charles De Gaulle

Celia represented the Lycée Charles de Gaulle in a 3-day trial in the employment tribunal, successfully defending the school in respect of various claims of nationality discrimination brought by a former teacher.

Cooke v Arsenal Football Club

Representing Arsenal FC in an employment dispute (led by Jane Mulcahy QC)

Middlesbrough Football & Athletic Co (1986) v Flahavan

Instructed by Middlesbrough FC in a High Court claim in which the Club sought to enforce the restrictive covenants in the employment contracts of each member of its backroom team, following the departure of its then manager, Mr Garry Monk. While the matter did not proceed to trial, the Club successfully applied to expedite the proceedings (led by Ian Mill QC).

Massamba v IKB Travel

Celia acted pro bono for the claimant in a successful claim for race discrimination, in which the Respondent's director was found to have called the claimant a 'black monkey'.

Sudder v JCDecaux

Celia acts for the Respondent in a claim for unlawful deduction of wages and entitlement to emergency leave.

Discrimination Advice

Celia advised a prominent businessman in respect of various allegations of sex discrimination.

Toscano v Epiq Systems

Celia represented the Respondent in an employment tribunal claim involving various allegations of disability discrimination.

Confidential Manager Dispute

Advising the former manager on his employment law claims arising from his dismissal from a Championship Club.

An individual v A law firm

Celia is instructed by a law firm in a claim for pregnancy and maternity discrimination, victimisation and harassment (led by Kate Gallafent QC).

An individual v A law firm

Celia was instructed by a law firm in a claim for discrimination, victimisation and harassment brought against it by a practice development lawyer (appearing on her own for the CMC, otherwise led by Kate Gallafent QC).

Media & Entertainment

Celia is ranked in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500 for her media law practice, in the latter as a 'rising star' in this field. She regularly acts for media law clients and has particular experience of royalty disputes, the most recent of which have concerned the revenue generated by online streaming. She also has particular experience of partnership and LLP disputes.

“I have been very impressed with her work rate, intelligence, commerciality and written and oral advocacy. She operates well in advance of her seniority.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Peter Denton v the Kooks

Instructed to represent the former bassist in the Kooks in a claim for unfair prejudice and dissolution of a partnership, following his expulsion from a chart-topping band.

Jon Moss v Culture Club

Celia is instructed to represent Mr Jon Moss in his dispute against his former band, Culture Club (led by Tom Weisselberg QC).

Art Arbitration

Celia acted for the buyer of two Old Masters paintings in his multi-million pound claim against a major international gallery (led by Andrew Green QC). The claim was one for alleged deceit arising out of the provenance list for each painting.

Confidential Copyright Dispute

Celia acts for a famous, chart-topping singer-songwriter in his copyright dispute with various retailers including Toyshop and Urban Outfitters.

Confidential Copyright Dispute

Celia is instructed (with Tom Weisselberg QC) in a confidential dispute concerning the copyright in a song that reached number 1 in the UK singles chart, acting for the band that released the single.

2 confidential royalty dispute (representing the artist in both cases)

Celia represents two artists in their ongoing royalty disputes with their record labels, in respect of 'streaming revenue'. The first is a Grammy-award and Brit-award winning musician. The second is a winner of the Mercury Prize for music.

Fraud Claim

Celia represents two recording artists in a fraud claim against their former band mate. The claim arises from the alleged appropriation of the profits of a joint venture established between the parties.

Advising a media and news company

Advising an internet media and news company as to its potential liability for publication of a report prepared by the FCA under s.166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

LLB (Hons) (Glasgow) First Class; BCL (Oxon); BPTC (City) Outstanding

Prizes & Scholarships

- Peter Duffy Scholar (Bar European Group, 2016)
- Megarry Scholar and Buchanan Prize (Lincoln's Inn, 2015)
- Lord Denning Scholar (Lincoln's Inn, 2014)
- Harwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn, 2013)
- Theodore David Lowe Prize for most distinguished graduate in public law honours subjects (University of Glasgow)
- Club 21 Business Partnership Scholarship (University of Glasgow)

Publications

- Rooney, C. Back to Basics: the Administrative Court Judicial Review Guide 2016. Judicial Review, Vol 22, Issue 1 (May 2017).
- McNamara, L. and Rooney, C. Corrupt Justice: a sign of the times... or an aberration? New Law Journal, Vol 163 7572, 9 August 2013: 6.
- Celia is a researcher for the University of Oxford Borders Criminologies Group. In that capacity, she has written extensively on issues of migration, on topics such as the Dublin Regulations, citizenship deprivation, fast track detention and age determination procedures. She is currently co-editor of a themed series entitled 'Current Legal Issues in Migration', which, most recently, has focused on issues affecting unaccompanied minors.

Memberships

- Celia is a member of the committee of the Bar European Group (BEG).
- She is also a member of the Commercial Bar Association (ComBar), the British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL), the Howard League for Penal Reform, the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA), and the Employment Lawyers Association (ELA). Celia is also a panellist on the Sports Resolution Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel.
- Before coming to the Bar, Celia worked as a caseworker and/or policy researcher for a number of pro bono organisations, including Bail for Immigration Detainees, the Free Representation Unit and the Bar Pro Bono Unit. She also interned in the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and taught debating in a number of prisons around London with Vocalise (an organization affiliated with Gray's Inn).

VAT registration number: 248467079

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board