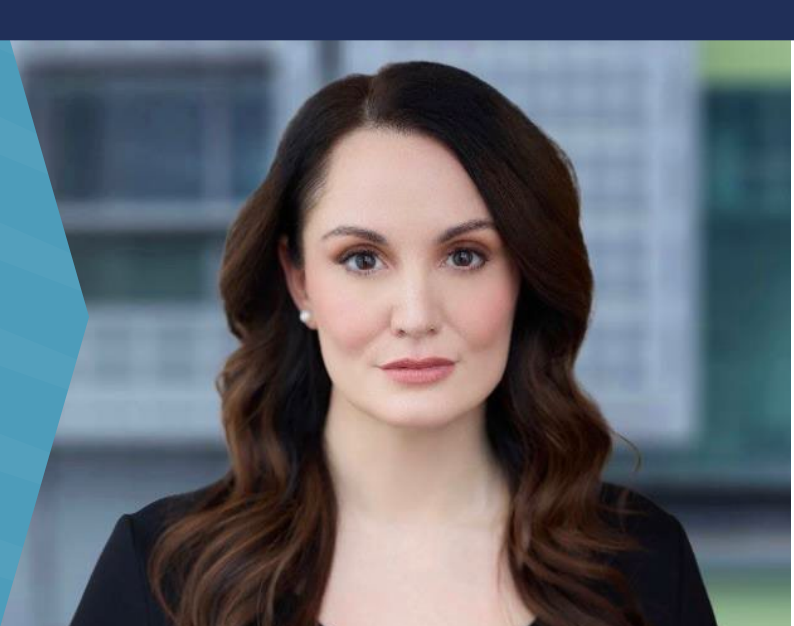


Leila Ghahhary

Call to Bar: 2010

“Brilliant on her feet and has a commanding presence in court.” Legal 500

“Bright, thorough, meticulous and highly engaging.” Chambers & Partners



Ranked as a leading barrister in the categories of Inquiries & Inquests and Business & Regulatory Crime:

“A formidable advocate whose brilliance and sophistication sets her apart. Leila is an elegant, engaging advocate who has a commanding presence in court.” Legal 500, 2026

“Enormously talented; her ability to assimilate information, deal with complex issues, and to convey matters to clients and witnesses in a way that they understand is second to none.” Chambers and Partners 2026

“Her work ethic is phenomenal, and she never loses sight of the human aspect of matters. She will be very well prepared and on point. She gets to the crux of matters and is very persuasive.” Chambers and Partners 2026

“Leila has significant experience in Public Inquiries and it shows. She is attentive and produces excellent written work.” Chambers and Partners 2026

“As a result of her tireless efforts, no stone was left unturned. She can work to impossible deadlines and never complains. She is clear in her advice and she never shies away from difficult decisions.” Chambers and Partners 2026

“Leila’s judgment and instincts are incredible; she is right about everything.” Chambers & Partners (Canada), 2026

“She is extremely good at getting to the crux of issues and she is very thoughtful and driven.” Chambers & Partners, 2025

“She gets to grips with the details very quickly.” Chambers & Partners, 2025

“The quality of Leila’s output is exceptional.” Chambers & Partners, 2025

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Practice areas:

Government, Public Sector and Public Law:

- Public Inquiries & Inquests
- Public International Law & International Human Rights
- Central and Local Government Law
- Equality and Human Rights

Judicial Review Regulatory Law:

- Health and Safety
- Licensing
- Trading Standards
- Food Safety
- Environmental Protection
- Health Care
- Fraud
- Professional Disciplinary
- Housing, Planning and Highways (Enforcement)

Professional appointments:

Attorney General’s Panel of Counsel

Panel of Specialist Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law

Equality and Human Rights Commission Panel of Counsel

Leila Ghahhary

“Leila has excellent judgment and insight and is able to think through particularly difficult problems with ease and good humour. She is particularly skilled at being able to see the big picture in matters where it is often easy to get lost in granular detail, and she is also an absolute pleasure to work with, including under highly stressful and pressured conditions.” Legal 500, 2025

