

Josephine Gillingwater

Call: 2024

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Josephine Gillingwater practices across Chambers' practice areas including public law and human rights, public international law, commercial law, employment and discrimination law, data and information law, procurement, and sports law.

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.

As a Judicial Assistant, Josephine has worked on a number of the leading cases of the past year, including *The Kingdom of Bahrain v Shehabi* [2026] UKSC 25, concerning the territorial scope of the personal injury exception to state immunity, and *Infrastructure Services Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v The Kingdom of Spain* [2026] UKSC 9 concerning 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 of the United Nations. She has volunteered with several pro bono organisations including the Free Representation Unit (FRU), Advocate, the Environmental Law Foundation, and Support Through Court.

Expertise

Public International

Josephine has experience across a wide range of areas including treaty interpretation, immunities, the law of international organisations, international human rights law, international environmental law, international investment law, State responsibility, transboundary disputes, and the law of the sea. Her recent experience includes:

- Advised an intergovernmental organisation on the enforceability of agreements with States (as a pupil, assisting Professor Philippe Sands KC, Ruth Kennedy and Lucy Jones).
- Advised a consortium of States on the negotiation of an international treaty on marine biodiversity (the BBNJ Agreement, now called the High Seas Treaty) (assisting Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue).*
- Assisted in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising from a contract for the provision of goods and services to an intergovernmental organisation.*
- Advised the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on fossil fuel subsidy reform.*
- Advised a political organisation on the right to self-determination of an Indigenous group (assisting Ali Al-Karim).*

*Before coming to the Bar.

CC v the United Kingdom

(APPLICATION NO. 25191/23)

European Court of Human Rights claim concerning whether the unavailability of compensation under domestic law for disability discrimination is compatible with Article 14 read with Article 8 and/or Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol 1 (led by Galina Ward KC and Christopher Knight KC).

Q v the United Kingdom

(APPLICATION NO. 11826/23)

European Court of Human Rights claim concerning the right to education of a child with special educational needs under Article 2 of Protocol 1 (led by Galina Ward KC and Christopher Knight KC).

The Kingdom of Bahrain v Shehabi

[2026] UKSC 25

Supreme Court appeal concerning territorial scope of the personal injury exception to state immunity (as a Judicial Assistant to Lord Lloyd-Jones).

Infrastructure Services Luxembourg S.A.R.L. v The Kingdom of Spain

[2026] UKSC 9

Supreme Court appeal concerning whether foreign states can rely on state immunity to resist the registration of ICSID awards (as a Judicial Assistant to Lord Lloyd-Jones).

Minerali Industriali SRL v Republic of Tunisia

ICSID CASE NO ARB/24/52

Dispute under the Italy-Tunisia BIT relating to sand mining (assisting Ali Al-Karim).

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