Anya Proops KC

Silk: 2016 Call: 1998 England & Wales

E: Anya.Proops@11kbw.com
T: +44 (0)20 7632 8500



Anya has a broad practice spanning privacy, media, technology, public, sports and employment law. In recognition of her work as a leading media and privacy specialist, Anya was named "*Media, Defamation, Privacy and Data Protection Silk of the Year*" in the 2021 Chambers & Partners Bar Awards. Anya is named as a *Leading Silk* in the directories in recognition of her work in the privacy, media and employment spheres. She is listed as a "*Star Individual*" in Chambers & Partners in recognition of her leading role the data privacy field, and is also recognised as leading silk in the field of data privacy class actions. Anya was also named in the Lawyer's *"Hot 100 Lawyers 2019"*. Anya has a special interest in technology disputes and has acted across a wide array of cutting-edge technology-based cases, in the regulatory and civil litigation spheres, and also before the Administrative Court. Anya's current cases range from very large-scale data privacy class actions; to heavy and publicly important regulatory cases fought before the First-Tier and Upper Tribunals; to weighty judicial reviews involving matters such as the application of the Broadcasting Code and the legality of the police's use of live facial recognition; to appellate cases raising significant public interest issues, such as the application of anonymity principles in cases involving children and the application of GDPR principles to advertising practices. Anya has been described in the directories as a "*phenomenal advocate and a brilliant legal brain*" as someone who is "*devastating in cross-examination*", "*a first rate team leader*" and "a *real star*".

> ***An exceptional and very talented new silk. Knocks the competition out of the park.***
>
> **LEGAL 500**

Expertise

Privacy & Media

Anya is widely recognised as a leading privacy and media practitioner. Anya was named ***Defamation/Privacy Silk of the Year*** in the 2021 Chambers & Partners UK Bar Awards The Lawyer listed Anya in its "***Hot 100 Lawyers 2019***", recognizing her role 'at the vanguard' of cutting-edge privacy litigation. Anya is recognised as a "***Star Individual***" for her work in the data privacy field in Chambers & Partners, which describes her as taking *a leading role in many of the practice area's most prominent cases, tackling critical disputes in relation to subjects including data breaches, subject access disclosure and the right to be forgotten'*. The Legal 500 equally identifies Anya as a Tier 1 '*Leading Silk*' for her work in the data privacy field. Anya co-founded 11KBW's highly regarded information law blog: panopticonblog.com.

Large scale data cases/class actions – Anya has extensive experience of advising and acting for controllers (on both the regulatory and civil litigation sides) in cases involving large-scale personal data incidents/issues, often with an international element. She routinely leads cases for controllers in very large scale data privacy class actions, helping them to manage their global strategy, as well as assisting them with their dealings with regulators, including the ICO. Anya has a particular interest in online data processing, and she regularly advises and acts for large-scale online service providers, including social media platforms.

> ***She is one of the founders of modern data protection litigation, be that anything from mass claims to regulatory investigations, there is nothing she has not seen, done or established the law on.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Weaver v British Airways

(2021, ONGOING)

Leading group action in the High Court; also acted for BA in connection with ICO threat to impose a monetary penalty of £183m

Experian v ICO

(2021, ONGOING)

Appeal against wide-ranging enforcement notice issued against Experian in connection with its data services

Ticketmaster v ICO

[2021] UKFTT 0083 (GRC)

Appeal against monetary penalty notice

Marriott

data incident – Acted for Marriott in connection with ICO threat to impose a monetary penalty of £100m

Various Claimants v Morrison Supermarket Plc

[2020] UKSC 1

Supreme Court – Acted for Morrisons in first data privacy group action

Atkinson v Equifax

2020

Representative action in the High Court

Facebook v ICO

(EA/2018/0256)

challenge to monetary penalty issued in respect of the Cambridge Analytica affair

Vidal-Hall & Ors v Google

[2015] EWCA CIV 311

Court of Appeal – compensation for mere distress under the DPA; tracking of internet browsing habits

Newman v Southampton City Council

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Zac acted for Ms Newman, a journalist seeking access to court documents in relation to care proceedings. Her application for access to the Court file was rejected at first instance, and her appeal to the Court of Appeal was dismissed. The claim has contributed to the ongoing debate within the Family Courts as to the proper scope of journalistic (and public) access to public law hearings, and has attracted judicial and extra-judicial comment (Led by Anya Proops KC with Kate Temple-Mabe, instructed by Howard Kennedy).

Emily Oldknow v Labour Party

[2021] EWHC 1028 (QB)

Acted for the Labour Party in respect of a Norwich Pharmacal application brought in connection with the leak of an internal report on the Party's handling of antisemitism

Dillian Whyte v CBS Interactive Inc & Boxing Scene

(2021, ONGOING)

Acting for the publisher/defendant in the context of a privacy claim brought by a leading British boxer in respect of the publication of information concerning a drugs test; judgment on open justice/handling of confidential schedules awaited

Neil Gerrard v ENRC & Diligence

[2020] EWHC 3241 (QB)

Acting for investigations firm defendant in connection with privacy/harassment claims brought by City lawyer in connection with surveillance activities

NT1/NT2 v Google

[2018] EWHC 799

First 'right to be forgotten case' to come before the High Court

B v General Medical Council

[2018] EWCA 1497

Court of Appeal – operation of the subject access regime in a mixed data case

Magyar Jeti v Hungary

ECtHR – whether media organisations strictly liable for hyperlinking to unlawful third party content

