



SARAH PALIN  
Call: 1999

Registered name on the Bar Standards  
Board Register: Sarah Palin  
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## Overview

Listed as “up and coming” in the Evening Standard’s 1000 Most Influential People, Sarah practices in all areas of media and information law, including defamation, privacy, breach of confidence, data protection, freedom of information, harassment, negligent misstatement, Articles 8 and 10 related human rights law, contempt, election law and reporting restrictions. She also has a strong interest in media regulation. She is recognised by the legal directories as a leading barrister in these areas.

Sarah has extensive experience in media and information law litigation, acting for both claimants and defendants, she has advised a broad range of clients, including government departments, local authorities, police forces, NHS trusts, professional regulatory bodies, television companies, the national and local press, as well as individuals. Her practice also includes pre-publication advisory work for national newspapers, magazines, broadcasters and major publishing houses.

Sarah has appeared in numerous high-profile defamation and privacy actions. She represented Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail, at The Leveson Inquiry and previously acted on behalf of the BBC at The Hutton Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr David Kelly. Her significant cases include acting with Andrew Caldecott QC on behalf of the intervening media in the Supreme Court in *Spiller v Joseph*, an important case in the development of the defence of honest opinion. High profile claimant cases include acting for Mohammed Dahlan (the Palestinian Authority’s former Minister for Security), Neil and Christine Hamilton, and Bruce Grobbelaar.

## Recognition

Sarah is recommended as a leading junior in Defamation and Privacy in Chambers and Partners, Who’s Who Legal and The Legal 500.

Popular junior who draws praise for her advocacy skills and busy defamation and privacy practice. She is best known for acting on behalf of newspaper groups and media organisations. *“Extremely knowledgeable on defamation and media issues. Always a pleasure to deal with.” “She has a loyal publishing clientele.”* Chamber and Partners 2019

*‘Provides a high standard of service to her clients.’* The Legal 500 2018

*“I have used her on defamation claims and have been very impressed.”* Chambers and Partners 2017

*“An excellent source of advice and service”* The Legal 500 2016

Reputable barrister whose expertise covers both defamation and privacy cases. She has been involved in a number of the practice area’s key cases, including *Spiller v Joseph*. *“She’s enormously hard-working and provides sound advice.”* Chambers and Partners 2016

*“She is hugely experienced and talented, and offers practical rather than academic solutions.”* The Legal 500 2015

*“Sarah enjoys a strong reputation, and is instructed by solicitors for her detailed knowledge of the newspaper industry and her ability to tackle heavyweight disputes.”* Sarah is acknowledged for her *“Good drafting and clear advice.”* Chambers and Partners 2015

*“She applies academic knowledge and practical intelligence to great effect.”* The Legal 500 2014

*“She is hugely impressive, excellent with clients and very strong in her field.”* Chambers and Partners 2014

Sarah Palin is *“a real star of the junior media Bar.”* The Legal 500 2013/14



Sarah Palin boasts “*impressive intellectual dexterity*” and provides “*great strategic thinking and tactical input.*” Chambers and Partners 2013

Sarah Palin's recent sorties have included appearing in defence of Associated Newspapers in a libel action brought by Nicola Horlick, as well as acting in a number of other high-profile libel and privacy cases. She is known not only for her knowledge of the media industry, but also for the “*drive and enthusiasm she brings to each and every case.*” Chambers and Partners 2012

Sarah “*grasps complicated issues swiftly and provides practical, commercial advice.*” Chambers and Partners 2011

“*Proactive and impressive*” Sarah Palin is “*very balanced and able to take things in her stride without being fazed by unexpected things happening.*” Her noteworthy work has included acting as junior counsel in a successful reporting restrictions judicial review. Chambers and Partners 2010

Sarah Palin, a name on many people's radar, who is “*amazing for someone so junior*” Chambers and Partners 2008

### Representative cases

**Steve Morgan CBE v Associated Newspapers** (2017) – Junior Counsel (led by Catrin Evans QC) for the publishers of the *Daily Mail* in respect of a libel claim brought by the chairman of Redrow.

**Roberto Carlos da Silva Rocha v (1) Westdeutscher Rundfunk Koln (2) Associated Newspapers Limited** (2017) – Junior Counsel (led by Andrew Caldecott QC) for *The Mail on Sunday* in relation a claim for libel by Roberto Carlos, the former Brazilian and Real Madrid player, over allegations that he took performance-enhancing drugs during his career, including in and around the 2002 World Cup, when he won the World Cup as part of the Brazilian national team.

**An Inquiry into Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Turkey** – Sarah was appointed to assist Lord Woolf CH, Professor Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC KCMG, and Sir Edward Garnier QC in a high-profile inquiry into the current human rights situation in Turkey, focusing in particular on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Turkey.

**Information Commissioner v Colenso-Dunne** [2015] UKUT 471 – Advised affected third parties in relation to a freedom of information request and whether the information sought was ‘sensitive personal data’ within section 2(g) of the DPA.

**JK Rowling v Associated Newspapers Limited** [2014] EMLR 23 – Junior Counsel for the defendant newspaper in a libel action brought by the author. Led by Andrew Caldecott QC.

**MATCH Hospitality AG, Match Services AG & Byrom Group Plc** (2014) – Junior Counsel advising FIFA partners appointed to provide ticketing and hospitality for the FIFA World Cup 2014 and 2018 in relation to defamatory publications around the world following the arrest in Brazil of a company director.

