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Saoirse Townshend

Year of Call: 2010

Practice Areas

- Extradition
- Inquests
- Inquiries
- Public Law

Public Access

Undertakes Public Access work

Attorney General Panel

Appointed to C panel

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Experience

Described as “a brilliant lawyer with a sharp mind and an unwavering determination to protect her clients” by Chambers and Partners, Saoirse has developed a dynamic court and advisory practice specialising in public inquiries, extradition and public law. She is recognised as a “leading junior” across the directories. Skilled at both arguing complex and novel points of law before the Supreme Court and the Divisional Court, Saoirse also has great expertise handling witnesses before the lower courts, tribunals, inquest and Inquiry settings.

Extradition

In extradition law, Saoirse is known as an “incredibly capable extradition barrister”. She has a wealth of experience representing requested persons and requesting states in some of the defining cases of the past decade.

On Article 6 ECHR, she was instructed for an Appellant before a Divisional Court arguing that the Appellants could no longer obtain fair trials due to the controversial Constitutional changes to the judiciary between 2017-2021 (*Wozniak v the Circuit Court in Gniezno and Wojciech Chlabicz v Regional Court in Bialystok* [2021] EWHC 2557 (Admin)). Saoirse also represented Mr Lange in the case *Lis and Lange v Poland* [2018] EWHC 2848 (Admin); [2019] EWHC 674 (Admin)), which was the predecessor Polish Article 6 case.

In relation to prison conditions (Article 3 ECHR), Saoirse has

Awards



been instructed in the lead cases relating to a plethora of EU countries: Lithuania (*Bartulis v Lithuania* [2019] EWHC 504 (Admin)); Latvia (*Danfolds v Latvia* [2020] EWHC 3199 (Admin)); France (*Shumba, Henta and Bechian v France* [2018] EWHC 1762 (Admin)); Bulgaria (*Chechev v Bulgaria* [2021] EWHC 427 (Admin) and *L. Georgiev, I. Dimitrov and B. Georgiev v Bulgaria* [2018] EWHC 359 (Admin)); Hungary (*GS v Hungary* [2016] EWHC 64 (Admin)) and Italy (*Elashmawy v Italy* [2015] EWHC 28 (Admin)).

On suicide risk, Saoirse was instructed by the Polish Judicial Authority in *Bobbe v Poland* [2017] EWHC 3161 (Admin) an extradition appeal which changed the legal test following the CJEU case of *CK and others v Slovenia* [2017] 3 CMLR 10. In addition, following this case, she successfully represented the Appellant in *Debiec v Poland* [2017] EWHC 2653 (Admin) in one of the first cases in which the s.25 bar has been successful in EAW cases since *Poland v Wolkowicz* [2013] EWHC 102 (Admin).

On the charge/try bar, she represented an Appellate requested person in the lead case of *Puceviciene v Lithuania* [2016] EWHC 1862) on s.12A; which provided new definitions of “charge” and “try”.

Saoirse has also represented both Requested Persons (*Turkey v Koc* [2021] EWHC 1234 (Admin); *Albania v Koleci*; *Albania v Sultan Dragjoshi and USA v Okeakpu*) and Requesting States (*Turkey v Charles* [2017] ACD 84 and 563553) in complex Part 2 cases. Recently in *Koc (supra)*, Saoirse successfully represented the Appellant, accused of robbery and kidnap in Turkey from 2002, on the grounds of s.85 (deliberate absence from trial), s.82 (oppression due to passage of time) and Article 8 ECHR.

In addition, Saoirse is instructed in judicial review proceedings arising out of extradition and criminal proceedings. She was successful in the first judicial review in the area where the requested person in extradition proceedings was not removed within the statutory time period (see *R (on the application of Mechlinksj) v Westminster Magistrates' Court* [2015] EWHC 2043 (Admin)). Further, she successfully represented the CPS in the lead habeas corpus application post-Brexit; *Cosar v Governor of Wandsworth Prison* [2020] EWHC 1142 (Admin).

