

Rebecca Hill

YEAR OF CALL: 2004



'Regarded amongst the best in the field. A robust advocate who brings a high level of technical expertise to any case.'

THE LEGAL 500 2021 FOR EXTRADITION

Rebecca is a wonderful advocate and presents her cases with great skill and persuasively.'

The Legal 500 2024 | Tier 1

"She is consistently conscientious and driven to get the best results for her clients."

The Legal 500, 2023

"Rebecca has a wealth of knowledge about extradition and her legal research is second to none. She is a convincing advocate who is excellent on the law."

Chambers & Partners, 2023

Overview

Rebecca Hill is a leader in the field of extradition and international crime. She primarily acts on behalf of individuals but is also instructed to represent Requesting States and the Secretary of State for the Home Department. She is an expert in Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance, Human Rights, Asylum and Protection and Financial Crime. This breadth of experience affords Rebecca a unique perspective which she utilises to advise clients comprehensively from the pre-request stage all the way to any possible challenges before the European Court (if required).

"An excellent advocate and communicator who is exceptionally knowledgeable on extradition law."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

"Has the ability to present the case really well and hold the attention of the court. She is extremely pleasant to work with and very good at explaining complex issues to clients..."

Chambers & Partners, 2020

"Her levels of client care are second to none; she is compassionate, committed and determined to achieve the right result."

Chambers & Partners, 2020

"Very knowledgeable when it comes to various jurisdictions and someone who is good at research."

Chambers & Partners, 2021

"Always very impressive in terms of her advocacy and written work."

Chambers & Partners, 2019

Rebecca acts in cases of the utmost gravity and has particular expertise in requests concerning cross-border financial crime, those with a political dimension (including abuse or manipulation by the State) and trans-national criminality such as trafficking of people and narcotics. She has nearly two-decades' experience regularly appearing before all levels of Court including the Divisional and Administrative Court and raising challenges to the European Court of Human Rights. It is a mark of her ability that Rebecca is regularly instructed to appear against Kings Counsel at first instance and on appeal.

In addition to her extradition practice, Rebecca is appointed to the Attorney General's 'B' Panel of counsel to advise the Government on a range of substantial and complex legal matters. This practice compliments her expertise in asylum and provides invaluable experience in judicial reviews, writs for habeas corpus and other public law challenges which can be deployed independently or ancillary to extradition proceedings.

Rebecca is ranked as a Tier 1 barrister in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500.

Rebecca's strength lies in her aptitude for identifying and arguing complex and novel legal challenges combined with exceptional client care. The guides say the following about Rebecca:

"Rebecca Hill is fantastic with more vulnerable clients. She is always on hand to offer guidance and support in significantly complex cases."

Chambers & Partners 2024.

Rebecca has strong contacts with an international network of lawyers who can offer insight and parallel advice alongside domestic extradition or asylum challenges. She is a strong tactician and will seek to utilise this network to her client's benefit.

Rebecca has exceptional client care. Chambers and Partners observed *‘Her levels of client care are second to none; she is compassionate, committed and determined to achieve the right result.’*

Judicial appointments

Deputy District Judge: South Eastern Circuit.

Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

Professional Panel Appointments

Attorney General's Panel of Counsel: B Panel.

Specialist level 3 prosecutor on the CPS Extradition list.

“Rebecca Hill has an excellent grasp of both procedural matters and what is required on the advocacy front in extradition.”

Chambers & Partners 2024.

"Rebecca is an excellent advocate and communicator who is exceptionally knowledgeable regarding extradition law."

The Legal 500, 2022

"She is great, very dependable and is destined to go a long way in the law."

Chambers & Partners, 2018

"She is enormously personable, and an outgoing and engaging advocate."

Chambers & Partners, 2016

Professional Memberships

Defence Extradition Lawyers Association (DELF).

Criminal Bar Association (CBA).

Extradition Lawyers Association (ELA).

Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC).

Extradition & International

Rebecca prosecutes and defends in the most serious and complex cases, involving both European and International jurisdictions and raising the full spectrum of issues including technical and human rights arguments. In addition, she is experienced in ancillary Judicial Reviews, habeas corpus applications and submissions to the European Court of Human Rights.

Rebecca is instructed to advise in cases of international individuals 'at risk' of extradition and those who have been returned to the UK by 'import extraditions'. As such her expertise encompasses every area of work in the extradition field.

Rebecca frequently provides training to solicitors on an ad-hoc basis on current legal issues and topics. She has lectured delegates from the Commonwealth Secretariat on the merits and difficulties of the European Arrest Warrant scheme. Her reputation as an extradition specialist had led her to appear as an expert and commentator in the press and on BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 News.

Judicial Review & Public Law

Rebecca is appointed to the Attorney General's 'B' Panel of counsel to advise the Government on a range of substantial and complex legal matters. Her appointment to this 'fiercely' competitive Panel is reflective of her aptitude and expertise in all areas of public law.

Rebecca is experienced in advising on government policy and in appearing before the UT and Administrative Court in judicial review challenges. She advises on civil claims including those for Unlawful Detention, Asylum Support and under the Equalities Act.

As with extradition, Rebecca's practice representing Government affords a unique insight and she also represents individuals in judicial reviews, writs for habeas corpus and other public law challenges.

Immigration

Rebecca's extensive experience in international human rights' work places her perfectly to represent the interests of clients resisting removal from the UK or seeking entry clearance. Rebecca has represented Claimants in the First Tier and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber). She is ideally placed to advise in cases with linked extradition proceeding or with a political dimension.