“Leila Ghahhary is a skilled advocate who has represented both public authorities and the bereaved in numerous inquests and inquiries, including the Hillsborough inquests. She also appeared on the Gosport Independent Panel. Leila is good with clients and her written advice is really comprehensive. She is bright, thorough, meticulous and highly engaging.” Chambers & Partners, 2024

“Leila’s written advice is comprehensive yet succinct and written in a way that is accessible to both lay and professional clients”

“She has a commanding courtroom presence and is clear in her oral argument and submissions; one of the go-to counsel for inquests operating on the Northern Circuit.” Legal 500, 2024

“She is a highly skilled advocate and has a commanding presence in court. She’s always thoroughly well prepared.” Chambers & Partners, 2023

“Leila is a superb leading junior in inquests and inquiries. She is a highly skilled advocate who presents well-reasoned arguments, captures the attention of the tribunal and always considers the bigger picture. She is meticulous in terms of approach and a fantastic team-player who will take on board the views of others.” Legal 500, 2023

“She has a very good presence when performing on her feet and she got on well with the client. She was very accessible and approachable, and the end result was really good.” Chambers & Partners, 2023

“Leila is incredibly approachable and communicative, and it is very easy to develop a positive working relationship with her. Her written and oral advice is both concise and comprehensive, and provided in a manner which is appropriate to the recipient, be that a lay or professional client. She is brilliant on her feet and has a commanding presence in court.” Legal 500, 2023

“Her attention to detail is fantastic and she is very proactive. She is also easy to get hold of.” Chambers & Partners, 2022

“Leila is a fantastic addition to any team. Her attention to detail and knowledge of niche regulatory areas is worth its weight in gold. Leila is refreshingly hard working and gives masses of time and attention to any job.” Legal 500, 2022

“Offers exceptional support, quickly grasps the key issues and complexities in the case and adopts a methodical and thorough approach.” Chambers & Partners, 2022

“Leila’s attention to detail and thoroughness are outstanding. Leila is a fantastic team player and ensures that everyone’s view is considered. Leila’s view is invariably sensible and clear.” Legal 500, 2022

“A skilled advocate with excellent experience in this field. She has represented both public authorities and the bereaved in numerous high-profile inquests and inquiries, including the fresh Hillsborough inquests. She also appeared on the Gosport Independent Panel.” Chambers & Partners, 2021

“I would not hesitate to recommend her as she is excellent with clients and has a commanding presence on her feet in court. Leila Ghahhary is extremely bright, thorough and meticulous; her analytical skills are second to none, as is her knowledge of public and regulatory law. She is very sharp, delightful with solicitors and clients, and determined and fair in court. She’s also meticulously well prepared.” Chambers & Partners, 2021

“A ‘commanding and authoritative presence on her feet’, Leila Ghahhary is also one to watch in this area of practice.” Legal 500, 2021

“Leila is an exceptional find! She has a background in local authority work which ideally suits some of the issues that arise in inquests and inquiries. Leila is an extremely competent advocate, compelling and impressive on her feet, always meticulously prepared and provides her clients with utmost confidence.” Legal 500, 2021

“Leila is becoming a true expert in this field. Her background is superbly suited to the difficult and unusual regulations that appear in many cases. She is an absolute delight to work with and often has razor-like insight into complex cases. Her client care is second to none and she is always a real help.” Legal 500, 2021

“She has good judgment and a commanding presence in court.” Legal 500, 2020

OVERVIEW

Leila is a highly regarded international barrister who practises in the UK and Canada in the areas of public, regulatory, international and human rights law. Recognised for her commanding and authoritative court presence and depth of expertise in high-stakes, complex, legal matters, Leila routinely acts in large-scale, high-profile matters of national significance where she provides legal advice and representation at the highest levels. Leila’s multidisciplinary background allows her to approach each case with a broad perspective and sector specific insight. Her combined experience means she provides enhanced, strategic, and effective representation at every stage, ensuring those she acts for navigate issues and proceedings with confidence.

