

Bláthnaid Breslin

Call: 2019

Barrister

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Bláthnaid joined Littleton Chambers in October 2021 on successful completion of her pupillage. She accepts instructions in all of Chambers' main areas of practice, including statutory and High Court employment work and commercial law. Bláthnaid is instructed as junior counsel to Mohinderpal Sethi QC and Sophia Berry in *Basfar v Wong*, a landmark appeal concerning diplomatic immunity heard in the Supreme Court in October 2021. This is the first (and only) EAT case to be granted permission to appeal directly to the Supreme Court.

Other recent instructions include:

- Representing the respondent in a claim for post-termination victimisation, raising a preliminary issue as to the scope of judicial proceedings immunity (as junior counsel to Gavin Mansfield QC).
- Representing the applicant in an application for a general civil restraint order (as junior counsel to Adam Solomon QC).
- Advising the respondent to a high-value, confidential worker status action (as junior counsel to Mohinderpal Sethi QC).
- Representing the claimant in a claim for breach of post-termination restrictive covenants (as junior counsel to Sam Neaman).
- Representing the claimant in a claim for breach of a share option agreement.
- Representing the claimant in an associative disability discrimination case.
- Advising the respondent to a claim for maternity and pregnancy discrimination.
- Representing the claimant in a claim for sex and pregnancy discrimination, on the basis that the claimant was undergoing IVF treatment.

Bláthnaid graduated with a First Class LLB in Law with New Zealand Law from the University of Nottingham, coming 5th in her year. She also obtained a Distinction on the BCL from the University of Oxford, winning the Oxford Law Faculty prize for Children, Families and the State. Bláthnaid received a Lord Denning scholarship from Lincoln's Inn. Prior to pupillage, Bláthnaid was the judicial assistant to Sir Geoffrey Vos, Chancellor of the High Court (as he then was, he is now the Master of the Rolls).

Bláthnaid played tennis for the University of Nottingham and the University of Oxford Ladies' II tennis teams. She played cricket for Ireland as a junior. She also speaks Spanish.

RECOMMENDATIONS

AREAS OF LAW

Employment

During pupillage Bláthnaid assisted with a number of applications for interim injunctions to enforce restrictive covenants and to prevent misuse of confidential information. She also worked on cases involving complex questions of employment status and whistleblowing detriment/dismissal (in particular, dealing with the implications of *Osipov* [2018] EWCA Civ 2321 and *Jhuti* [2019] UKSC 55). In addition, she carried out work on wrongful dismissal, employment remedies (focussing on the overlap between different awards) and a number of different procedural questions, including time limits, ACAS certificates and costs.

Commercial

Bláthnaid has obtained experience in a wide range of commercial disputes during pupillage, including breach of contract, contract termination and breach of fiduciary duties arising out of a joint venture. Bláthnaid assisted with an arbitration involving a partnership dispute which raised complex questions of authority, as well as a number of civil fraud cases, including claims for unlawful means conspiracy, causing loss by unlawful means and the tort of intimidation.

Education

- 2018-2019: Bachelor of Civil Law (University of Oxford), Distinction
 - 2017-2018: Bar Professional Training Course (University of Law), Outstanding (second in the year)
 - 2013-2017: Law with New Zealand Law (University of Nottingham), First Class
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Scholarships and Awards

- Oxford Law Faculty prize for Children Families and the State (2019, University of Oxford)
 - Lincoln's Inn Buchanan Prize for the BPTC (2018)
 - Lincoln's Inn Lord Denning scholarship (2017)
 - JC Smith & Punch Coomaraswamy Prize in the Law of Evidence (2017, University of Nottingham)
 - Prize for coming 5th overall in final year (2017, University of Nottingham)
 - Dean's prize for coming 1st in Jurisprudence (2015, University of Canterbury, New Zealand)
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