

BIANCA BALMELLI

Call: 2017



Bianca joined Littleton in October 2019 on completion of her pupillage. She accepts instructions in all of Chambers' core practice areas.

Before coming to the Bar, Bianca worked as an advocate in South Africa, where she qualified in 2013. There she advised clients on various commercial disputes, both in the High Court and in Arbitrations.

Employment

Bianca's employment law experience includes:

- Dealing with claims across the spectrum of employment law, including unfair dismissal, disability discrimination, sex discrimination and harassment.
- Drafting grounds of compliant and grounds of resistance in the ET.
- Drafting the witness statements in a five-day ET matter.
- Drafting a number of opinions on a variety of subjects, for example, on whether certain consultancy agreements fell foul of section 27A of the Employment Rights Act.
- Appearing at preliminary hearings in order to argue preliminary issues, for example, in respect of amendments and jurisdiction disputes.
- Attending case management hearings in the ET.
- Considering restrictive covenants and assessing whether they were enforceable.

Commercial

Bianca has been involved in a range of commercial law matters, including:

- A High Court appeal hearing relating to the principle of attribution.
- Various shareholder disputes (for minority and majority shareholders).
- Appearing in winding-up lists, bankruptcy petitions and County Court matters.
- Drafting particulars of claim in a civil fraud matter.
- Drafting a defence and counterclaim in a contractual dispute.
- Drafting a number of opinions on a variety of subjects, for example on whether proceedings could be instituted against a director for damages as a result of the Company having been dissolved and struck off the Companies House register.
- As an advocate in South Africa Bianca's practice principally involved commercial law, acting for both financial institutions and private individuals. Her work ranged from drafting pleadings and opinions to presenting arguments before Judges and arbitrators.

Sports Law

Bianca has a developing interest in sports law, and during pupillage has gained experience in:

- A High Court breach of contract claim brought by a football agent against a premier league player.
- Internal appeal processes and enquiries of governing bodies of certain sports.

Education & Prizes

Bianca has a BCom Law Degree (Cum Laude), majoring in accounting and financial management, and an LLB Degree (Cum Laude), both from the University of Pretoria.

Bianca achieved Academic Honorary Colours in 2010 from the University of Pretoria and was on the Faculty of Law's Dean's Merit List in 2009 and 2010.

She was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa in 2012 after having completed her training contract at a leading international law firm.

She was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa and Member of the Johannesburg Bar in 2012 and established a successful commercial law practice before moving to the UK. Bianca is currently an associate member of the Johannesburg Bar with membership at Maisels Group 3.

Bianca is fluent in English, German and Afrikaans.