Leila is consistently ranked by major professional guides as a leading top tier barrister and has been repeatedly appointed to:

The **Attorney General’s Panel of Counsel**. She regularly receives instructions from the Government Legal Department to represent and advise a variety of government departments on a range of public law and civil matters.

The **Panel of Specialist Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law** providing advice and representation to the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, the Office of Rail and Road, the Care Quality Commission, the Office of Nuclear Regulation and Natural Resources Wales.

The **Equality and Human Rights Commission Panel of Counsel** providing advice and representation to the Commission on matters relating to equality, public and human rights law.

Leila has an outstanding reputation in the field of public inquiries and inquests. She regularly acts in complex, high-profile public inquiries of national significance representing government departments, public and private organisations, individuals, and acting as Counsel to the Inquiry. This includes currently acting as Counsel for the UK Government’s Cabinet Office, No.10 Downing Street and His Majesty’s Treasury in the UK Covid19 Inquiry, for the Home Office in the [Nottingham Inquiry](#), and for the Cabinet Office in the [Manston Inquiry](#). Leila also recently acted as Counsel to Canada’s [Foreign Interference Inquiry](#). Leila has also acted for the bereaved families in the Manchester Arena Inquiry, the UK Information Commissioner in relation to the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry, as Counsel to the Gosport Independent Panel Inquiry, and in the Hillsborough Inquests.

Leila has significant regulatory practice and routinely acts in large, complex regulatory investigations and prosecutions across all aspects of enforcement and administrative proceedings on a wide range of regulatory matters. Her experience includes the largest ever UK trading standards prosecution against a group of UK energy companies and directors in which Leila, along with other members of the prosecution team, received high praise from the trial judge for their management and conduct of this especially complex, voluminous and challenging case. Leila’s experience in this area covers both the enforcement and administrative aspects of public and regulatory law.

Leila Ghahhary

Leila provides advice and assistance to both prosecution and defence on all aspects and stages of the regulatory enforcement process including enforcement notices, the investigation, the decision to prosecute, PII and disclosure issues.

With two decades of experience in public and administrative law, Leila brings significant expertise in this area to any case. Leila routinely acts for government departments, corporate entities, individuals and a variety of public and private organisations before a range of courts, tribunals, and constitutional panels on a wide range of complex public law cases, providing advice and representation at the highest levels.

Leila's international practice encompasses European law, public international law and international human rights. Her work has involved matters concerning ICJ proceedings, universal jurisdiction, atrocity crimes, appearing before parliamentary committees, and acting as the Senior Legal Advisor to an international NGO.

Leila completed her second Master of Laws at Columbia University in New York City, graduating with Kent Scholar status and having been awarded the Parker School Certificate of Achievement in International and Comparative Law. Leila's scholarship was focused on Public International Law, Global Governance, and International Human Rights. Leila also served as an editor for the Columbia Human Rights Law Review and Board Member for the Columbia Society of International Law.

Leila was also selected to undertake a leadership in law programme and an Externship with UN Women during which she spent time working at UN Headquarters New York on peace and security matters relating to UN Women's role on the Security Council. Leila also undertakes pro bono projects with international law and human rights organisations based in the UK, Canada, and USA. Leila's thesis for her first Master of Laws focused on Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Protection of Freedoms Bill, data protection laws and the State's use of surveillance.

Prior to joining the UK independent Bar Leila spent 10 years working in-house as a local government lawyer. The work Leila undertook in this role was varied, complex, voluminous and covered the whole range of common law and statutory and corporate functions of a local authority, in relation to a wide range of legal issues relevant to all departments and levels of seniority within local government.

Leila regularly represented the Council conducting court proceedings on a wide range of civil, criminal and regulatory matters, in all manner of courts and tribunals. Leila's background of experience brings to any case the added advantage of firsthand understanding of the wider statutory, public law and corporate issues which affect governance in a public law and regulatory arena. Since joining the independent Bar, Leila continues to enjoy instructions from many local authorities on all aspects of local government business.

