

## Rachel Barnes



Call: 2004

**Contact Details:**  
3 Raymond Buildings  
Gray's Inn  
London WC1R 5BH  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7400 6400

**Email Address:**  
[rachel.barnes@3rblaw.com](mailto:rachel.barnes@3rblaw.com)

*One of the best navigators of the complex financial and trade sanctions regime.* **Chambers UK 2018: Financial Crime, Corporates**

*In the American piece of the sanctions puzzle that most London counsel cannot fill, she can.* **Legal 500 2018: Business and Regulatory Crime**

### Details of sanctions practice

Rachel has specific expertise in international economic sanctions and regularly advises and acts for national and international companies and individuals in this area. She is known for her strategic approach in dealing with regulators and other third parties in cases involving alleged sanctions breaches and in assisting companies to comply with sanctions laws and regulations. Clients value her US background and knowledge of US OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) sanctions, as well as her wider practice in cross-border criminal investigations including corruption cases, extradition and MLA, public law and commercial cases. Rachel is listed by World ECR as a specialist practitioner in sanctions law.

Recognising her international law expertise, Rachel is appointed to the Attorney General's Public International Law Panel of Counsel. This a small group whose members advise HM Government on matters of public international law and represent the Government in international and domestic litigation. Rachel is also appointed to the A Panel of Counsel to the Serious Fraud Office.

Examples of private client advisory work

- Manufacturing company subject to HMRC investigation for export control violations
- High Street company and self-referral for suspected breaches of financial sanctions
- Technology company and business development in Iran
- P&I club (marine insurance) and sanctions breaches by policyholder's charterparty
- European bank and overseas freezing orders in respect of deposits subject to financial sanctions
- EU parent company with international subsidiaries: directors' and officers' liabilities for sanctions breaches
- Medical supplies company and breaches of Iran sanctions
- EU sanctions against Russia in the context of a high value share purchase agreement
- Lloyd's insurance market and a share purchase agreement
- UK exporter and financial payments on behalf of Iranian customers
- Marine insurance and sanctions against Libya
- Lloyd's managing agent and sanctions against Iran
- EU communications firm and the repatriation of assets from Iran
- EU banker and investigation by US Department of Justice
- Multinational insurance company and US and EU sanctions

Rachel has acted for clients challenging their designation under international sanctions programmes before the English High Court, in the EU and the UN Security Council Ombudsperson.

### Directory recommendations

Rachel is recommended by Chambers UK and The Legal 500 in Financial Crime; Financial Crime (Corporates); Business and Regulatory Crime; Fraud (Crime); International Crime and Extradition

*'An accomplished junior whose international crime and fraud practice is complemented by her expertise in extradition. She is absolutely excellent technically, works like a Trojan, is always responsive and sensible, has an extremely good analytical brain and is very knowledgeable.'*

*'One of the best navigators of the complex financial and trade sanctions regime.'* **Chambers UK 2018: Financial Crime and Financial Crime (Corporates)**

*'Her US qualifications and experience put her head and shoulders above her peers in this area.'* **The Legal 500 2017: Fraud (Crime)**

*'In the American piece of the sanctions puzzle that most London counsel cannot fill, she can.'* **The Legal 500 2017: Business and Regulatory Crime**

*'An "excellent" criminal law specialist with an extremely strong extradition practice. "Very smart and hard-working."* **Chambers UK 2018: Extradition**

*'Exceptional overall: very user-friendly with excellent technical knowledge.'* **The Legal 500 2017: International Crime and Extradition**

*'An accomplished junior whose international crime and fraud practice is complemented by her expertise in extradition. ... sought out by companies that are dealing with internal investigations, or are accused of potential sanctions breaches and illegal manipulation of benchmark rates.'*

*"A very thorough barrister who ensures she's really researched the issues before giving advice. Her work is very well written, well structured and well referenced." "Very strong, very detailed on the case, and very good with clients who may be extremely stressed."* **Chambers UK 2017: Financial Crime: Corporates**

*'A strong counsel with experience of acting for both the defence and prosecution in a wide range of criminal matters. Has appeared in confiscation proceedings as well as high-end corruption matters. Strengths: "Fantastic, especially in relation to sanctions work."* **Chambers UK 2016: Financial Crime**

*'Rising star of the junior Bar who has depth of knowledge in international criminal law... The quality of her case preparation was praised, as was her persuasive advocacy style.'*

*"She is an academic-style lawyer who has a fantastic understanding of international law." "She is very, very hard-working and comes up with amazing stuff."* **Chambers UK 2016: Extradition**

*'Everything she does is absolutely meticulous, and she really is someone you want to have on your side.' 'She knows more about the case than anyone else and has all of the facts at her fingertips.' 'She has a super brain, is really smart and is also very strategic.'* **Chambers UK 2015: Extradition**

*'She is very clever and very thorough.' 'She is bright, phenomenally hard-working and the ideal junior for fraud.'* **Chambers UK 2015: Financial Crime**

*'She is tenacious, committed and has an attention to detail rarely seen equalled.'* **The Legal 500 2015: Fraud (Crime) see also Business & Regulatory Crime**

*"Highly knowledgeable in extradition and mutual assistance, she often handles serious cases, including those relating to terrorism." "She is extremely bright and produces excellent written work."* **Chambers UK 2014: Extradition**

*"Has carved out a niche fraud practice at the juncture of civil and criminal litigation. Instructing solicitors particularly value her knowledge of international law." "A star of the future."* **Chambers UK 2014: Fraud**

*In addition to being an English barrister Rachel Barnes is also a qualified US attorney who began practising in New York. She is a hotly tipped individual, especially on the extradition front, and has a criminal practice where international law, commercial crime and corruption cases all feature heavily. She is set to be junior prosecution counsel in R v Hirst & Others, a £10 million Ponzi fraud case.* **Chambers UK 2013: Crime**

## Other information

Rachel regularly writes and presents on international sanctions laws. Recent publications include 'United States Sanctions: Delisting Applications, Judicial Review and Secret Evidence' in Happold & Eden (eds), *Sanctions and Embargos in International Law* (Hart Pub. 2016).

Rachel taught a graduate course on the Law of International Economic Sanctions at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) between 2009-2013 and has provided evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee on the impact of economic sanctions. Rachel was awarded her PhD from Cambridge University in 2006 for her thesis on the UN Security Council's use of economic sanctions.

Before coming to the English Bar, Rachel practised in the white collar team at Shearman & Sterling, New York. She remains a member of the New York Bar and is admitted to practise before the NY state courts and the federal courts of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. She has experience of cases in Washington DC involving the SEC, OFAC, the DOJ (FCPA), and Congressional inquiries.

## Education/professional qualifications

BA (Hons) in Law, MA (Cantab)  
LLM (Harv)  
PhD (Cantab) in Public International Law  
New York Bar Exam 1999, called to the NY Bar 2000  
Called to the English Bar 2004  
Churchill Scholar, Gray's Inn (1998-1999)  
WM Tapp Scholar, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge (2002-2005)  
James Hunt Advocacy Prize, Gray's Inn (2006)