Juliet Wells

Call: 2016

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Juliet is a sought-after junior with a wide-ranging practice spanning public law, commercial law, group litigation, international law, and costs and litigation funding. Many of her cases involve issues at the intersection of those areas.

She is ranked as a leading junior in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, and is a member of both the Attorney General's C panel and specialist Public International Law panel.

Juliet is often instructed in high profile and complex litigation, regularly undertaking work beyond her level of call. The legal directories describe her as *"fiercely intelligent"*, *"a fantastic oral advocate"*, *"fearless and robust"*, *"clinical and incisive"*, *"intellectually rigorous and extremely hard-working"*, *"technically astute"*, *"very impressive and intelligent"*, *"an excellent professional"* and *"detail-oriented, sharp and assertive"*. She often works as part of a team in heavy litigation, and has been described as *"very friendly"* and *"manag[ing] to raise every team member to her level of expectation and quality"*.

> ***Juliet is an up-and-coming barrister of real promise – her written advocacy is forceful and concise, much like her oral advocacy.***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2024

Expertise

Public Law & Human Rights

Juliet is a member of the Attorney General's C panel and the Government of the British Virgin Islands panel of counsel.

She acts in high profile and heavy judicial review claims, and is regularly retained by government departments to advise on major consultation exercises and the design and implementation of flagship policies and legislation.

She has particular expertise in parliamentary privilege, judicial review procedure, competition and procurement-related disputes, and claims by companies alleging A1P1 interference.

Re the Electricity Capacity Market

advising DESNZ on various matters relating to the design and functioning of the Electricity Capacity Market, the system by which security of electricity supply is achieved in the UK.

Re the Responsible Actors Scheme

advising MHCLG on the design and implementation of its flagship £5bn scheme to force major developers to remediate unsafe high-rise buildings.

R (Hotta & Ors) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

acting for the claimants in a high profile judicial review claim concerning the compatibility with Article 5 ECHR of the Mandatory Hotel Quarantine scheme (by which c.200,000 travellers returning to the UK from Red List countries were detained during the Covid-19 pandemic).

Re the Building Safety Levy

advising MHCLG on the design and implementation of a new £3bn tax on developers, aimed at recouping public expenditure on emergency remediation of buildings found to have unsafe cladding following the Grenfell Tower Fire.

Re Privileges Committee inquiry into the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

advising the Speaker of the House of Commons on various matters arising out of the Privileges Committee inquiry into allegations that the former prime minister misled the House.

Commercial Litigation

Juliet advises and acts in all forms of commercial disputes.

She regularly appears before the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal in commercial matters, and has particular expertise in conflicts of laws, competition and procurement-related disputes, and cases with a public law element.

Many of her cases have an international dimension and she is well-placed to advise on complex procedural issues including service outside the jurisdiction, disclosure, security for costs, and freezing orders. She was the general editor of *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure: Principles of Practice* (4th Ed. Sweet & Maxwell, 2021) and contributed five chapters to the 5th edition (Sweet & Maxwell, 2025).

Cygnet Health Care Ltd v Care Quality Commission

Acting for the CQC (unled) in a high-value procurement-related dispute.

Munícipio de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group Plc & Anr

instructed on behalf of more than 700,000 Brazilian claimants (including individuals, municipalities, businesses, and the Catholic Church) in proceedings brought against BHP Group following the collapse of the Fundão Dam in November 2015.

Re proceedings before the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland

Prepared an expert opinion on English civil procedure on behalf of a state-owned bank, for use in an appeal before the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland (with Professor Adrian Zuckerman).

Viegas, Sanches & Others v Cutrale & Others

acting for around 1,500 Brazilian orange juice farmers in Commercial Court proceedings arising out of an alleged cartel in the orange juice export market in Brazil, led by Alain Choo-Choy KC and Andrew Fulton KC.

VTB Bank (PJSC) & Anor v Samika Ltd & Ors

Advised on Isle of Mann proceedings seeking to enforce a c.£100m foreign judgment debt against assets alleged to have been fraudulently transferred by the debtor to a third-party company.

Environment & Energy

Juliet has a fast-developing practice in environment and energy law, encompassing energy market disputes, environmental judicial review, regulatory disputes, and tortious claims in respect of environmental harm.

Re the Electricity Capacity Market

advising DESNZ on various matters relating to the design and functioning of the Electricity Capacity Market, the system by which security of electricity supply is achieved in the UK.

R (EP UK Power Development II Ltd) v National Energy System Operator

Representing the Secretary of State in judicial review proceedings arising out of NESO's refusal to permit the relocation of a proposed major gas-powered generating station.

Re Imports via the Short Straits

Advised DEFRA on the implementation of the post-Brexit system for carrying out Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks on plant and animal products entering the UK via the English Channel.

Munícipio de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group Plc & Anr

instructed on behalf of more than 700,000 Brazilian claimants (including individuals, municipalities, businesses, and the Catholic Church) in proceedings brought against BHP Group following the collapse of the Fundão Dam in November 2015.

Group Litigation

Juliet has a thriving group litigation practice, including competition law claims, environmental damages claims, and public law claims by test claimants.

She has a particular interest in collective proceedings claims under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, which she has taught on Oxford University's BCL course. Her chapter on collective redress in *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure: Principles of Practice* (4th Ed. Sweet & Maxwell, 2021) was cited by the Supreme Court in *Lloyd v Google LLC* [2021] UKSC 50 in support of the Court's interpretation of the 'same interest' requirement in representative actions.

