Hannah Ready



Call: 2010

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Hannah was shortlisted for the 2025 Legal 500 'Media and the arts junior of the year'. Her practice covers the full ambit of media and information law, including:

- Defamation and malicious falsehood (Hannah was previously at One Brick Court, where she acted as junior to silks such as Richard Rampton KC, Andrew Caldecott KC and Manuel Barca KC);
- Privacy and breach of confidence;
- Data protection, including data breach and group litigation;
- Harassment.

Hannah has experience across each of those practice areas and is particularly well placed to deal with actions involving both data/privacy and reputational issues. She has considerable experience in group litigation claims and has acted in large-scale commercial actions involving information law issues. Hannah also has a keen interest in non-contentious reputation management and strategy work. This includes press and social media monitoring on behalf of high profile individuals and corporations.

> ***Up-and-coming barrister who is quickly establishing a reputation as a leading junior at the Defamation Bar.***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2017**

Hannah has recently appeared in the Supreme Court for the Defendant in Farley v Equiniti, which will decide whether a threshold of seriousness applies in UK data protection law. Other case highlights include:

- A Supreme Court appearance in a landmark privacy action concerning the right of arrestees in child sex offence cases to remain anonymous (*Khuja v Times Newspapers Ltd*);
- Acting for AOL in *Lachaux v AOL (UK) Ltd*, which gave rise to the first appellate decision on the 'serious harm test' under section 1 of the Defamation Act 2013;
- Acting for the largest group of Defendants between 2014 and 2020 in multi-million-pound litigation concerning the alleged blacklisting of construction workers (*The Construction Industry Vetting Information Group Litigation*);
- Acting for English water companies against restitution claims for over £150 million in fees paid for information which it was said ought to have been provided for free (*The Environmental Information Regulations Litigation*).

On qualification, Hannah was awarded a Pegasus Scholarship to work at the New York offices of Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz LLP, where she gained both a broad grounding in American media law and experience in advising on cross-jurisdictional issues.

Expertise

Cases of interest

Lazarevic v Refinitiv Ltd, Ioannides v Refinitiv Ltd (2026) – Hannah acted for Refinitiv Ltd in these two actions, both of which settled shortly before trial and concerned what were said to be inaccurate and damaging entries on the Defendant's 'World-Check' platform. Hannah has previously acted for Refinitiv Ltd on various matters, including claims brought by Mehmet Baltaci (concerning World-Check's "non-conviction terror" category) and Calvin Ayre (categorised in World-Check as a "Politically Exposed Person").

Farley v Equiniti [2025] EWCA Civ 1117 – Hannah has acted for the Defendant since the pre-action stage in relation to over 400 data protection and privacy claims brought by police officers whose pension statements were accidentally sent to outdated addresses. The recent hearing in the Supreme Court will decide whether a threshold of seriousness applies in UK data protection law.

PMC v A Local Health Board [2025] EWCA Civ 1126 – led by Anya Proops KC on behalf of the Personal Injuries Bar Association in this highly significant judgment concerning applications for anonymity and reporting restriction orders.

Surrey Searches Limited and Others v Northumbrian Water Limited and Others [2024] EWHC 1643 (Ch) – led by Timothy Pitt-Payne KC and Edmund Nourse KC for the successful water companies in a six-week trial, which led to a seminal decision on the scope and application of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Richard Lynton-Jones v Baroness Michelle Mone (2022) – acted for Baroness Mone in a libel action arising from comments published by her to the Guardian and via her Instagram page. In the same year Hannah, led by Adrienne Page KC, acted for the Claimant in a libel action successfully brought in relation to allegations of money laundering first made in Parliament and protected by privilege (**Christopher Chandler v Chris Bryant MP**).

Kamirih v Facebook & Ors (2022) – acted for Facebook in successfully defending an action brought against various internet and technology companies.

Project Red Card (2021) – acted for one of the parties, led by Anya Proops KC, in this high-profile matter concerning the legality of statistical sports data handling.

Horsfall v Google LLC (2021) – acted for Google in successfully seeking an order that the court had no jurisdiction to try a 'right to be forgotten' claim. Hannah previously acted for Google in a successful application to strike out a claim brought on 'right to be forgotten' grounds (**Bonham-Smith v Google UK Ltd**) and in relation to an allegedly defamatory review on the 'Google My Business' platform (**Henry Herbert Ltd v Google UK Ltd**).

The Construction Industry Vetting Information Group Litigation (2014-2020) – for the largest group of Defendant construction companies, led by Andrew Caldecott KC and Edmund Nourse KC, in this high-profile group litigation concerning the alleged blacklisting of construction workers. Hannah subsequently acted in the consequential Part 20 proceedings (**The Corporate Macfarlanes Defendants v Amec Building Ltd**) and in **Collins v Crossrail & Ors**, which concerned alleged blacklisting on the Crossrail Project.

Danielle Hindley v Associated Newspapers Ltd (2020) – Hannah acted for the Claimant in a libel action successfully brought over false allegations in the Mail on Sunday that Ms Hindley was a "rogue beautician" who had "botched" treatments.