Leila is an accomplished leader with extensive experience of managing large-scale complex legal matters, including public inquiries, regulatory investigations, and high-stakes litigation. She has led multidisciplinary teams including lawyers, investigators, forensic experts, and analysts. With a strategic and solutions-focused approach, she skillfully directs the conduct of proceedings, ensuring meticulous case management, rigorous legal analysis, and seamless coordination among stakeholders to achieve exceptional results.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES & INQUESTS

Leila regularly acts in complex, high-profile public inquiries and inquests of national significance representing government departments, public and private organisations, individuals, and acting as Counsel to the Inquiry.

With a long-standing track record of acting in these matters and described in the leading legal publications as a 'go to counsel' in this field, Leila brings a deep understanding of the legal, procedural, and strategic complexities involved. Leila's multidisciplinary background spanning public, regulatory, commercial, civil, criminal and international law, allows her to approach each public inquiry or inquest with a broad perspective and sector-specific insight. This combination of experience means she provides enhanced, strategic, and effective representation at every stage, ensuring clients can navigate these processes with confidence.

Consistently ranked as a top-tier leading barrister and with two decades of experience, Leila has an outstanding reputation in this field. With extensive cross-border experience in this area, Leila also brings a unique international perspective to bear in these matters.

Representative Cases

- Counsel to the UK Government Cabinet Office and No 10 Downing Street, in the ongoing UK Covid-19 Inquiry. An independent public inquiry established by the Prime Minister to examine the UK's response to and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and learn lessons for the future. This Inquiry commenced in December 2021 and is ongoing.
- Counsel to Canada's Foreign Interference Inquiry. An independent public inquiry established to examine any interference by China, Russia and other foreign states or non-state actors to confirm the integrity of and impacts on, Canada's 43rd and 44th general elections at the national and electoral district levels; the flow of information to senior decision-makers and between Security and Intelligence bodies during the election periods that led up to the general elections, in the weeks following those periods, and actions taken in response; the capacity of the Government of Canada to detect, deter and counter any foreign interference directly or indirectly targeting Canada's democratic processes. The Inquiry was also asked to consider a parliamentary report which had accused sitting MPs in Canada of wittingly and unwittingly engaging in foreign interference. This inquiry involved consideration of thousands of items of highly sensitive classified material, the conduct of a national security review, investigatory interviews, in camera and public hearings and the production of an interim and final report. After 14 months of work, the Inquiry's final report was published in February 2025.
- Counsel to the bereaved families in the UK Manchester Arena Inquiry. An independent public inquiry, established by the UK Home Secretary to investigate the deaths of the victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena terrorist attack. The Inquiry's work was ongoing for over three years and involved consideration of tens of thousands of items of evidence, including highly sensitive evidence from the UK's intelligence services and counter terrorist national policing units, and conduct of public hearings spanning over 18 months. The Inquiry concluded in March 2023 with the publication of its third and final phase report.
- Counsel to the UK Information Commissioner in relation to the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry. Instructed by the Information Commissioner on matters relating to UK data protection law arising in the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry ('Cash for Ash' scandal). An independent public inquiry established to investigate a controversial renewable heat incentive scheme, which involved allegations of fraud, maladministration, and data protection breaches. The controversy led to an investigation by the NI Public Accounts Committee, and a series of political disagreements, ending in the collapse of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Stormont in 2017. This Inquiry was ongoing for three years and concluded with the publication of its report in March 2020.

