

Laura Rees-Evans

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER HISTORY

- Fietta, associate (2016 onward)
- Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, associate (2015-2016)
- Volterra Fietta, associate (2012-2015)
- Linklaters LLP, trainee solicitor (2010-2012) (with 6-month secondment to UBS, advising on data protection, intellectual property and commercial agreements)
- European Commission Delegation to the United Nations, legal and disarmament affairs (2009)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Laura is an English-qualified solicitor. Laura has wide-ranging experience in public international law and international disputes. She has a particular interest in boundary disputes, treaty interpretation, State responsibility, responsibility of international organisations, State immunity, immunity of international organisations, international human rights law (including business and human rights) and international humanitarian law.

Laura has acted for both claimants and respondent States in international investment arbitrations under all of the major arbitral rules (ICSID, SCC, UNCITRAL), as well as in *ad hoc* inter-State and commercial (LCIA) proceedings. She has also advised on a variety of international law issues before domestic courts.

Recent highlights of Laura's practice are advising an energy investor on the possible outcomes, and implications for its investment, of a pending maritime boundary delimitation proceeding; representing a State in a pending Energy Charter Treaty dispute brought pursuant to the UNCITRAL Rules; advising a company on an investment treaty claim involving questions over the extent of a State's "right to regulate"; advising an individual on issues relating to the immunity and responsibility of an international organisation; advising the United States of America on issues of sovereign immunity relating to an employment dispute brought before the courts of England & Wales arising out of the US's military presence in the UK pursuant to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement; and advising Malaysia in its *ad hoc* arbitration against Singapore conducted under the aegis of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Prior to joining Fietta, Laura worked as an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and Volterra Fietta. She qualified at Linklaters LLP, a 'magic circle' law firm in London. Prior to qualifying as an English solicitor, Laura worked as a legal and disarmament affairs advisor (1st and 6th Committees of the General Assembly) at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York, where she represented the European Commission in connection with a range of issues including reform of the UN sanctions regimes in the context of the Kadi challenges, the International Law Commission week, and in the negotiations of the General Assembly Resolution on the Law of the Sea (2009).

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

LLM in International Legal Studies (2008), New York University
Graduate editor of the Journal of International Law and Politics
Research Assistant to Professor Benedict Kingsbury

M.A. in Jurisprudence, with Law Studies in Italy (first class honours) (2007), University of Oxford
President of the Worcester College Law Society (2004-5)

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- L. Rees-Evans, "Secession and the use of Force in International Law", Cambridge Student Law Review (2008), Volume 4 (2), p. 249.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Laura's contentious practice have included:

- Advising a State in defending an investment treaty claim brought pursuant to the Energy Charter Treaty and conducted under the UNCITRAL Rules (cannot be named for reasons of client confidentiality)
- Advising a US law firm in connection with an ICSID arbitration involving an EU State
- Advising a Luxembourg entity in an investment treaty arbitration proceeding against an Eastern European State conducted pursuant to the SCC Rules
- Advising a major international company on a potential dispute against an Asian State
- Advising the United States of America in defending an employment claim before the UK Employment Tribunal raising issues of sovereign immunity (Harrington v. The United States of America (UK Employment Tribunal Case 1807940/2013))
- Advising an individual on various strategies for pursuing a claim against an international organisation, either in domestic courts or before an international tribunal, arising out of the organisation's involvement in peacekeeping operations, including advising on issues of immunity of international organisations
- Advising Malaysia in the Railway Land Arbitration (Malaysia/Singapore) (under the auspices of the PCA)
- Advising the Claimant in Vigotop Limited (Cyprus) v. Hungary (ICSID)
- Advising the Government of Croatia in an UNCITRAL Rules arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty
- Representing a commercial agent (which cannot be named for reasons of client confidentiality) in an *ad hoc* arbitration concerning commissions payable under a representation agreement with a surveillance and defence equipment supplier in four Middle Eastern States, including a USC §1782 application for document production
- Advising an international bank (which cannot be named for reasons of client confidentiality) on litigation (including arbitration) arising from the unwinding of an OSLA and negotiating a standstill agreement in relation to such litigation
- Advising an Asian law firm representing an individual in an LCIA arbitration

Other highlights of Laura's practice have included:

- Advising an energy investor on the possible outcomes, and implications for its investment, of a pending maritime boundary delimitation proceeding
- Advising a major international oil company on sovereignty issues relating to an oil concession located in disputed waters (cannot be named for reasons of client confidentiality)
- Advising a State on strategies for pursuing its maritime delimitation with a neighbour
- Advising on treaty law relating to declarations and reservations under the Law of the Sea Convention
- Advising a State on issues of treaty interpretation relating to a regional human rights convention
- Advising a major UK multinational company on the legal implications of bilateral investment treaties for purposes of structuring planned investments in Eastern Europe

- Advising the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on various public international law issues
- Advising a corporation on the application of European human rights law in the context of an intellectual property dispute
- Advising a South East Asian non-governmental organisation on the development of English human rights law
- Devising and delivering a practical training course in legal opinion writing to government lawyers of an Asian State
- Devising and delivering a practical training course in public international law to government lawyers of an Asian State
- Providing training to an in-house legal team on corporate responsibility for human rights in light of the “Ruggie Guidelines”
- Providing training to the in-house legal team of a major oil company on maritime delimitation
- Providing training to litigation and corporate lawyers at one of her previous law firms on drafting arbitration clauses
- Representing the European Commission in the negotiation of the General Assembly Resolution on the Law of the Sea
- Representing the European Commission in debates in the General Assembly on disarmament issues, including the Arms Trade Treaty

Highlights of Laura’s pro bono advisory and contentious work include:

- Representing an individual before an Immigration Tribunal and successfully securing his release from an immigration detention centre
- Advising the Cambodian Center for Human Rights on human rights reform, as part of a project aimed at combatting discrimination against LGBT people in Cambodia

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Italian (advanced), French (basic)