She is currently advising on possible reforms to the UK's class action regime as part of a working group of practitioners and academics convened by the Collective Redress Lawyers Association (CORLA).

Munícipio de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group Plc & Anr

instructed on behalf of more than 700,000 Brazilian claimants (including individuals, municipalities, businesses, and the Catholic Church) in proceedings brought against BHP Group following the collapse of the Fundão Dam in November 2015.

Re Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

advising on a prospective group claim for Human Rights Act and unlawful detention damages, arising out of the government's policy of mandatory hotel quarantine for travellers returning to the UK from Red List countries during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Viegas, Sanches & Others v Cutrale & Others

acting for around 1,500 Brazilian orange juice farmers in Commercial Court proceedings arising out of an alleged cartel in the orange juice export market in Brazil, led by Alain Choo-Choy KC and Andrew Fulton KC.

International Law

Juliet acts in both supranational litigation and domestic disputes involving questions of international law. Her expertise spans private international law, international human rights law, international criminal law, environmental protection, and trade and investor-state disputes.

She is a member of the Attorney General's specialist Public International Law C panel, and is well-placed to advise on issues of jurisdiction, state immunity, and applicable law.

She is regularly invited to speak at conferences on public international law issues, and has previously addressed events at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on alleged breaches of international law by GCC states.

Munícipio de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group Plc & Anr

instructed on behalf of more than 700,000 Brazilian claimants (including individuals, municipalities, businesses, and the Catholic Church) in proceedings brought against BHP Group following the collapse of the Fundão Dam in November 2015.

Viegas, Sanches & Others v Cutrale & Others

acting for around 1,500 Brazilian orange juice farmers in Commercial Court proceedings arising out of an alleged cartel in the orange juice export market in Brazil, led by Alain Choo-Choy KC and Andrew Fulton KC.

Hedges & Anor v Al-Raisi & Ors

representing two British nationals in high profile international, civil and criminal litigation arising out of their arbitrary detention and torture in the UAE, led by Rodney Dixon KC.

O & S v International Criminal Court

representing two former members of the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor in international disciplinary proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal of the UN International Labour Organisation.

X & Y v Saudi Arabia

application on behalf of two women arbitrarily detained in Saudi Arabia to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Re FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation

advising on compliance by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in a case arising out of the mistreatment of a British football fan during the AFC Asian Cup in 2019.

Costs and Litigation Funding

Juliet advises and acts in cases raising a wide range of costs law issues. She recently represented Rebekah Vardy (unled) in the high profile detailed assessment proceedings arising out of the *Vardy v Rooney* libel case.

She is particularly well-placed to advise on costs and funding in group litigation cases and collective proceedings claims under the Consumer Rights Act 2015 – including identification of common and individual costs, compatibility of funding arrangements with the Damages-Based Agreements Regulations 2013, risks to third party litigation funders, and security for costs applications.

During the legal year 2016–17, Juliet was Judicial Assistant to Lord Justice Jackson at the Court of Appeal, and worked closely with him on his 2017 Supplemental Report on Fixed Recoverable Costs (which led ultimately to the introduction of the new CPR 45 regime in 2023).

Achievements

Education, Scholarships and Awards

Magdalen College, University of Oxford: BA Jurisprudence (2014)

BPP Law School, London: BPTC (2016, Outstanding)

Inner Temple, Internship Award

BPP Law School, Advocacy Scholarship

Inner Temple, Major Scholarship

Inner Temple, Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award

University of Oxford, Shearman and Sterling Moot Prize

University of Oxford, Holdsworth Society Moot Prize

Appointments

Attorney General's London C panel

Public International Law C panel

Government of the British Virgin Islands Panel of Counsel

Professional Memberships

Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Bar European Group (BEG)

Collective Redress Lawyers Association (CORLA)

Commercial Bar Association (Combar)

Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)

Additional Information

For the legal year 2016-17, Juliet was Judicial Assistant to Lord Justices Jackson, Flaux and Tomlinson at the Court of Appeal. Before coming to the Bar, she held research posts at UCL and Oxford University, specialising in constitutional law and civil procedure. She maintains her academic interest in civil procedure, and was the general editor of *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure: Principles of Practice* (4th Ed. Sweet & Maxwell, 2021). She contributed five chapters to the recent 5th edition (Sweet & Maxwell, 2025), and has taught aspects of civil procedure on Oxford University's BCL course.

> ***Juliet is good in hard cases and is good with vulnerable defendants. Her forte is exceptional written advocacy***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

> ***She is detail-oriented, sharp and self-assured***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2026

> ***She is an excellent advocate with an ability to explain complex or unusual points in a clear, succinct and persuasive manner. Her technical knowledge is fantastic***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2026

> ***Juliet has an excellent, analytical approach to cases.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

> ***Juliet is an excellent professional, she is detail-oriented, sharp and assertive. She is a well-read person with impeccable legal background, and a very friendly person. She manages to raise every team member to her level of expectation and quality.***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2026

> ***Juliet works far above and beyond her level of call. She comes across as a very knowledgeable practitioner.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

> *Juliet is adept at handling complex and novel legal issues. She is always well prepared and is a very compelling advocate*

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

> *Juliet is an up-and-coming barrister of real promise – her written advocacy is forceful and concise, much like her oral advocacy.*

LEGAL 500, 2024

> *Juliet has done extremely well in cross-examination; she is well prepared, fair and tough.*

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2024