Criminal Defence

Rebecca is an experienced criminal barrister, having acted in serious and complex cases including murder, international fraud, child cruelty, 'professional' armed robberies (cash-in-transit) and serious sexual assaults.

Cases of Note

Extradition

Czech Republic v AS (2023)

Instructed on behalf of RP to resist extradition to face trial for a \$45 million corporate insurance fraud said to have been perpetrated whilst he was a Company Director.

US v MG (2023)

Instructed on behalf of RP to resist extradition to the US in respect of allegations including

laundering of cryptocurrency. Issues advanced in opposition to extradition include challenges to the US authorities' jurisdiction and the possibility of a domestic prosecution (forum).

ZN v Poland (2023)

Representing individual in challenge against extradition on grounds of politically motivated prosecution.

Rae v USA (2023)

Representing individual in lead case on application of ECHR requirements to non-Contracting States.

Brazil v Savergnini (2023)

Representing individual in the first request by Brazil considering prison conditions for women.

Birbeck v Andorra (2023)

Acting for the SSHD in a lead case before the Divisional Court concerning challenges to the certification of a request.

Turkey v EU (2023)

Representing individual in challenge to extradition on grounds relating to Kurdish ethnicity and prison conditions.

Bhandari v India (2023)

Representing the SSHD in a statutory appeal concerning specialty arrangements with India.

US v Kaura (2022)

Representing individual in challenge to extradition to the US for 'Darknet' fraud offences.

Advising on asylum challenge relating to politically motivated extradition request by Kenya (2022)

Chappel & Ors v SSHD (2022)

Acting for the SSHD in a judicial review against certification of the first request from Japan on

grounds it was not made in the required way.

Belgium v Klar

Representing the Belgian authorities in their request for consent to the onward extradition of the RP for a £31 million tax fraud.

First extradition hearing under the new post-Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Rebecca's client was arrested at Court on a European Arrest Warrant issued in April 2020. Pursuant to Article LAW.SURR.112 of the agreement EAWs issued, but not executed prior to 31st Dec 2020 are to be treated as 'arrest warrants' under the new scheme. Thus the hearing became the first extradition hearing under the post-Brexit 'Surrender Arrangements'. Judgment was adjourned.

MI and BI v Italy [2018] A.C.D. 98

Represented the first Appellant in this lead Divisional Court appeal relating to the right of children to be heard under Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, whether and how district judges need to hear from children before making a decision regarding their parents' extradition.

Brazil v PD [2018]

Secured the discharge of the Requested Person who faced a 5 year sentence for firearms offences. Successfully argued that prison conditions in Brazil would breach PD's right to freedom from inhumane and degrading treatment.

USA v RL

Instructed on behalf of the Requested Person, in this case concerning the complex issue of the US Civil Commitment regime which enables sexual offenders to be incarcerated indefinitely. On behalf of the Requested Person, it was argued that the regime breaches the Art 5 right to liberty. The matter presently awaits a decision by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

France v Kayani

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/26/suspected-trafficker-sent-hundreds-migrants-britain-court-told>. Instructed on behalf of the French authorities who sought the Requested Person's extradition for serious offences of human trafficking. The RP resisted extradition on grounds that the warrant was invalid, that he was not wanted for the purpose of trial and that he should be tried in the UK. Mr Kayani's extradition was ordered.

Italy v Doci [2016] EWHC 2100 (Admin)

Represented the Appellant in this lead case on the application of a new provision in the Extradition Act 2003, s12A. The matter involved expert evidence on complex provisions of Italian law and the interrelationship between European and Domestic law. A decision is presently awaited on the Appellant's application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Zagorskij v Lithuania [2015] EWHC 2335 (Admin)

Represented a gay Lithuanian man convicted of sexually assaulting another man and required to serve a sentence. It was argued that whilst Lithuanian prisons are generally Art 3 compliant, homophobia in the State is so rife that it rendered the RP a uniquely vulnerable prisoner who could not be protected.

Hungary v Agardi [2014] EWHC 3433 (Admin)

Representing this Defendant in the test case on Hungarian prison conditions. The case involves the calling of a number of experts and complex legal argument. The cases of four other defendants are linked in order to comprehensively analyse the conditions and reach a conclusive determination which will be binding in all other Hungarian cases.

Albania v Voci (2014) EWHC 4030 (Admin)

Instructed to represent the Defendant in his appeal against extradition order. The Defendant's return is sought in relation to a murder in 1997. Multiple arguments being raised, namely conviction in absence, retrial rights failing to meet Art 6 standards, prison conditions and risk from non-state actors arising from blood feuds which are well documented in Albania. The case involves no less than three separate experts as well as reliance on voluminous open-source international material.

Netecza v Holland [2014] EWHC 1527 (Admin)

Represented the interests of the Requesting Judicial Authority in this writ for habeas corpus arising from the extension of time for an individual's removal.

Publications and Media Appearances

Law Brief Update

Rebecca is co-author of extradition updates for Law Brief Update, an email update of key developments in case law which is circulated to over 10,000 lawyers on a monthly basis.

BBC News

29th March 2012 – Interview addressing the issues arising from the Shrien Dewani extradition.

Channel 4 News

17th December 2011 – Undertook interview explaining the Extradition Act 2003 and commenting upon the Assange extradition.

Channel 5 News

9th December 2011 – Interviewed as expert on extradition to South Africa in relation to the Dewani extradition.

Commonwealth Secretariat Conference 2008

Lectured delegates on the European Arrest Warrant regime and broader principles of extradition.

Accreditation

