



SARA MANSOORI

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Civil actions against the Police
Election Law
EU Law
Human Rights
Inquests and Inquiries
Media and Information Law
Mediation
Public Law
Sports Law

Called to the Bar 1997

CONTACT:

saramansoori@matrixlaw.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7404 3447
Alison Scanes, Senior Practice
Manager
alisonscanes@matrixlaw.co.uk

Sara is a leading junior in the fields of media and information law, with wide-ranging experience and a high quality practice. Before joining Matrix she was a tenant at 5RB and a Senior Lawyer at the Ministry of Justice. She is recommended as a leading junior in the 2018 Chambers and Partners as being "An incredibly intelligent person, who recalls and processes information in a short period of time. She is insightful and always prepared to offer many different solutions and angles to the case." "She's a good person to have on sensitive cases, because she's very sympathetic with clients." "She is very down to earth and practical, and an astute strategist." She is also recommended as a leading junior in the Legal 500 in the areas of Defamation and Privacy and IT and Telecoms (including Data Protection) as "An extremely talented and effective barrister"; and in Media and Entertainment "Her advice and judgement are sound and she instils confidence in clients". She was named in the 'Hot 100' lawyers in The Lawyer in 2013.

Sara is an ADR Group Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator.

Her practice covers many areas of work, including: Media Law; Defamation; Privacy and Confidence; Contract; Contempt; Injunctive Relief (including urgent injunctions); Intellectual Property; Copyright; Data Protection; Dispute Resolution & Negotiation; Norwich Pharmacal Orders; Internet law; Mediation; Actions against the Police; General Common Law; Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Information; Harassment; Malicious falsehood; Human Rights; ECHR Interventions; Inquests; Media Compliance & Regulation; Judicial Review; and Pre-Publication Advice.

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY:

Chambers & Partners 2019 ranks Sara for Data Protection and Defamation & Privacy – **"She has a very good manner with clients and exceptional attention to detail."** **"Exceptionally hard-working, very thorough and a good team player."**

Legal 500 2018 recommends Sara for Defamation & Privacy, Media & Entertainment and IT & Telecoms (including data protection) – **"Very competent, exceptionally thorough."** **"She instils trust and confidence in both clients and instructing solicitors."**

Chambers & Partners 2017 recommend Sara for Defamation & Privacy and Data Protection. She is described as **"Absolutely first-class. She has a very good manner with clients and shows exceptional attention to detail."** **"She has an impressive ability to digest complicated cases and cut to the key issues."** (C&P 2017, Defamation & Privacy)

"She is very considered, very good at thinking through the nuances of cases and has an extremely good mastery of the detail." **"She has very good judgement and is extremely experienced."** (C&P 2017, Data Protection)

Legal 500 2016 recommend Sara in Defamation & Privacy, Data Protection and Media & Entertainment. She is described as **"Extremely capable"** (L500 2016, Defamation & Privacy), **"Very knowledgeable"** (L500 2016, Data Protection), and **"Good to work with"** (L500 2016, Media & Entertainment).

SIGNIFICANT CASES

Lord Sheikh v Associated Newspapers [2019] EWHC 2947 (QB)

Junior Counsel for the Claimant in trial of a preliminary issue on meaning, and whether the article was fact or opinion, in relation to an Article published on the MailOnline. Warby J found the article was essentially factual reporting of the claimant's conduct and that there were two comments, one of which was a reader's comment.

ZXC v Bloomberg [2019] EWHC 970 (QB)

Junior Counsel for Claimant in successful privacy and DPA claim against Bloomberg in respect of an article published on www.bloomberg.com based on a Letter of Request which revealed that the Claimant was a suspect of a crime. Mr Justice Nicklin awarded the Claimant £25,000 damages and an injunction.

Infinis Ltd (formerly ABA) and 7 ors v Benn and Accounting for Energy, 13 March 2019, HHJ Worster

Counsel for the Defendant against 8 Claimant companies that were seeking anonymity orders and hearings in private, prior to issuing any claim. The Defendants successfully resisted the application and it was refused.

Heather and Fiona Mills v NGN; David Tennant v NGN; & Various Claimants v NGN

Junior Counsel for Heather & Fiona Mills in their phone hacking claim against NGN which settled very shortly before trial (due to start on 4 February 2019). Previously instructed by six claimants, including David Tennant and Colin Jackson, in their misuse of private information claims against NGN for publications in the News of the World arising out of phone hacking. Many claims also involved the obtaining and use of private information using private investigators. All claims successfully settled with the payment of damages, costs and the provisions of undertaking by NGN. Sara continues to act for the Various Claimants in the mobile telephone litigation against NGN.

Various Claimants v MGN Ltd [2019] EWCA Civ 250

Junior Counsel for Claimants in successfully defending an appeal by Mirror Group Newspapers against an order by Mr Justice Mann that it claimed would give rise to a real risk of providing material that could reveal the identity of a confidential source. Sara continues to act for Various Claimants in the mobile telephone litigation against Mirror Group.