Saoirse compliments her extradition practice with publications. She has written chapters in: ‘*A Practical Guide to Extradition Law Post-Brexit*’ (Law Brief Publishing, 2021) and ‘*A Practitioner’s Guide to Judicial Review in the Criminal Justice*

System and Related Areas' (Hart, 2014).

Public Inquiries

Saoirse is instructed in a variety of roles in public inquiries.

She is instructed as Junior Counsel to the Brook House Inquiry which is investigating incidents of Article 3 ECHR abuse of detained persons at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre. The role has involved inquisitorial advocacy; taking important witnesses to the Inquiry such as whistle-blowers and experts. Saoirse also regularly provides written and oral advice to the Chair, and drafts submissions on a plethora of legal issues.

Saoirse is also instructed as Junior Counsel for the Department of Health in the Infected Blood Inquiry.

In addition, Saoirse is instructed in the upcoming Covid Inquiry by the Ministry of Justice. This is likely to involve the assessment of the MOJ's response to the pandemic, particularly within the prison environment.

Inquests

Saoirse advises and represents a range of interested parties at Pre-Inquest Review Hearings and Inquests, both with and without a jury. Saoirse has experience in inquests relating to deaths in prison custody. Saoirse also accepts instructions on behalf of families, including pro-bono.

Public law

Saoirse's public law practice is also thriving. Since the beginning of her practice, Saoirse has represented Claimants in the First Tier and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) on a wide range of issues, from asylum to EEA Visa and ETS cases. In April 2019, Saoirse was appointed to the Attorney General's C Panel of Junior Counsel. She regularly appears before the Upper Tribunal (Administrative Appeals Chamber), County Courts and Coroner's Courts in a variety of cases relating to and including social security appeals, and civil claims made by prisoners.

Directories

"Very knowledgeable, highly articulate and good in court, she has had a good number of wins in Article 8 cases due to her detailed analysis and phenomenal advocacy."

"A really persuasive advocate favoured by judges." *Chambers and Partners 2023 Extradition (Band 1)*

'Fearless approach to her oral advocacy. Very good on paper too. Bright, able and an ability to hold the attention of her audience." *Legal 500 2023 Inquest and Inquiries*

"She is an intelligent and committed advocate." *Legal 500 2023 Extradition (Band 1)*

"Incredibly capable extradition barrister. She is very knowledgeable and well regarded by the extradition world. She is always keen to argue test cases in extradition and is regularly looking for new lines of challenge". *Legal 500 2022 (Tier 1)*

"Dynamic, bright and creative." "She has a very quiet and assured approach in court" and is "a determined and knowledgeable advocate who cares deeply about her clients." *Chambers and Partners 2021 (Band 2)*

"She is an incredibly capable extradition barrister. She always impresses me with her thoroughness and regular contact with her instructing solicitors. She is very knowledgeable and well regarded by the extradition world.' *Legal 500 2021 (Band 1: Leading junior)*

"A brilliant lawyer with a sharp mind and an unwavering determination to protect her clients."

"She is incredibly capable and always impresses with her thoroughness."

"Very good at identifying the issues in cases, she writes extremely persuasively." *Chambers and Partners - 2020 (Band 2)*

"She has very detailed knowledge of the law, and is keen to argue test cases in the extradition field". *Legal 500 2019 (Band 2)*

"A well-regarded junior who continues to develop a sophisticated extradition practice both as a jury and an appellate advocate. She is particularly well versed in European Arrest Warrant cases, and acts for both requesting governments and requested persons. Townshend has appeared in the Supreme Court in cases relating to European Arrest Warrants".

"Quickly grasps arguments and gives very considered advice."
"She's a highly organised individual and a pleasure to work

with.. Passionate but realistic, she is very hard-working and adopts an approach which judges like - they instantly trust her...