- Appointed by the UK Secretary of State for Health as Counsel to the Inquiry in the UK Gosport Independent Panel Inquiry. An independent public inquiry established by the Secretary of State for Health, to investigate and report on historical events relating to the care, treatment, and suspicious deaths of patients of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Portsmouth, UK. The Panel's work was ongoing for four years and the Panel's report was published in June 2018. It received wide media national and international coverage. The issues and documents in this Inquiry were voluminous, varied, complex and sensitive. This inquiry required Leila to plan and implement a large-scale document review, manage, supervise and oversee the work of a team of barristers and numerous other professionals who were involved in this work and significantly contribute to the writing of a report for submission to the Minister for publication. After publication of the report, Leila continued to work with the Panel in handing over to a fresh police investigation which is ongoing.
- Counsel to the Assistant Chief Constable of West Midlands' Police in the UK Hillsborough Inquests touching the deaths of 96 men, women and children who lost their lives in the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium tragedy. These monumental Article 2 ECHR jury inquests were unprecedented in scale and length. They began in March 2014 and after 2 years of evidence concluded in April 2016 with 96 verdicts.
- Leila represents the UK government in complex Article 2 ECHR inquests. An example of this work includes acting for the UK Ministry of Justice in a multi-week, multi-party jury inquest touching the death of a prisoner.
- Acting for a high school in an inquest touching the death of a student who took their own life at the end of a school day.
- Acting for a doctor in an inquest touching the death of a woman who died within days of her discharge from hospital and concerned the provision of care before and during her admission to hospital and the discharge decision.
- Acting for a local authority in relation to a complex multi party inquest concerning the death of a vulnerable adult who had been the victim of a campaign of hate crime over many years and who tragically died shortly after suffering an attack by local youths.

PUBLIC LAW / GOVERNMENT / PUBLIC SECTOR

With two decades of experience in this area Leila brings significant public law expertise to any case. Leila routinely acts for government departments, corporate entities, individuals and a variety of public and private organisations before a range of courts, tribunals, and constitutional panels on a wide range of complex public law cases, providing advice and representation at the highest levels.

In addition to her extensive public inquiry and inquests practice which routinely engages an array of public law issues, Leila's public law experience includes advising on the drafting of legislation, public consultations processes, and policy development; supporting and advising on decision making, acting in litigation brought by and against government, public, professional disciplinary and regulatory bodies – judicial review, statutory appeals, appearing before parliamentary committees, and in administrative hearings before constitutional panels.

Leila has been appointed to several UK specialist counsel panels including the elite Attorney General's Panel of Counsel, representing and advising the government on a range of public law matters, and the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission panel of counsel, which provides advice and representation to the Commission on matters relating to equality, public and human rights law.

Leila's strength and depth of expertise in public law is rooted in a decade of working in house as a UK local government lawyer.

- Appointed by the UK Secretary of State for Health as Counsel to the Inquiry in the UK Gosport Independent Panel Inquiry. An independent public inquiry established by the Secretary of State for Health, to investigate and report on historical events relating to the care, treatment, and suspicious deaths of patients of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Portsmouth, UK. The Panel's work was ongoing for four years and the Panel's report was published in June 2018. It received wide media national and international coverage. The issues and documents in this Inquiry were voluminous, varied, complex and sensitive. This inquiry required Leila to plan and implement a large-scale document review, manage, supervise and oversee the work of a team of barristers and numerous other professionals who were involved in this work and significantly contribute to the writing of a report for submission to the Minister for publication. After publication of the report, Leila continued to work with the Panel in handing over to a fresh police investigation which is ongoing.
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- Acting for the Association of Greater Manchester Local Authorities in respect of the Implementation of Taxi and Private Hire Minimum Standards and Conditions including providing advice on the drafting and implementation of a major consultation, policy, development and on minimum standards and conditions. This work formed part of the UK Department for Transport's wider work to improve taxi and private hire licensing national standards.
- Acting for a housing authority concerning homelessness provisions and decisions.
- Acting for a housing authority in fully contested multi-defendant injunction proceedings concerning anti-social behaviour. This complex case engaged issues under the ECHR and resulted in injunctions containing powers of arrest.
- Acting for the UK Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in a deduction order appeal.
- Advising the UK Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade and a Trade Union in relation to licence conditions connected to permits granted by a major UK airport.
- Acting for a prisoner in a judicial review concerning prison categorisation.
- Acting for a licensing authority in a multiday appeal hearing of a decision to revoke a premises licence due to noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour at a nightclub and restaurant.
- Acting for a revenue authority in an appeal concerning the application of business rates to a business premises.
- Advising a government investigation unit on the processes and procedures connected to the management of a National Anti-Fraud Network facility.
- Acting for a highway authority in a high value civil claim against a major UK utility company in respect of damage to highways during construction of a major shopping mall.
- Advising a licensing authority on the implementation of knowledge and language standards for taxi licensees following a public consultation and subsequent committee key decision to raise taxi licence standards.
- Representing a Sheesha business in a licensing hearing involving an action by the local authority to suspend its premises licence.