Secretary of State for Home Dept v TLU and TLV [2018] EWCA 2217

Junior Counsel for Respondents in privacy/DPA appeal. Successfully defended appeal by Home Office who argued that as TLU nor TLV were not named in the relevant spreadsheet it did not refer to them and they were not entitled to damages for misuse of private information or breach of DPA.

Bains & others v Moore & K2 [2018]

Junior Counsel for Claimants, who are/were anti-asbestos campaigners, in their action against Rob Moore, who befriended them claiming to want to make an anti-asbestos film but who in fact was being paid by the anti-asbestos industry (via K2) between 2012 and 2016 to spy on them. Claim for breach of confidence, misuse of private information and breach of the data protection act. Action settled in 2018 with payment of substantial damages and costs.

Zipporah Lisle-Mainwaring v Associated Newspaper Limited [2017] EWHC 543 (QB)

Junior Counsel in assessment of damages hearing for

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Claimant in respect of two articles in the Daily Mail which made serious defamatory and untrue allegations, accusing her (amongst other things) of renegeing on promises to make financial and property commitments to the family of her late husband and therefore betraying her late husband's trust. The Claimant was awarded £54,000 under the offer of amends procedure (£90,000 with a discount of 40%).

Barron & others v Collins [2017] EWHC 162 (QB) Junior Counsel for three Labour MPs in libel action against UKIP MEP over defamatory allegations made by MEP in the run up to the 2015 General Election. The MEP's application to rely on EU Parliamentary immunity was dismissed, as was her application to 'vacate' her offer of amends. Ordered to pay each of the three claimants £54,000 under the offer of amends procedure (£10,000 in damages for slander; £50,000 for libel; with a discount of 10%).

Finsbury Park Mosque v Reuters Limited Junior Counsel for Claimant Mosque in libel action over the listing of it in the "terrorism" category on WorldCheck. The action settled and there was a Statement in Open Court read on 1 February 2017 before HHJ Parkes QC.

TLT and Others v Home Office [2016] EWHC 2217 (QB) Counsel for six claimants in a data protection and misuse of private information claim against the Home Office arising out of a data breach and the accidental publication of the details relating to over 1500 lead applicants for asylum / leave to remain on its website.

Countess of Caledon v The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v Anne Craig [2016] EWHC 2214 (QB) Counsel for Interested Party in Norwich Pharmacal trial in which the Applicant sought disclosure of information arising out of the criminal investigation into the Interested Party (which resulted in no charges brought against her).

Barron v Vines [2016] EWHC 1226 (QB) Junior Counsel for two Labour MPs in libel action against UKIP Councillor.

Axon v MOD [2016] EWHC 883 (QB) Junior Counsel for Claimant in misuse of private information case against MOD arising out of Operation Elveden.

Coulson, Reed and Lawcock v Wilby [2015 - 2016] Counsel for three IPCC workers in harassment claim against the author of a blog. The action settled shortly before trial.

Ahuja v Politika & others [2015] EWHC 3380 (QB) Junior Counsel in case concerning the interpretation of Section 9 of the Defamation Act 2013.

OPO v James Rhodes & Another [2015] UKSC 32. Junior counsel for the concert pianist, Mr. Rhodes, in his successful appeal to the UKSC which unanimously allowed the publication of his memoir.

Max Mosley v Google [2015] EWHC 59 (QB) Junior Counsel for Mr Mosley in his data protection and privacy claim against Google concerning the reappearance of the claimant's images on the search engine despite a court ruling in 2008 that they were a breach of his right to privacy.

The Leveson Inquiry. Counsel for the Core Participant Victims in, Part II: The Press & the Police.

NGN Compensation Scheme for Voicemail Interception. Appointed as one of four Scheme Counsel.

Hunt v Times Newspapers Ltd [2013] EWHC 1868 (QB) (junior counsel for claimant in libel action concerning allegations that he was the head of an organized crime group involved in murder, drug trafficking and fraud.)

Racecourse Media Group Ltd & Anor v Siers [2012] (claim for breach of confidence and breach of contract. The claimants alleged that the defendant

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disclosed confidential information in the Oxera Summary. The court found that the defendant acted in breach of contract by disclosing information).

Bento v Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police [2012] EWHC 1525 (QB) (junior counsel for the claimant in successful libel action against Bedfordshire Police who issued a Press Release suggesting that the claimant probably killed his girlfriend after his conviction was quashed. The claimant was awarded £125,000 damages).

Ferdinand v MGN Limited [2011] EWHC 2454 (QB) (the claimant argued that an article published in the Sunday Mirror and on the newspaper's website was an unjustified infringement of his right to privacy, a misuse of his private information and a breach of confidence. The court had to consider whether ECHR, art 8 or art 10 prevailed. Although the claimant's ECHR, art 8 rights were engaged, art 10 prevailed as there was a public interest in publishing the article in correcting a false image and because the claimant could be seen as a role model given his position as the Captain of the England football team).