Recent work: Represented a vulnerable appellant with post-traumatic stress disorder whose extradition was sought in order that he could serve over five years' imprisonment for drugs offences". *Chambers and Partners, 2019*

"She has a nice manner in court and is very good and efficient on the paperwork". *Legal 500, 2018*

"A very bright and meticulous counsel who has great attention to detail and is very clear and concise in her written work. Saoirse is a creative barrister who is diligent". *Chambers and Partners 2017*

"She always goes the extra mile and makes valuable contributions to the team". *Legal 500 2017*

Appointments

Junior Counsel to the Crown - C panel 2019

Crown Prosecution Service Advocate Panel Extradition Panel - grade 3

Education

- GDL and BVC, BPP
- BA (Hons) Politics and Parliamentary Studies, University of Leeds

Memberships

Defence Extradition Lawyers Association

Cases

Koc v Turkey

[2021] EWHC 1234 (Admin)

13.05.2021

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse Townshend represents Appellant whose extradition to Turkey for kidnap is barred by the High Court under passage of time, deliberate absence and Article 8 ECHR.

Fordham J allows the Appellant's appeal and discharges him from an order extraditing him to Turkey. The Court held that the District Judge ought to have found that extradition is barred due to the passage of time (s.82, Extradition Act 2003); deliberate absence (s.85) and Article 8 ECHR (s.87).

The Appellant was convicted in his absence in Turkey 13 years ago for an offence of kidnap committed 19 years ago. He was not informed of the place and time of the trial and his court-appointed lawyer was not present for all of the trial. The Appellant is

settled in the UK; has a wife who is a British citizen and three children. The eldest child has an eating disorder and has spent extended periods in psychiatric hospital. The Appellant himself also suffered from depression. The Court held that the District Judge ought to have found that extradition was barred due to passage of time due to the long and culpable delay on behalf of the Turkish Authorities. Fordham J also found that the District Judge ought not have found that the Appellant was deliberately absent from his trial since he did not 'waive' his right to be informed of his trial; simply he waived the obligation to attend. Finally, the Court held that the District Judge was wrong to find extradition a proportionate interference with the right to private and family life of the Appellant, and particularly his wife and eldest daughter due to her mental condition.

Bartulis v Lithuania

[2019] EWHC 504 (Admin); [2019] EWHC 3504 (Admin)

20.12.2019

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse was junior counsel representing one of the Appellants in this appeal before a Divisional Court. The issues decided were: a) whether inter-prisoner violence is such that a violation of Article 3 ECHR can be found; and b) disclosure in extradition proceedings.

Lis, Lange and Chmielewski v Poland

[2018] EWHC 2848 (Admin); [2019] EWHC 674 (Admin)

21.03.2019

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse was junior counsel acting for Mr Lange. This was the lead case before a Divisional Court (including the Lord Chief Justice) which determined whether extradition to Poland in all "accusation" cases would be halted. The Appellants argued that due to the political and constitutional changes in Poland since 2015, the judiciary are no longer independent and therefore the Appellants cannot obtain a fair trial pursuant to Article 6 ECHR.

IM v Bulgaria

[2019] EWHC 602 (Admin)

13.03.2019

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse successfully represented the Appellant whose appeal was allowed on Article 8 ECHR grounds in light of the Appellant's vulnerabilities having been a victim of trafficking and forced labour.

Krupeckiene v Lithuania

[2019] EWHC 569 (Admin)

11.03.2019

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse was junior counsel representing the Appellant before a Divisional Court in this appeal concerning the definition of a "judicial authority" following three recent CJEU cases.

Balazs v Crown Prosecution Service

[2018] EWHC 2540 (Admin)

21.09.2018

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse acted alone against a Silk. She acted for the Respondent in this application for habeas corpus. The law was clarified concerning time limits for removal in extradition proceedings and applications to discharge.

L. Georgiev, I. Dimitrov and B. Georgiev v Bulgaria

[2018] EWHC 359 (Admin)

26.02.2018

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse represented Mr Dimitrov in the key extradition appeal where it was argued that the Bulgarian authorities could not be trusted to comply with assurances regarding prison conditions where there was evidence of multiple previous breaches.

Connor, Herbert and Shammas v Germany

[2018] EWHC 829 (Admin)

17.04.2018

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse represented Mr Shammas in an extradition appeal where the Appellants were charged in Germany with a multi-million Euro carousel fraud. It was argued that it was an abuse of process to modify the number of offences for which they were sought without particularising them in the European Arrest Warrant.

