

## Natasha Barnes

Call 2010

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CHAMBERS

## Clerks

 Neil Wright  
 0151 242 8814 Nick Buckley  
 0161 817 2757 Ian Spencer  
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## Appointments

Attorney General's Panel of Civil Counsel  
A Counsel – September 2022

## Education

Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn): July 2010

BVC at BBP Law School, London – *James Crouch Scholar*

CPE at City Law School, London – *Gray's Inn Scholar*

BA Hons in History at Cambridge  
– *Dorothy Forster Sturman Scholar, Ligner Scholar*

## Public Law &amp; Judicial Review

Natasha is instructed in high-profile judicial review claims and appeals in cases primarily concerning national security and immigration. She appears in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Special Immigration Appeals Commission, High Court and Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

## Cases

*Supreme Court*

- *Secretary of State for Northern Ireland v Coroner Fee*: Advocate to the Supreme Court in the appeal concerning disclosure made during an inquest into an individual's murder in Belfast during the Troubles
- *R (AAA & Ors) v SSHD [2023] UKSC 42*: Led by Lord Pannick and Sir James Eadie KC in the challenge to the Home Secretary's plan to transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda.
- *R (TN & US) v SSHD [2021] UKSC 41*: Led by Robin Tam KC in lead case concerning the lawfulness of the Detained Fast Track Rules 2005.

*Court of Appeal*

- *R (GA) v SSHD [2022] EWCA Civ 304*: Sole counsel against Stephen Cragg KC in an appeal against SIAC's dismissal of GA's review against the SSHD's decision to refuse him naturalisation.
- *R (MS) v SSHD [2021] EWCA Civ 1676*: Sole counsel against Tim Buley KC in case concerning whether a grant of interim relief should be treated as success for the purposes of costs in a judicial review.
- *Third Direction Claim [2021] EWCA Civ 330*: Led by Sir James Eadie KC in challenge to MI5's policy pursuant to which MI5's

agents are authorised to participate in crime. The Court stated that the case ‘raises one of the most profound issues which can face a democratic society governed by the rule of law’.

- *The ‘Child Spies’ Case [2019] EWHC 1772 (Admin)*: Led by Sir James Eadie KC in challenge to SSHD’s use of children as Covert Human Intelligence Sources.
- *Pham v SSHD [2018] EWCA Civ 2064*: Junior counsel to Robin Tam KC in a high-profile appeal against SIAC’s strike out of an appeal against the deprivation of Pham’s citizenship after he was sentenced to 40 years’ imprisonment for terrorist offences in the U.S.

#### *Investigatory Powers Tribunal*

- *Operation Venetic [2023] UKIPTrib3*: Led by Sir James Eadie KC and David Perry KC in lead cases challenging the NCA’s obtaining of data from EncroChat, an encrypted criminal communications platform. This case is critical to the NCA as the data has resulted in 250 convictions and seizure of >£75m / 5,000kg cocaine.
- *Techen [2023] UKIPTrib1*: Led by Sir James Eadie KC in a claim challenging the way in which MI5 holds warranted data.

#### *SIAC*

- *D9 v SSHD*: Sole counsel against Martin Goudie KC in a review against SSHD’s decision to exclude D9 on grounds of national security.

#### *High Court*

- *Unite & Ors v Secretary of State for Work & Pensions (Ongoing)*: High profile challenge to the Government’s decision to restrict those pensioners who are entitled to an annual Winter Fuel Payment.
- *TransActual CIC and another v. the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and another [2024] EWHC 1937 (Admin)*: Appeared as junior counsel in a high profile challenge to the Secretary of State for Health’s decision to impose an emergency ban on puberty blockers. The ban prohibited the dispensing of puberty blockers to children and young persons suffering from gender dysphoria / incongruence, on the basis of prescriptions issued by private and online providers. The High Court upheld the lawfulness of the Secretary of State’s Order and dismissed all grounds for judicial review.
- *R (Cabinet Office) v Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry [2023] EWHC 1702 (Admin)*: Junior counsel in high-profile challenge to the decision of the Covid-19 Inquiry to compel the Government to provide it with certain WhatsApp message threads involving the former Prime Minister and other high-ranking officials.
- *Saifullah v MOD*: Instructed by the Ministry of Defence in high-

profile litigation concerning allegations that British Special Forces unlawfully killed Afghan civilians.

- *R (Taggart) v Royal College of Surgeons*: Acted for a consultant surgeon (led by Jeremy Hyam KC) in claim raising whether the Royal College of Surgeons is amenable to Judicial Review.

## Recommendations

Client/solicitor testimonials and legal directory recommendations:

2024:

Chambers and Partners

Ranked in:

- Immigration: *"She is clear, direct and a pleasure to work with. She is incredibly clever and really in demand." "Formidable but fair."*
- Administrative & Public Law: *"Natasha is really impressive and she has a very collaborative approach to working." "She is very clever and hard-working."*
- Tax: *"Both an excellent drafter and really good on her feet." "A very confident advocate, who presents authoritatively."*
- Civil Liberties and Human Rights: *"I am trying and failing to think of a better junior. Her written work is up there with any barrister I can think of. She is clear, direct and a pleasure to work with. Incredibly clever and really in demand."*

The Legal 500

Ranked in:

- Tax – VAT and Excise: *Rising Star*
- Administrative Law and Human Rights: *Leading Junior*
- Immigration: *"Natasha is extremely bright, quick to see the key points in a case and very good on her feet. She has a real in-depth knowledge of Immigration law."*

2023:

Chambers & Partners

Ranked in:

- Tax: *"Natasha is great at cross-examining and compelling in terms of her oral submissions". "She is very crisp and on point with submissions, and just an excellent advocate"*
- Administrative & Public Law: *"Natasha is a really excellent junior:*

*very bright, efficient and utterly dependable". "She is extremely good with clients and really nice to work with".*

- Civil Liberties: *"An excellent practitioner"*

Legal 500:

Ranked in:

- Administrative Law & Human Rights: *'Superb written work. Excellent client skills. A very reliable team player.'*
- Immigration: *'Superb written work. Excellent client skills. A very reliable team player.'*
- VAT & Excise: *A rising star.*

2022:

Chambers & Partners

Ranked in:

- Administrative & Public Law: *'She is incredibly diligent, reliable and an excellent team member. It's a really great experience working with her.'* *'A fantastic, extremely hard-working junior barrister.'*
- Human Rights: *'Natasha Barnes is brilliant. I would recommend her very highly.'*
- Immigration: *'An intelligent and thoughtful junior who is impressive.'*
- Indirect Tax: *'She argues her cases well, is bright and has great judgment.'* *'She is hard-working and has a very strong understanding of tax law.'*

Legal 500:

Ranked in:

- Administrative & Public Law: *'She is very clever and hard-working. She has great judgement – you feel much better knowing that she is in the team.'*
- Immigration: *'Very thorough and one of the best juniors around at drafting.'*
- VAT: *'Extremely hard working and a strategic thinker. Excellent client manner. Efficient. Responsive. A pleasure to work with. A highly talented all rounder.'*

Comments from previous directories:

- *'She is very responsible and always goes the extra mile. Very bright and easy to get along with'. 'She is very responsible and always goes the extra mile.'* (C&P 2021)

- *'A rising star with enormous capacity for hard work. She grasps the technical detail extremely well and is superb on her feet too.'* (Legal 500 2020).

## Beyond the Bar

Away from work, Natasha loves the outdoors and enjoys trying to improve her cooking.