

Alicia Lawson

CALL: 2023

✉ blueteam@twentyessex.com;
alawson@twentyessex.com

☎ +44 (0)20 7842 1200

Languages: French (proficient), Spanish (conversational)



Overview

Alicia is developing a broad practice across chambers' core practice areas.

She enjoys working as sole counsel and as part of a team. As sole counsel, she has appeared in the High Court, the London Circuit Commercial Court, and the County Court. As part of a team, she has appeared in the Court of Appeal, and has advocacy experience in the Chancery Division and the TCC.

Notably, she has acted in several cases relating to the [Fundão Dam collapse](#), including in *Município de Mariana and others v BHP Group (UK) and BHP Group*, one of The Lawyer Magazine's "[Top 10 Appeals for 2026](#)".

Prior to joining chambers and alongside her legal studies, Alicia worked in the legal team at the Good Law Project, and as a legal researcher for the AIRE Centre, contributing to a series of papers on multinational liability for human rights and environmental harms. Alicia is committed to pro bono work in this area. She recently contributed to a draft Bill as part of a Report on the [UK's Forced Labour and Human Rights Legislative Framework](#), published by the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Before coming to the Bar, Alicia had a successful career in business. In 2016 she was listed as one of Forbes Magazine's "30 under 30" social entrepreneurs.

Alicia has a double first-class degree in Classics, from Wadham College, Oxford, where she was awarded several academic scholarships and prizes. She completed her GDL with distinction at City University, London.

Education

- City University: Bar Vocational Studies, Very Competent (2023)
- City University: General Diploma in Law, Distinction (2022)
- University of Oxford, Wadham College: BA in Classics, Double First Class (2012)

Awards/Scholarships

- Lord Denning Scholar, Lincoln's Inn (2022)
- Lord Brougham Scholar, Lincoln's Inn (2021)
- De Paravicini Prize, University of Oxford (2012)
- Academic Scholarships, Wadham College, University of Oxford (2010, 2012)

Jurisdictions, conflicts and enforcement

- *Município de Mariana and others v BHP Group (UK) and BHP Group*: part of the Fundão Dam litigation. Acted for the Claimants resisting an appeal by BHP against a refusal to strike out a criminal contempt application (instructed by Pogust Goodhead).
- *BHP Group (UK) Ltd v Pogust Goodhead* [2025] EWHC 3153 (TCC): a satellite case in the Fundão Dam litigation. Acted for Pogust Goodhead successfully resisting a claim for an anti-suit injunction sought to restrain §1782 US Code proceedings in Arkansas (instructed by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe).
- *Município de Mariana v IBRAM*: a satellite case in the Fundão Dam litigation. Acted as sole counsel on behalf of the Claimants in a successful application for collateral use of evidence in Contempt proceedings (instructed by Pogust Goodhead).

Technology, media and telecoms

- Acting for an exam board to renew a newcomer injunction against persons unknown in relation to attempts to obtain unauthorised access to examination material: *AQA v Persons Unknown* (BL-2023-001318) (led by Matthew McGhee).
- Acting for two exam boards to obtain an interim injunction, and later, a newcomer injunction against persons unknown selling or purporting to sell examination material online *Pearson & OCR v Persons Unknown* (BL-2025-000614) (led by Matthew McGhee).

Arbitration

- Drafted a Response to an LCIA Notice of Arbitration commodities claim for US\$27m, in which performance had been prevented by force majeure.
- Drafted submissions to an LMAA tribunal seeking refusal of jurisdiction on the grounds of breach of the parties' arbitration agreement.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of submissions on partial determination of key issues in ICC arbitration proceedings relating to the project financing of an oil field.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of a skeleton for dismissal without a hearing of a s.68 arbitration challenge, in a dispute over a yacht construction contract.

Commodities and international trade

- Drafted a Response to an LCIA Notice of Arbitration commodities claim for US\$27m, relating to prevention of performance by force majeure.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the preparation of an application for relief from sanctions in a commodities dispute involving an international sale of diesel.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of written closings in a commodities trial involving sale of goods.

Shipping

- Appeared (as sole counsel) in the London Circuit Commercial Court on behalf of a claimant seeking permission to extend time and serve out the jurisdiction (instructed by Tatham & Co LLP)
- Drafted submissions to an LMAA tribunal seeking refusal of jurisdiction on the grounds of breach of the parties' arbitration agreement.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of a defence and opinion on the merits of a claim for damages caused by fuel contamination.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of claim submissions and reply in an LMAA arbitration claim relating to bunker redelivery.

Civil fraud and asset tracing

- Instructed and appeared in the County Court to recover a vehicle belonging to the victim of identity fraud, whose vehicle had been wrongfully seized in debt enforcement action (instructed pro bono by Advocate)
- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of an opinion on potential causes of action following an “authorised push payment” between a German and English bank.

Insolvency and restructuring

- Appeared in the Chancery Division (led by Joshua Folkard) resisting an application to impose a post-judgment proprietary freezing injunction (pro bono for Chancery Litigants in Person Scheme)
- Assisted (as a pupil) with research to resist objections to disclosure due to potential breaches of (quasi) foreign law, in insolvency proceedings.
- Assisted (as a pupil) with drafting a skeleton resisting an application for a time extension for disclosure, in a merger attempt.

Company law

- Assisted (as a pupil) with drafting a skeleton on the validity of a loan agreement which had been entered in breach of a shareholders’ agreement.

Energy and infrastructure

- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of an opinion on whether a sanctions clause entitled termination of a contract for energy supply.

(Re)insurance

- Assisted (as a pupil) with the drafting of an opinion on the application of business interruption insurance to government enforced business closures during COVID-19.

Public and administrative law

- Contributed pro bono, together with Gordon Nardell KC and Brendan Plant, to a draft Bill included in a Report by the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, together with Unseen UK and Forward Global (instructed by Omnia Strategy LLP)
- The following cases are from Alicia’s time working with the Good Law Project before joining Twenty Essex.
- *The Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd v United Utilities Water Ltd No 2* [2024] UKSC 22.
- *Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and Good Law Project v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero* [2024] EWHC 995 (Admin).
- *R (on the application of the Good Law Project) v The Prime Minister & Ors* [2022] EWCA Civ 1580.