Shumba, Henta and Bechian v France

[2018] EWHC 1762 (Admin)

12.07.2018

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse represented Mr Shumba in the leading extradition appeal on French prison conditions (Article 3 ECHR).

Bobbe v Poland

[2017] EWHC 3161 (Admin)

20.11.2017

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse was instructed by the for the judicial authority alone against a Silk and Junior. The Appellant suffered from schizophrenia and argued his extradition was oppressive due to his ill health (s.25 EA 2003). Before a Divisional Court on appeal, Saoirse made persuasive oral submissions that the Appellant's novel argument regarding a recent CJEU decision (C.K) was inapplicable. The appeal was dismissed.

Alexander v France & Di Benedetto v Italy

[2017] EWHC 1392 (Admin)

15.06.2017

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse appeared in the defining "sea-change" extradition appeal which for the first time allowed further information to correct "invalid" European Arrest warrants.

Debiec v Poland

[2017] EWHC 2653 (Admin)

12.10.2017

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse represented an Appellate requested person in one of the first cases in which s.25 (oppression due to mental health) has been successful in European Arrest Warrant cases since Poland v Wolkowicz [2013] EWHC 102 (Admin).

Goluchowski v District Court in Elblag, Poland and Sas v Circuit Court and District Court in Jelenia Gora, Poland
[2016] UKSC 36
29.06.2016

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse appeared in the Supreme Court in an extradition appeal regarding the validity of European Arrest Warrants.

Puceviciene v Lithuania
[2016] EWHC 1862
22.07.2016

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse was junior counsel representing one of the Appellants in this case before the Lord Chief Justice and is now one of the seminal cases on the operation of the s.12A bar to extradition.

Publications

A Practical Guide to Extradition Law Post-Brexit
09/09/2021

Authors: Kathryn Howarth Myles Grandison Benjamin Seifert Émilie Pottle Saoirse Townshend Juliet Wells
Published on 6 September 2021 by the TGC Extradition Team.

Criminal Justice Review
30/12/2014

Authors: Saoirse Townshend

Chapter on Judicial Review in Extradition Proceedings.

News

Saoirse Townshend joins the legal team acting in The Infected Blood Inquiry
18/07/2022

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Saoirse Townshend has joined the legal team acting for the Department of Health and Social Care in The Infected Blood Inquiry. The Infected Blood Inquiry is currently hearing evidence from former Health ministers. The final phase of hearings will start in September and will hear evidence relating to candour, openness, cover-up and record-keeping. The Inquiry is due to conclude by the end of 2022.

Saoirse joins other members of TGC, including Nicholas Moss QC, Kathryn Howarth, Anthony Lenanton, who are also instructed by the Department of Health and Social Care. She is led by Eleanor Grey QC.

Further information about the Inquiry's work can be found on the Inquiry's website at the link below.

You can view the publication at <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/>

Brook House Inquiry
18/03/2022

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend Paul Erdunast Harry Peto

Saoirse Townshend and Harriet Wakeman are junior counsel to the Inquiry; Harry Peto and Paul Erdunast are instructed as junior junior counsel to the Inquiry.

You can watch counsel taking witnesses live and by catching up on Youtube via the link below.

You can view the publication at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLLdAPJ3Y44>

Decision handed down in lead case on rule of law challenge to Polish extradition requests

28/09/2021

Barristers involved: Émilie Pottle Saoirse Townshend

Dame Victoria Sharp, P and Knowles J dismissed the appeals holding that, though there was a real risk of a breach of the rule of law in Poland, there was not sufficient evidence to show a risk of the breach of the essence of their right to fair trial in the case of each Requested Person.

Their Lordships did not decide the question of whether the Supreme Court could eventually depart from the CJEU decisions which bound the Divisional Court.

Émilie Pottle acted for Robert Wozniak, and Saoirse Townshend acted for Wojciech Chlabicz. They were both led by Clare Montgomery QC.

