

## Representative Legal Matters

Francesca Richmond

### **Commercial, competition and class action litigation**

- Leading defence for Barclays Bank of civil claims for damage following on from regulatory investigations on FX, including bundled claims pursued by 174 funds in the High Court and two opt out class actions in the UK.
- Defending an international technology company from mass litigation in the UK regarding forced labour and human rights infringements alleged to have occurred in its APAC supply chain.
- Defending a major UK publisher in a group action pursued by high profile claimants alleging misuse of private information obtained by unlawful means.
- Acting for sports data provider on claims regarding alleged expropriation and misuse of data across 19 jurisdictions and defence of allegation that protection of rights amounts to an abuse of dominant position.
- Defended a cryptocurrency exchange from allegations of inducement to breach contract and theft of intellectual property valued at up to USD 30 million.
- Defended L'Oréal on challenge to selective distribution agreement brought by aspirant distributor and pursuit of ancillary debt claim.
- Acting for a global automotive parts manufacturer in defending claims across the UK, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands following on from regulatory investigations in respect of car parts.
- Defending an EU manufacturer of technical and comfort foam on claims following on from a settlement with the European Commission.
- Acting for a global electronics manufacturer on defence of claims following on from regulatory investigations in respect of microchips.
- Advised a European medical devices manufacturer on contentious competition litigation strategy and securing supply from a dominant upstream manufacturer.

### **Regulatory investigations and enforcement**

- Advised a global social media platform in relation to alleged misuse of 86 million users' data and defence of regulatory investigations on data privacy, consumer and competition breaches across 36 jurisdictions. Included appeal of sanctions imposed by the UK Information Commissioner on grounds of fairness and interpretation of law.

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- Acted for a global investment bank in coordinating intensive audit over a two year period of all business areas and 5,500 employees - including follow up investigation and reporting on a number of regulatory matters arising from that work to UK and EU authorities.
- Advised a US/UK industrial goods manufacturer on audit and investigation of cultural and regulatory issues extending to systems and controls to manage integrity, harassment and bullying as well as recommended remediation and training arising from that work.
- Acted for worldwide logistics service provider in judicial review of decision by the Secretary of State for transport to award subsidies to ferry operations in 2020.
- Acted on behalf of a major mobile telephone network operator in the judicial review of the European Roaming Regulation and resulting preliminary reference to the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- Acted for a lottery operator on judicial review of the lawfulness of local lottery operations.

## **Ethics, human rights and compliance**

- Human rights due diligence counsel for a multinational networking and telecommunications company.
- Devised and implemented global operating framework on human rights in respect of goods and services for global professional services company with leading capabilities in digital, cloud and security.
- Advised global plantation company on human rights risk remediation arising in respect of local plantation labour practices in Asia and defence of associated complaints by a NGO and oversight by national regulators.
- Reported on UK reforms to the MSA and export controls for the Japan Institute of International Affairs Center to inform submissions to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on proposed legislation.
- Advised a global social media platform on its responsibility for and approach to content hosted by the platform, including its policy on handling hate speech or activity that potentially may influence political process and approach to contemplated changes to that policy.
- Advising clients across sectors on corporate social responsibility, ethics and human rights considerations - including monitoring and auditing effective implementation of policies, recommending remediation to address alleged regulatory infringements and defence of mass litigation brought by activist shareholders or NGOs.
- Advising clients on the application of section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to their group companies - including creation of annual statements and due diligence on supply chains.

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- Advised the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as intervener before the Supreme Court, in one case regarding the application of the internal flight alternative in international refugee law and another on whether, rather than seeking refuge, individuals should be obliged to feign loyalty to a political regime in order to avoid persecutory ill-treatment.