- Acting for an adult social care authority in relation to a direct payment scheme concerning persons who are in residential care and have appointed representatives for the purposes of administering their finances. This work included the need to advise on matters concerning suspected fraudulent activity.
- Acting for a defendant company in relation to planning enforcement proceedings and subsequent appeal relating to a listed (protected) building.
- Acting for a licensing authority in an appeal by the local taxi trade of a decision to refuse to licence a non-standard hackney carriage vehicle. The case involved issues of European and Human Rights Law.
- Acting for a defendant facing a multi-defendant application for a serious crime injunction, brought by a police authority. The final hearing was listed for five days. In this case the defendant was in custody for breaching an interim order and the Claimant Police Authority was seeking a heavily burdened and lengthy final injunction against him. This complex case involved arguments concerning ECHR article rights.
- Local Implementation of the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 (2003 – 2012): The Act came into force in 2005 and required any arm of the State to disclose documents it holds to the public when requested to do so by a member of the public unless, the document meets one of the statutory exemptions. Leila was part of a team of lawyers responsible for designing, advising on and implementing local governance of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and thereafter continuing to provide advice and representation on FOI requests and issues.
- Local Implementation of the UK Licensing Act 2003 (2003 – 2012): The Act came into force in November 2005 and overhauled the alcohol and entertainment licensing regime in the UK, transferring the administration and adjudication of licensing applications from the Courts to Local Government. Leila was part of a team of lawyers who were generally instructed to deal with licensing matters and responsible for the designing, advising on and implementing of local governance of the Licensing Act 2003 and thereafter continuing to provide advice to local licensing panels and represent the local authority in licensing appeals to the UK lower and higher courts.
- Local Implementation of the UK Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (2009 – 2010): The Act introduced a variety of new powers for local authorities in relation to protecting the local environment. This included the power to make Dog Control Orders. Leila was instructed to write and implement the Dog Control Orders for a local authority. This involved the drafting of local legislation, reporting to the executive committee, dealing with public consultation and implementation of the Orders and the system of enforcement of the Orders.

REGULATORY LAW

Leila has significant regulatory experience and is routinely instructed to act in large, complex regulatory investigations and prosecutions.

With two decades of experience in this area Leila has a long track record of prosecuting and defending criminal regulatory proceedings and acting across all aspects of enforcement and administrative proceedings on a wide range of regulatory matters.

Leila is highly sought after in complex, high-profile multi-defendant cases to represent and advise government departments, regulatory bodies, public and private organisations, corporate entities, and individuals, before a range of courts, tribunals, and administrative panels. Such proceedings ordinarily involve large volumes of material, highly technical issues and the need to navigate specialist areas of law, on novel points which often give rise to complex legal arguments, appeals, and connected litigation such as judicial reviews or appeals. Leila has also acted on behalf of regulatory bodies and individuals in Professional Disciplinary Proceedings. Such cases involve dealing with regulations and guidance, large volumes of evidence and multiple disciplinary charges and often requires the need to understand complex medical issues and evidence and, safeguarding issues.

In recognition of her expertise and skill in this area Leila has been appointed to the UK Attorney General's Panel of Specialist Regulatory Advocates. Providing advice and representation to the UK Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency, Office of Rail and Road, Care Quality Commission, Office of Nuclear Regulation and Natural Resources Wales.