A Practical Guide to Extradition Law Post-Brexit

09/09/2021

Barristers involved: Kathryn Howarth Myles Grandison Benjamin Seifert Émilie Pottle Saoirse Townshend Juliet Wells

The TGC Extradition Team is delighted to announce the publication on 6th September of 'A Practical Guide to Extradition Law Post-Brexit'. Find it at www.lawbriefpublishing.com/ExtraditionLawPostBrexit. A 10% off discount code can be found [here](#). [Kathryn Howarth](#); [Myles Grandison](#); [Daniel Sternberg](#); [Benjamin Seifert](#); [Émilie Pottle](#); [Saoirse Townshend](#); [Emily Wilsdon](#); [Juliet Wells](#).

Saoirse Townshend represents Appellant whose extradition to Turkey for kidnap is barred by the High Court under passage of time, deliberate absence and Article 8 ECHR

13/05/2021

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

The Appellant was convicted in his absence in Turkey 13 years ago for an offence of kidnap committed 19 years ago. He was not informed of the place and time of the trial and his court-appointed lawyer was not present for all of the trial. The Appellant is settled in the UK; has a wife who is a British citizen and three children. The eldest child has an eating disorder and has spent extended periods in psychiatric hospital. The Appellant himself also suffered from depression. The Court held that the District Judge ought to have found that extradition was barred due to passage of time due to the long and culpable delay on behalf of the Turkish Authorities. Fordham J also found that the District Judge ought not have found that the Appellant was deliberately absent from his trial since he did not 'waive' his right to be informed of his trial; simply he waived the obligation to attend. Finally, the Court held that the District Judge was wrong to find extradition a proportionate interference with the right to private and family life of the Appellant, and particularly his wife and eldest daughter due to her mental condition.

TGC Extradition Team Podcast - Episode 1, Bulgarian Prison Conditions

13/04/2021

Barristers involved: Benjamin Seifert Saoirse Townshend

They discuss the real challenges in the case.

Please click on the link below to listen to the podcast via spotify.

You can view the publication at https://open.spotify.com/episode/2SpB5jxNxijjM685BbcJBm?si=YPje4hG9TZun5le_aSXm-w&nd=1

High Court allows appeals against Bulgarian Extradition requests

26/02/2021

Barristers involved: Robin Tam KC Saoirse Townshend

Three members of Temple Garden Chambers extradition team have successfully obtained the discharge of their clients on human rights grounds.

In a judgment handed down on 26 February 2021 the High Court has allowed the appeals of Richard Chechev and Rayko Vangelov represented by Robin Tam QC, leading Saoirse Townshend (Chechev) and Robin Tam QC leading Daniel Sternberg (Vangelov).

The High Court held that the assurances provided by the Bulgarian authorities regarding prison conditions were insufficient to displace the real risk of a breach of article 3 ECHR in Mr. Vangelov's case and allowed his appeal. In Mr. Chechev's case the High Court allowed his appeal on article 8 ECHR grounds.

You can view the publication at <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/427.html>

Webinar - An Introduction to Extradition Law - Understanding the Basics

11/02/2021

Barristers involved: Kathryn Howarth Myles Grandison Benjamin Seifert Saoirse Townshend

The TGC Extradition team invites you to a webinar. For further details and to register please follow the link below.

You can view the publication at

<https://www.mblseminars.com/Outline/An-Introduction-to-Extradition-Law---Understanding-the-Basics---Webinar/12952/>

Webinar - A Practical Guide to Extradition Law Post-Brexit

30/11/2020

Barristers involved: Myles Grandison Saoirse Townshend Benjamin Seifert Kathryn Howarth

Further details are available in the attached flyer. To register please email events@tgchambers.com **WEBINAR INVITE**

Permission to appeal granted in lead extradition Latvian prison conditions case

28/07/2020

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

Today, Nicola Davies LJ and Julian Knowles J handed down judgment in *Danfolds & Jodelis v General Prosecutor's Office, Latvia* [2020] EWHC 2042 (Admin), granting permission to appeal against the extradition order made in respect of both Appellants. Saoirse Townshend, instructed by Oracle Solicitors, represented Mr Jodelis.