Christopher Hutcheson (formerly known as KGM) v News Group Newspapers and others [2011] EWCA Civ 808 (counsel for the appellant. Whether the appellant could appeal for an interim injunction to prevent the publication of confidential information. Held: ECHR, art 8 could be "engaged" in the sense that the information related to family life without it necessarily following that there was a reasonable expectation of privacy. The striking of the balance between ECHR, art 8 and art 10, would depend on the facts of each case. The public interest in exposing the appellant's misappropriation of corporate funds by the respondent outweighed his reasonable expectation of privacy).

CTB v News Group Newspapers Ltd & Imogen Thomas [2011] EWHC 1334 (QB) (counsel for the Claimant where the court was required to determine whether to continue an injunction restraining the applicant newspaper from publishing details of a footballer's alleged involvement in an adulterous relationship, despite the fact that he had been named on the internet. In so far as the purpose of the injunction was to prevent intrusion or harassment, the injunction had not failed. The order was still effective to protect them from taunting and other harassment in the print media).

CTB v News Group Newspapers Ltd & Imogen Thomas [2011] EWHC 1232 (QB) (counsel for the Claimant in a privacy injunction case brought by a footballer to prevent publication of the fact of, and details about, his affair with the Second Defendant. The Court continued the injunction until trial or further order, having found that the Claimant had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information in issue and there was no public interest in support of publication).

Trafigura v Leigh Day, 2008/9 (junior counsel for Leigh Day in libel action involving one of the largest independent commodities traders and events which took place in Amsterdam and the Ivory Coast which raised issues of personal injury law, foreign law, shipping law and environmental law).

Sophie Dahl v Express Newspapers, 2009 (counsel for the Claimant in passing off and data protection claim).

Sir Martin Sorrell v Bennatti & others, 2007 (junior counsel for Sir Martin Sorrell in the first joint Internet libel and privacy case in relation to online publications).

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Gina Ford v Mumsnet, 2007 (counsel for Gina Ford in high profile case involving publications on an Internet message board).

Victor Chandler (International) & Ors v Murray (counsel for sports betting company in action against former employee who had disclosed confidential information in this jurisdiction and abroad).

David & Victoria Beckham v News Groups Newspapers Ltd, 2006 (junior counsel for the Beckhams in their libel action against The News of the World).

David & Victoria Beckham v Abbie Gibson, 2006 (junior counsel for the Beckhams in breach of contract/confidence action against their former nanny).

Culnane v Morris & Naidu, 2005 (successfully fought High Court jury libel trial as sole advocate for defendant Liberal Democrat councillor & his agent against a BNP councillor in a case involving issues of election law).

Simpson v Vale of Aylesbury PCT, 2005 (successfully fought High Court jury libel trial as sole advocate for the defendant PCT in a case involving employment references and employment law).

Rackham v Sandy & Ors, 2005 (junior counsel for defendant directors in judge-alone libel trial involving commercial and company legal issues).

Sheikha Mouza al Misnad v Azzaman Ltd & Others, 2003 (junior counsel for wife of the Emir of Qatar in libel action involving Reynolds Qualified Privilege and foreign jurisdiction).

Lillie and Reed v Newcastle City Council & Ors, 2002 (junior counsel for the City Council in one of the longest judge alone libel trials, this case relating to the publication of a local authority report on alleged wide scale child abuse).

Berezovsky v Forbes Inc & Another, 2001 (junior counsel for the defendant US publisher in libel action brought by Russian businessman involving foreign jurisdiction issues).

Rupert Allason v Random House UK Limited, 2001 (junior counsel for defendant publisher in intellectual property trial).

LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of "Online Publication Claims: A Practical Guide" (Dec 2017)

Speaker at Matrix 'Open Justice' Seminar, Nov 2017

Speaker at Protecting the Media Conference 2016

Speaker at the Matrix/Unison Seminar on the DPA, FOIA and DBS, July 2015

Speaker at The White Conference on Defamation and Media, November 2014

Speaker at the Matrix Information Seminar: Privacy and Social Media, March 2014

Speaker at the JUSTICE Human Rights Conference on 'Privacy, Defamation and Super-Injunctions', October 2011

Speaker at the 2-day MOJ 'Introduction to Information Law' on Freedom of Information and Data Protection, January 2011 and March 2011

Speaker at The Human Rights Law Conference 2007 on 'Privacy and Freedom of Expression – the media and human rights'

Speaker at the 5RB Conference 'Media, Image and Sports Law in 21st Century' in Sept 2006 on 'Jurisdiction in Libel and Privacy Internet Cases'

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Regular contributor to the Inform Blog

Co-author of 'The Law of Privacy and the Media' (2002, OUP)

QUALIFICATIONS

1998 3rd six month pupillage at 5RB

1997-1998 Pupillage at Brick Court Chambers

1997 Called to the Bar

1996-1997 BVC (Very Competent)

1992-1995 The University of Leeds

LLB (Hons.) (First Class)

CAREER

2015 Accredited as ADR Mediator (Civil and Commercial)

2011 to date Barrister at Matrix

2009-2011 Senior Lawyer at Ministry of Justice Head of Information Team in the Human Rights and Information Team

1998-2009 Barrister at 5RB

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