Representative Cases

- Prosecution counsel on the largest ever UK Trading Standards prosecution. Operation Best was an investigation by National Trading Standards into fraudulent mis selling by the BES group of energy companies. These were successful businesses with a combined annual turnover in excess of £100 million. Company directors were aware of the fraudulent mis selling but failed to take effective action to prevent it. The Trading Standards investigation faced a series of failed attempts by the defendants to block it through High Court claims, two Judicial Reviews, abuse of process applications and a multi-million pound civil action against the investigating authority. This case was ongoing for 8 years and involved unprecedented volumes of material. Following a 6-month trial, three company directors were convicted of fraudulent trading and the companies' Head of Regulation and Compliance, was convicted of Fraud by False Representation. The defendants received a combined custodial sentence of 26 years and 8 months. At the conclusion of the case, Leila alongside the Prosecution's legal and investigation teams, received high praise from the trial judge for the conduct of this especially large-scale, challenging and complicated case.
- Prosecution of a very large retail organisation in respect of Health and Safety Breaches resulting in injury to a worker.
- Prosecution of a clothing supplier for multiple, longstanding and flagrant breaches of trademark law. This case involved legal arguments on novel points of trademark and European competition law.
- Acting for the UK General Medical Council in multiple professional disciplinary proceedings against doctors.
- Prosecution of a large American international restaurant chain based in a major UK shopping mall, for serious health and safety breaches resulting in risk and injury to employees.
- Prosecution of an internet food company and its director for breaches of food safety / health claim regulations and health products law. The regulations prohibit persons from making unapproved health claims in relation to food products. The prosecution was the first of its kind in the UK and involved technical and complicated areas of EU and domestic law. The breaches had occurred over many years and the evidence in this case was voluminous and highly specialised.
- Prosecution of two travel companies and their directors for consumer protection offences involving the failure to secure required visas for travel for hundreds of customers resulting in hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of loss.

- Acting for a nurse in disciplinary proceedings brought against them by the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- Prosecution in a taxi licensing case which was listed for legal argument on novel and complicated issues concerning licensing laws and Article 8 of the ECHR. The outcome of this case, if not favourable to the licensing authority, would have a significant impact on the enforcement powers of the local licensing officers.
- Prosecution of a major national retailer in respect of offences concerning sales of alcohol and cigarettes in breach of children and young persons protection laws.
- Leila has advised on a number of large-scale, complex, national, consumer protection criminal investigations and proceedings.
- Prosecution of a major national car dealership for consumer protection offences.
- Prosecution of a company for environmental offences concerning breaches of an environmental permit and waste management offences

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Leila is called to the bar in Canada and the UK, her practice spans North America, the UK and EU.

Leila's international practice encompasses public international law and international human rights. Her work has involved matters concerning ICJ proceedings, the application of universal jurisdiction, appearing before parliamentary committees, and atrocity crimes.

Leila also acts as the Senior Legal Advisor to an international NGO that works with the UN and Governments across the globe. Through its investigative work the NGO has been instrumental to important legal reforms and the successful universal jurisdiction prosecutions which have taken place across Europe, against ISIS members for grave crimes committed against the Yazidi Community. Leila's role includes advancing the organisation's mission through advocacy within UN institutions, special procedures, advisory committees, working groups, governments and their agencies, to pursue accountability mechanisms and influence the development of international law and policy to better protect vulnerable persons and prevent mass atrocities.

In 2023, Leila completed her second Master of Laws with Honours at Columbia Law School in New York City, graduating with Kent Scholar status and having been awarded the Parker School Certificate of Achievement in International and Comparative Law. Leila's scholarship was focused on Public International Law, Global Governance, and International Human Rights and Leila was selected to undertake a lawyer leadership programme. Alongside her studies, Leila served as an editor for the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, as a Board Member for the Columbia Society of International Law and was also selected to undertake a UN Externship with UN Women: Peace and Security, during which she spent time working at UN Headquarters New York on a number of matters relating to UN Women's role on the Security Council.