Satakunnan Markkinapörssi Oy and Satamedia Oy v Finland

(2018) 66 EHRR 8

ECtHR – Article 8/Article 10 case on the disclosure of tax data

Dawson-Damer v Taylor Wessing

[2017] EWCA CIV 74

Court of Appeal – application of the subject access regime/operation of legal privilege exemption

Holyoake v Christian Candy

[2017] EWHC 52

High Court – application of legal privilege exemption in subject access/surveillance case

Zaw Lin v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

[2015] EWHC 2484

High Court – whether two men facing the death penalty in connection with the murder of two British tourists in Thailand could use subject access rights to gain access to report held by the Met Police

Steinmetz v Global Witness

2014

High Court – application of journalistic exemption in the Data Protection Act 1998

Sport

Anya has a burgeoning sports law practice.

Alexander Zverev v Ace

[2020] EWHC 3513 (CH)

Anya recently acted for one of the world's leading tennis players, Alexander Zverev, in connection with the restraint of trade claim he brought against his former agent, Ace. The case, which was widely reported in sporting circles, ended with Ace conceding the entire claim, together with its own multi-million pound counter-claim in December 2020, the day before the trial of the action. See also the judgment of Hochhauser J on the issue of whether Ace's expert could be compelled to disclose documents/information concerning alleged 'comparator' contracts of other tennis players

Project Red Card

(2021)

Anya is acting for one of the parties involved in this project, which concerns the legality of handling of statistical sports data.

Dillian Whyte v CBS Interactive Inc & Boxing Scene

(2021, ONGOING)

Acting for the publisher/defendant in the context of a privacy claim brought by a leading British boxer in respect of the publication of information concerning a drugs test; judgment on open justice/handling of confidential schedules awaited

Public Law & Human Rights

Anya is routinely instructed in public law cases involving human rights issues, particularly where Article 8 and/or Article 10 rights are in issue. However, she has also appeared in a wide array of more general public law cases.

GB News v Ofcom

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Another of the Lawyer's top 20 cases of 2025. Zac acts for Ofcom in a judicial review challenge to the lawfulness of its finding that GB News breached the Broadcasting Code in relation to its broadcasting of a "People's Forum" programme featuring the then Prime Miniser, Rishi Sunak. Zac is led by Anya Proops KC.

Thompson & Carlo v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

(HIGH COURT – ONGOING)

judicial review challenge to the MPS use of live facial recognition in the Capital; Anya acts for the Commissioner

WXYZ v Secretary of State for Health & Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2015] 1 WLR 2501

Court of Appeal – application of Article 8 to police-held DNA data

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v XYZ (Children) & Secretary of State for Health

[2015] 1 WLR 2501

Court of Appeal – application of Article 8 to police-held DNA data

R (Plantagenet Alliance) v Secretary of State for Justice & University of Leicester

[2015] 3 ALL ER 261

High Court – judicial review challenge to decision to reinter remains of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral

Employment

Anya is an extremely experienced and highly regarded employment law practitioner. She is recognised as a leading practitioner in this area by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. Chambers & Partners reports that Anya is 'repeatedly singled out by respondents for her formidable presence in the employment tribunal, and for the meticulous approach she takes to her instructions'; comments include 'She is deadly', 'Very, very thorough and extremely well prepared' and a 'pocket battleship who excels in difficult disputes. Anya's employment practice covers all types of statutory claims as well as commercial employment disputes. She has appeared three times before the Privy Council in employment cases and is well known for her expertise in territorial jurisdiction (she appeared before the House of Lords in the leading case on territorial jurisdiction: **Lawson v Serco**).

Examples of Anya's work in this field includes:

- a highly politically-charged whistle-blowing case involving a central London authority
- a substantial high court employment dispute between an ex-CEO and his former employer
- a case involving complex discrimination and victimisation claims brought by a senior lawyer against a world-renowned professional association

Various Claimants v Morrisons

(group litigation involving claims brought by thousands of Morrisons' employees in connection with a mass data breach)

Biber v HSBC

(lengthy, high profile race and religious discrimination case for a bank)

Achievements

News, Articles & Publications

Anya is a co-founder of any contributor to 11KBW's highly regarded information law blog: *panopticonblog.com*.

Contributor to *Tolley's Employment Handbook*

Education

University of Cambridge, MA (Cantab)

London School of Economics, PhD (political philosophy)

City University, CPE

Other

Anya is an Inner Temple Scholar.

Anya was awarded the British International Studies Association PhD of the Year for her PhD.

> ***She is very easy to work with and gets on top of a factually complex case quickly.***
>
> **LEGAL 500**

> ***She is formidable in court and is a very commercially savvy barrister.***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

> ***Frighteningly clever – you want her on your side in court***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

She's incredibly bright, commercial and client-friendly; she has a prodigious brain and gets results for the client

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

She is an innovative thinker, who has extraordinary impact on a case

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

An exceptional and very talented new silk. Knocks the competition out of the park

LEGAL 500

A first-class all-rounder and excellent on her feet.

LEGAL 500

She is an excellent advocate who has a really calming influence on clients

LEGAL 500

Likely to play a significant role in shaping the future of this practice area

LEGAL 500