

# ISABEL BARTER

Call 2010

## Get in touch

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+44 (0)20 7822 1200



*"driven and intelligent, she is excellent"*  
(Chambers UK)

## Practice Overview

Isabel has a busy common law and commercial practice, with a particular focus on professional negligence, product liability, property damage, and travel and jurisdiction.

Isabel has appeared in the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Isabel is recommended in the legal directories. She has been described as *"driven and intelligent, she is excellent"*, *"very user friendly and approachable"*, *"thorough and easy to deal with – she gets completely on top of the problems"* and that she *"gets to grips with documents like no other junior"*.

Prior to coming to the bar, Isabel worked in the charitable sector. She graduated from Cambridge with a BA (Hons) in History. She obtained a Distinction on the GDL and an Outstanding on the BVC. She was also a Major Scholar of the Inner Temple.

## Commercial Dispute Resolution

Isabel's practice encompasses a wide variety of commercial disputes in cases concerning all aspects of commercial dispute resolution. Recent cases include: a £35m claim which involved consideration of which particular entity was retained to advise; claims involving supply of goods and services; a claim where it was alleged the defendant had fraudulently created documents to provide evidence of the terms of an oral contract; and *Mehjoo v Harben Barker (A Firm)* [2014] 4 All ER 806 which concerned the breadth of an accountants' retainer.

### Practice areas

Commercial Dispute Resolution  
Commercial Fraud  
Private International Law & Travel  
Product Liability  
Professional Negligence  
Property Damage

### Qualifications

BVC (Outstanding)  
Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)  
BA (Hons) History

### Education

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University  
City Law School  
BPP Law School



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## Commercial Fraud

Isabel has a flourishing commercial fraud practice. Recent cases include acting for tax advisors in relation to a £35m claim by their former client (in liquidation) for, inter alia, advising its client to participate in a tax fraud, dishonest assistance, conspiracy, fraudulent trading and fraudulent breaches of fiduciary duty (led by Mark Simpson QC); acting for a building professional in relation to a million pound deceit claim; and acting for defendants in a multi-million pound claim who were accused of fraudulently creating documents to provide evidence of the terms of an oral contract (led by Mark Simpson QC).

## Private International Law & Travel

Isabel has experience in cases involving choice of law disputes which arise in a number of other areas of her practice, including professional negligence, product liability and personal injury.

Isabel was led by Charles Dougherty QC on the important case on the applicable law and the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, *Allen & Others v Depuy International Limited* [2015] 2 WLR 442.

Recent cases include: questions of jurisdiction and service out concerning defective products; a claim against a UK holding company for, inter alia, the actions of its African subsidiary; complex conflict of law issues arising out of large multinational companies; the Package Travel regulations; and a solicitor's negligence case concerning limitation and conflict of laws issues.

## Product Liability

Isabel acts for claimants and defendants in a wide range of product liability claims. Recent cases have included claims involving extensive property damage and personal injury arising out of defective products.

Isabel's property damage expertise is brought to bear on her product liability practice, in particular in relation to complex expert evidence and causation in such claims.

Please click [here](#) for links to Isabel's and Charles Dougherty QC's practical guide to the [Consumer Protection Act 1987](#) and to Isabel's and Dan Crowley's article on [Causation: Sherlock Holmes, Submarines and the Hard Rock Café](#)

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Isabel was led by Charles Dougherty QC on the important case on the applicable law and the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, *Allen & Others v Depuy International Limited* [2015] 2 WLR 442.

Other notable recent cases include cases concerning a wide range of products installed in commercial premises, industrial products, domestic electrical products and boilers, medical implants, toys and gymnastic equipment and even components of a nuclear fusion reactor.

## Professional Negligence

Isabel has a flourishing professional negligence practice, acting for claimants and defendants. She is regularly instructed in cases involving accountants, financial advisers, surveyors, barristers, solicitors, mortgage brokers and architects.

Isabel is listed in the legal directories for professional negligence. She is praised for her **"broad knowledge of professional liability law and significant experience in the Court of Appeal and High Court"**, and **"proves particularly strong acting in claims concerning accountants, financial advisers and surveyors"**. Isabel is said to have **"an exceptional style with clients and produces a quality of advice well beyond her years"** and it is noted that **"the way she can digest thousands of pages and quickly pick out the issues is amazing. She is extremely bright and user-friendly"**.

Notable recent cases include: a million pound claim in deceit against building inspectors (sole Counsel); £35m claim against tax advisers alleging negligence, dishonest assistance and fraudulent trading (led by Mark Simpson QC); a multi-million pound claim against a barrister; and *Mehjoo v Harben Barker (A Firm)* [2014] 4 All ER 806 (concerning accountants' negligence), together with various claims involving construction professionals ranging from architects to builders and plumbers.

## Property Damage

Isabel acts for claimants and defendants in property damage claims. Recent cases have included matters arising from fires; floods; product liability; negligence of construction professionals causing damage to property; and/or claims involving nuisance.

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Isabel's product liability experience feeds into her property damage practice, in particular in relation to complex expert evidence and causation in such claims, as does her professional negligence expertise.

Recent cases include damage to expensive plant on a building site; extensive fire damage and loss of profits as a result of a fire in commercial premises; a claim concerning damage to multiple cars within a car park which was burned down; damage to domestic premises caused by fire and floods; and cases involving nuisance and trespass.

## Significant Cases

***Instant Access Properties Ltd (In Liquidation) v Jeffcote Donnison LLP (and others)***, £35m claim alleging negligence, dishonest assistance and fraudulent trading (ongoing).

***Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc*** [2016] UKSC 11, [2016] AC 677, a case concerning the breadth of vicarious liability.

***Allen & Others v Depuy International Limited*** [2015] 2 WLR 442, an important new case on the applicable law and the territorial scope of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

***Mehjoo v Harben Barker (A Firm)*** [2014] 4 All ER 806 concerning accountants' negligence, which involved issues relating to the breadth of an accountant's duty, domicile, tax avoidance schemes and remoteness.

## Recommendations

Isabel is recommended in the legal directories for professional negligence, where it is said *"she has an exceptional style with clients and produces a quality of advice well beyond her years"*, and *"the way she can digest thousands of pages and quickly pick out the issues is amazing. She is extremely bright and user-friendly."*

She is said to be *"super-bright, ferociously hardworking and a delight to work with"*, *"driven and intelligent, she is excellent"*, *"thorough and easy to deal with – she gets completely on top of the problems"* and that she *"gets to grips with documents like no other junior."* Isabel is praised for her *"broad knowledge of professional liability law and significant experience in the Court of Appeal and High Court"*, and *"proves particularly strong acting in claims concerning accountants, financial advisers and surveyors."*

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