

Josephine Gillingwater

Call: 2024

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Josephine practices across Chambers' practice areas including public law and human rights, public international law, commercial law, and employment law.

Recent highlights of her practice include:

- Two cases before the European Court of Human Rights: *CC v United Kingdom* and *Q v United Kingdom* (with Galina Ward KC and Christopher Knight KC).
- Acting for the City of London Corporation resisting a challenge to the trans-inclusive admission arrangements for bathing ponds on Hampstead Heath: *R (Sex Matters) v City of London Corporation* (with Daniel Stilitz KC and Katherine Eddy).
- A challenge to the level of ambition set by the Seventh Carbon Budget on the basis that it is inconsistent with the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement: *R (Carbon Reckoning) v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero* (with David Wolfe KC and Peter Lockley).
- Acting for the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (intervening) in a challenge arising out of the refusal to permit the relocation of a proposed major gas-powered generating station: *R (TTEP UK Power Development II Ltd) v National Energy System Operator* (with Juliet Wells and Samuel Willis).

- A challenge to the reduction in leave granted to refugees from five years to 30 months: *R (MXR & Ors) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (with Sir James Eadie KC, Jason Pobjoy KC, Naomi Hart and others).
- A freedom of information appeal concerning a statutory prohibition on disclosure of information relating to animal testing and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights: *Cruelty Free International v Information Commissioner and Home Office* [2026] UKUT 328 (with Christopher Knight KC).

Josephine was the Judicial Assistant to Lord Lloyd-Jones in the Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from 2025 to 2026. She worked on a number of the leading cases of the past year, including *The Kingdom of Bahrain v Shehabi* [2026] UKSC 25 (the territorial scope of the personal injury exception to state immunity in the context of spyware) and *Infrastructure Services Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v The Kingdom of Spain* [2026] UKSC 9 (whether foreign states can rely on state immunity to resist the registration of ICSID awards).

Before coming to the Bar, Josephine worked in international arbitration at Freshfields, WilmerHale, and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). She also worked at the International Law Commission (ILC) of the United Nations.

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Josephine worked in arbitration and has experience in matters conducted under the ICC, UNCITRAL and LCIA rules. She has often worked on cases with an international element raising issues of private international law. Her experience in this field includes:

- Assisted in an ICC arbitration governed by English law relating to a West African subsea project and LNG sales to third parties during the lifetime of a sales agreement.*
- Assisted in an ICC arbitration governed by English law arising in the energy sector in the Caribbean.*
- Assisted in an LCIA arbitration governed by Sri Lankan law against a state-owned entity relating to a construction project.*
- Assisted in an UNCITRAL arbitration governed by the UNIDROIT Principles arising from a contract for the provision of goods and services to an intergovernmental organisation.*

*Before coming to the Bar.

Achievements

Education

LLB (First Class Honours), University of Birmingham, 2017 – 2021

Visiting Student in the Faculty of Law, McGill University, 2019 – 2020

LLM in International Law (Summa Cum Laude), Geneva Graduate Institute, 2021 – 2022

PGDip in Bar Practice, Inns of Court College of Advocacy, 2023 – 2024

Awards

Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

Sir John and Lady Sophie Laws Scholarship, Bar European Group

Pegasus Scholarship, Inner Temple