

Natasha Barnes

Call 2010

Clerks' Details

 Neil Wright
 0151 242 8814

 Nick Buckley
 0161 817 2757

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

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

Overview CV

Natasha Barnes is a highly-regarded junior who acts in a variety of sensitive and complex cases focusing on judicial review, indirect tax and other areas of public and human rights law. She appears before the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, the Administrative Court and the Tribunals (Tax and Immigration Chambers).

Natasha advises a wide spectrum of clients including individuals, companies, public authorities and government departments. She is a member of the Attorney General's A Panel.

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".*

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.'*

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.'*

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).

Cases

Business and Property:

Court of Appeal

- **HMRC v Ampleward [2021] EWCA Civ 1459:** Lead counsel (leading Paul Reynolds) against Kieron Beal QC in £40 million test case concerning the lawfulness of the 'fall back' provisions. The Court of Appeal complimented Natasha's 'outstandingly able' submissions in the course of its decision.
- **HMRC v Life Services [2020] EWCA Civ 452:** Led by Jonathan Davey KC in lead appeal about whether the UK can treat supplies of welfare services differently for VAT purposes across its devolved nations.

Upper Tribunal

- **King's Lynn Borough Council v HMRC:** could we amend to: Borough Council of Kings Lynn v HMRC [2022] UKUT 00326: Acting on behalf of a local authority in the Upper Tribunal in a challenge to HMRC's decision concerning the correct VAT treatment of pay-as-you-go parking.
- **Zeman v HMRC [2021] UKUT 182:** Sole counsel against Adrian Essa KC in appeal concerning whether the FTT can consider public law challenges in a statutory appeal. Listed in Tax Journal as a key case of 2021.
- **MCL v HMRC [2021] UKUT 292:** Sole counsel in a 2-day appeal concerning when a supplier can establish that its customer was 'usually resident' outside the Community.
- **LGT v HMRC [2021] UKUT 36:** Appeal concerning whether supplies of family accommodation placements were exempt from VAT as 'welfare supplies'.

First-tier Tribunal

- **DFS v HMRC [2022] UKFTT 153:** Lead counsel (leading Paul Reynolds) against Valentina Sloane KC in 2-week high-value VAT partial exemption dispute between HMRC and DFS (a FTSE company with £1 billion annual turnover).
- **Credit Suisse v HMRC:** Led by Owain Thomas KC in an appeal concerning the correct treatment of IT supplies. The value of the appeal is estimated at more than £100 million.
- **XX v HMRC:** Appeal concerning extent to which one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies can recover input tax on supplies of marketing services under the Tour Operators Margins Scheme.
- **Greencyc v HMRC:** Lead counsel (leading Rajkiran Barhey) in MTIC appeal.

Public Law & JR:

Supreme Court

- **AAA & Ors v SSHD:** Led by Lord Pannick and Sir James Eadie KC in the ongoing 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

- **MS v SSHD:** 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.
- **GA v SSHD:** 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.
- **Third Direction Claim:** 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:** Led by Sir James Eadie KC in challenge to SSHD's use of children as Covert Human Intelligence Sources.
- **Pham v. SSHD:** 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:** 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 Claim:** 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

- **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.