The Appellants argued that there is a real risk that the Appellants will be subject to inhuman and degrading treatment if extradited to Latvia due to the established poor state of Latvian prisons (s.21 and s.21A of the Extradition Act 2003). There is a particular concern about dilapidated condition of the Griva Section of Daugavgriva prison which the Committee for the Prevention of Torture found "could be considered to be inhuman and degrading". Other concerns included low staffing levels, inter-prisoner violence and inadequate healthcare with regard to COVID-19.

The Court held that it was appropriate to ask Aranyosi questions and seek assurances from the Latvian authorities (see paras. 25-27 and the Annex). The substantive appeal hearing is likely to be heard in the Autumn term.

Judgment can be viewed [here](#).

PERMISSION GRANTED IN RULE OF LAW CHALLENGE TO POLISH EAWs

10/06/2020

Barristers involved: Émilie Pottle Saoirse Townshend

Their Lordships held that it was arguable that there is a real risk of a flagrant denial of justice in breach of Article 6 ECHR (s.21 of the Extradition Act 2003) or the court which issued the EAW cannot be classified as a “judicial authority” for the purposes of s.2 of the Act and Articles 1 and 6 of the Framework Decision. The cases are joined and a listing is awaited.

Saoirse Townshend represents Mr Chlabicz and Emilie Pottle represents Mr Wozniak. The permission judgement in Wozniak is available [here](#).

The Coronavirus Act 2020: What Extradition Practitioners Need to Know

27/03/2020

Barristers involved: Kathryn Howarth Émilie Pottle Saoirse Townshend Benjamin Seifert

The Act makes substantial changes to the use of live links at extradition hearings.

A full briefing note has been prepared by Daniel Sternberg. It is available [here](#).

On 12 March 2020 Lord Hodge, Lord Sales and Lord Hamblen granted permission to appeal to the Supreme Court in a case will deal with the viability of assurances which purport to guarantee compliance with Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [Please see link](#).

On 18 February 2020 the Divisional Court referred the first and perhaps only UK extradition case to the Court of Justice of the European Union. [Please see link](#).

Chambers is very pleased to welcome Kathryn Howarth, Emilie Pottle and Saoirse Townshend to the [extradition team](#).

[Kathryn Howarth](#) specialises in public international law, extradition and public law. She is on the Attorney General’s Public International Law Panel of Counsel and the Attorney General’s Civil Panel of Counsel. She is instructed by UK and foreign government departments and individuals. Kathryn is described in the Legal 500 as combining “intellectual strength with an imperturbable, yet reassuring, court manner”.

[Émilie Pottle](#) is an extradition, public and international law specialist. She is recommended in the directories across multiple practice areas and has appeared before the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Divisional Court. She represents UK and foreign government departments, individuals and NGOs.

[Saoirse Townshend](#) is described in Chambers & Partners 2020 as “A brilliant lawyer with a sharp mind and an unwavering determination to protect her clients.” Saoirse has a dynamic court and advisory practice specialising in extradition and public law. Saoirse is instructed alone and is led in complex and novel points of law before the Supreme Court and the Divisional Court. Saoirse is ranked in both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners.

Saoirse Townshend successfully represents a 29 year old Polish man, sought pursuant to a European Arrest Warrant to serve a sentence of imprisonment of two years in Poland for burglary

27/02/2020

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend

An important feature of the case was that the Appellant had served 15 months of the sentence whilst on remand in the UK. Expert evidence was adduced that he suffered from depression and that there was a risk of suicide. The Administrative Court (Steyn J) allowed the appeal and quashed the order for extradition, ordering the Appellant’s immediate release from custody.

Saoirse was instructed by Chris Stevens at Sonn Macmillan Walker.

TGC Welcomes Saoirse Townshend and Anne Coulon to chambers

06/01/2020

Barristers involved: Saoirse Townshend Anne Coulon

We are delighted to announce that **Saoirse Townshend** has accepted an invitation to join Temple Garden Chambers. Saoirse specialises in extradition and public law. She is a member of the Attorney General's " C " Panel.

We are also delighted to welcome **Anne Coulon**, a public international lawyer trained in France, Germany and the United States, to Chambers as an Associate Tenant. Before joining Temple Garden Chambers, Anne spent several years working at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.
