

Laura Rees-Evans

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER HISTORY

- Fietta LLP, senior associate (2017 onward), associate (2016)
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom (on secondment from Fietta LLP, October 2018-March 2019)
- Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, associate (2015-2016)
- Volterra Fietta, associate (2012-2015)
- Linklaters LLP, trainee solicitor (2010-2012) (with 6-month secondment to UBS)
- European Commission Delegation to the United Nations, legal and disarmament affairs advisor (2009)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Laura is an English-qualified solicitor and Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Civil Proceedings). Laura has wide-ranging experience in public international law and international disputes. Her practice particularly focuses on the law of the sea, 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 is a founding board member of the Young Public International Law Group, a network of public international law practitioners from law firms, the bar, international organisations, governments and academic institutions around the world.

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 (including State immunity, enforcement of arbitral awards, and set-aside proceedings). Laura recently returned to Fietta LLP from a six-month secondment to the United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, where she was advising the British Government on public international law issues arising out of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

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 various 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, "Litigating the Use of Force: Reflections on the Interaction Between Investor-State Dispute Settlement and Other Forms of International Dispute Settlement in the Context of the Conflict in Ukraine" in EYIEL, Katia Fach Gómez et al. (Eds.): *International Investment Law and the Law of Armed Conflict*, (forthcoming, 2019)
- L. Rees-Evans, "B. Cheng, *General Principles of Law as Applied by International Courts and Tribunals*, 1953, *Comment*" Ch. 18 in *British Contributions to International Law 1915-2015, An Anthology Set*, Barrett & Gauci (Eds.), 29 May 2019
- Presenting on international dispute settlement in the context of the conflict in Ukraine at the Colloquium on "International Investment Law & the Law of Armed Conflict", National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 6 October 2017
- LexisPSL interview on "Brexit implications for the dispute resolution and international trade lawyer", 26 October 2016
- L. Rees-Evans, "Secession and the Use of Force in International Law", *Cambridge Student Law Review* (2008), Volume 4 (2), p. 249
- 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 various topics in public international law to government lawyers of an Asian State
- Providing training to in-house legal teams on corporate responsibility for human rights in light of the "Ruggie Guidelines" and maritime delimitation, and to litigation and corporate lawyers at one of her previous law firms on drafting arbitration clauses

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Laura's contentious practice have included:

- Advising Malaysia in the Railway Land Arbitration (Malaysia/Singapore) (under the auspices of the PCA)
- 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 a State in defending an investment treaty claim brought pursuant to the Energy Charter Treaty and conducted under the UNCITRAL Rules
- Advising the Government of Croatia in an UNCITRAL Rules arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty
- Advising PL Holdings S.a r.l., a Luxembourg company, in its SCC arbitration against the Republic of Poland brought pursuant to an intra-EU BIT
- Representing Big Sky Energy Corporation, a US oil company, in a pending ICSID arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against the Republic of Kazakhstan

- Representing a Finnish national in a pending UNCITRAL arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Egypt in relation to an iron ore and steel producing concession
- Advising the claimant in *Vigotop Limited (Cyprus) v. Hungary* (ICSID)
- 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 a major international company on a potential dispute against an Asian State
- Representing a commercial agent 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 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

Highlights of Laura's public international law advisory practice have included:

- Advising the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on various public international law issues
- Devising a practical training course in maritime features in maritime boundary delimitation for government lawyers of an Asian State
- Advising an Asian State on the obligations of self-restraint and cooperation under Articles 74(3) and 83(3) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Advising a State on strategies for pursuing its maritime delimitation with a neighbour, including in relation to its submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
- Advising a State 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 an international investor on State immunity issues in the context of enforcement of an arbitral award under a BIT against a European State
- Advising an energy investor on the possible outcomes, and implications for its investment, of a pending maritime boundary delimitation proceeding
- Advising a number of major international oil companies on sovereignty issues relating to oil concessions located in disputed waters
- Advising a major UK multinational company on the legal implications of bilateral investment treaties for purposes of structuring planned investments in Eastern Europe
- Advising a corporation on the application of European human rights law in the context of an intellectual property dispute
- Advising a regional customs union on issues of treaty interpretation
- 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)