Kennedy v National Trust for Scotland [2019] EWCA Civ 648 – for the National Trust for Scotland, prior to maternity leave, in this important libel and data protection matter concerning issues of forum and service.

Bains & Ors v Moore & Ors v Wetherby Select Ltd & Ors (2017-2018) – acted for various Non-Parties in relation to these significant privacy, breach of confidence and data protection proceedings concerning alleged corporate espionage and the asbestos industry (led by Manuel Barca KC).

Paul Lunt v Times Newspapers Limited (2018) – for solicitor Mr Lunt, led by Manuel Barca KC, in a libel action successfully brought in relation to an article published in the Times Newspaper which wrongly identified Mr Lunt as the subject of a serious allegation of criminality.

Lachaux v AOL (UK) Ltd [2017] EWCA Civ 1334 – for AOL, led by Manuel Barca KC and, in the Court of Appeal, by Andrew Caldecott KC, in the first-of-its-kind trial of the preliminary issue of serious harm under section 1 of the Defamation Act 2013.

Khuja v Times Newspapers Ltd & Others [2017] UKSC 49 – for the Claimant, led by Manuel Barca KC, in an application for an interim non-disclosure order preventing the identity of the Claimant as an arrestee from being disclosed by The Times newspaper. The case gave rise to a landmark privacy decision of the Supreme Court.

Daley v Griffiths (2017) – instructed in relation to a complaint by the Olympic diver Tom Daley concerning the destruction of images and video footage obtained via private communications.

Rightio Ltd v Twitter Inc. (2016) – for Twitter in relation to an application to disclose information concerning account holders alleged to have published defamatory Tweets.

Gloster v Macmillan Publishers Ltd (2016) – successful strike-out application made on behalf of Macmillan Publishers in relation to an article published in the well-known scientific journal, Nature.

Secondment to the BBC in order to provide data protection advice (2015) – this followed the alleged disclosure of information by a researcher who had worked for an independent production team in relation to a BBC Panorama investigation into Lutfur Rahman, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

Melvyn Cartwright v Dai Havard MP (2014) – for Member of Parliament, Mr Havard, in a successful application to strike out a defamation claim in the High Court in Cardiff.

Todd v BBC (2014) – for the BBC in relation to an application to disclose information concerning an individual said to have posted a defamatory comment on the BBC News website.

Hank Roberts v Times Newspapers Ltd (2013) – for Mr Roberts, the president of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, in an action against the Sunday Times.

Higgins v Totaljobs Group Ltd (2013) – successfully defended a claim brought on data protection grounds against Totaljobs Group Ltd, the UK's largest online recruitment company.

Cairns v Modi [2012] EWCA Civ 1382 – instructed to assist Andrew Caldecott KC in this successful appeal concerning the award of damages in libel actions, with specific responsibility for submissions by the Claimant concerning damage and 'the grapevine effect'.

Bento v The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police [2012] EWHC 1525 – for the Defendant police force (with Catrin Evans KC and led by Richard Rampton KC) in a libel action concerning a murder conviction and later acquittal.

Inquiries / Inquests

The Hillsborough inquests (2014) – assisted the BBC Litigation Department in relation to the release of footage for use at the inquests.

The Pollard review into sexual allegations against Jimmy Savile (2013) – instructed as junior counsel by the BBC Litigation Department and the BBC Trust in order to advise on the release to the general public of those documents underlying the Pollard report.

The Leveson inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the British press (2012) – drafted legal submissions on behalf of Associated Newspapers Ltd, Guardian News & Media Ltd and the Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

Achievements

Publications and Seminars

Contributor to *Arlidge, Eady & Smith on Contempt,* 5th Edition, 2017

Co-author, *Atkin's Court Forms on Defamation*

Qualifications

MA (Cantab) (First Class), Law, University of Cambridge (Churchill College)

Silverman Sherliker Award for Legal Excellence; Churchill College Scholarship, 2008

Lord Denning Scholarship; Hardwicke Entrance Award, 2009

Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School (Outstanding)

Buchanan Prize; Hubert Greenland Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn), 2010

Pegasus Scholarship (Inns of Court), 2012

> ***A confident and robust junior, and a strong team player.***
>
> LEGAL 500 2015

> ***Has quickly become a rising star in the sector since her 2010 call, and has built up a substantial client base. Peers predict she will be a market-leading barrister in the future.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2015

> ***There is a confidence and maturity to her advice that is beyond her year of call.***
>
> LEGAL 500 2016

She's very bright and gives good commercial advice.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2016

She's great; fantastic and willing to roll her sleeves up. She's very clever, but approachable and user-friendly.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2016

Popular junior whose impressive and diverse practice has developed far beyond the expected level for her year of call.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2016

She is very bright and has excellent judgement.

LEGAL 500 2017

She is very impressive and gives excellent advice in conference and on paper. A rising star.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2017

She's an exceptional junior; she's good at drafting, responsive and hard-working.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2017