**Waghorn v General Medical Council** (2014) – Counsel for the GMC in relation to a number of claims for libel, misuse of private information, breach of the Data Protection Act and under the Human Rights Act 1998 by doctors who have been erased or suspended from the Medical Register.

**The Leveson Inquiry: Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press** (2011-2014) – Junior Counsel for Associated Newspapers.

**Jooste v General Medical Council** (2014) – Acted for the GMC in a successful application to strike out an action against the GMC in respect of publications arising out of an investigation into the claimant's fitness to practice and interim suspension (Decision of Tugendhat J).

**R v Kupstys** (2014) – Counsel for national newspaper on an application at Lincoln Crown Court to successfully lift a section 4(2) order prohibiting the reporting of the mistaken release by the Prison Service of a prisoner on remand during his trial for murder.

**Edwards v General Medical Council** (2014) – Acted for the GMC in relation to a claim for libel, misuse of private information, breach of the Data Protection Act and under the Human Rights Act arising out of a fitness to practise investigation.



**Thour v Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust** [2012] EWHC 1473 – Counsel for the defendant NHS Trust in a successful defence at a trial before Tugendhat J in respect of a claim brought in relation to a defamatory employment reference.

**Sergeant Jones v Cornwall and Devon Media Limited and Western Morning News & Media Ltd** (2012) – Counsel for the regional media in relation to a claim for libel brought by a police officer in relation to allegations of impropriety in the conduct of his professional duties.

**M v East Midlands Newspapers Limited** (2012) – Acted for the defendant newspaper in a privacy, data protection and negligence claim in relation to an alleged breach of reporting restrictions protecting the anonymity of a victim of a sexual offence.

**Dr Petrus Jooste v GMC** (2012) – Counsel for the GMC in a successful application for summary judgment in respect of a claim for libel, malicious falsehood and damages under the Human Rights Act 1998.

**MNO v STU & PQR** (2011) – Counsel for a government department, instructed by the Treasury Solicitor, in a libel action.

**Clift v Clarke** [2011] EWHC 1164 – Counsel for the defendant online publisher in a successful resistance of a *Norwich Pharmacal* application for the disclosure of information likely to lead to the identification of the authors of comments posted on a national news website.

**R v Local World Limited** (2011) – Acted for the publisher and editor of the North Devon Journal in respect of a prosecution for breach of a s.39 order (Children and Young Persons Act 1933, s.39) for publishing the name of a teenage victim. The publisher was fined following a plea of guilty, and the CPS agreed to discontinue against the editor.

**Joseph v Spiller** [2010] UKSC 53 – Junior Counsel for the media Interveners (Guardian News and Media Limited, Times Newspapers Limited, Associated Newspapers Limited) in important Supreme Court decision on opinions. Led by Andrew Caldecott QC.

**Horlick v Associated Newspapers Ltd** [2010] EWHC 1544 – Junior Counsel for the defendant in a libel action brought by Nicola Horlick concerning allegations about her performance as a fund manager. Led by Andrew Caldecott QC at a successful trial by judge alone of preliminary issues of meaning and whether the words were fact or comment.

**Al Abdin v Telegraph Media Group PLC** (2010) – Counsel for the defendant in a libel action concerning allegations of violent extremism.

**Sophie Dahl and Jamie Cullum v Associated Newspapers Limited** (2010) – Counsel in a claim for breach of privacy in respect of an article revealing details of their wedding.

**Jenkins v Sheffield Wednesday Football Club** (2009) – Counsel for football club in claim under Data Protection Act 1998.

**Dr Hassan v General Medical Council** (2008) – Counsel for the GMC in an action brought by a doctor under the Data Protection Act 1998 in respect of a fitness to practise investigation by the GMC.

**R (on the application of Dacre) v Westminster Magistrates' Court** [2009] 1 W.L.R. 2241; [2009] 1 Cr. App. R. 6 – Junior Counsel for the defendants in successful judicial review proceedings to quash the magistrates' refusal to stay a criminal prosecution for breach of reporting restrictions.

**Mohammed Dahlan v Al Jazeera Satellite TV** [2008] EWHC 923 – Junior Counsel for the claimant, a leading Palestinian politician, in a claim over a broadcast on Al Jazeera. Case settled shortly before trial. Led by Andrew Caldecott QC.

**Burstein v Associated Newspapers** [2007] EWCA Civ 600 – Junior counsel (led by Victoria Sharp QC as she then was) for the defendants in successful application for summary judgment on a defence of fair comment. This was the first consideration of the defence of fair comment by the Court of Appeal for many years.

**Martyn Jones MP v Associated Newspapers** [2007] EWHC 1489 – Junior Counsel for defendant newspaper in jury trial of justification defence. Significant judgment on indemnity costs, Part 36 offers and CFA claimants.

**Lowe v Associated Newspapers** [2007] 2 WLR 595 – Junior Counsel for defendant (led by Victoria Sharp QC as she then was) in a significant case in the development of the defence of honest opinion.

**Neil and Christine Hamilton v Max Clifford, News Group Newspapers and Express Newspapers** [2004] EWHC 1542 – Acted for the claimants in libel actions arising from Nadine Milroy-Sloan's false accusations of rape.



**The Hutton Inquiry** – Junior Counsel for the BBC (led by Andrew Caldecott QC).

**Donal MacIntyre v Chief Constable of Kent** [2003] EMLR 9 – Junior Counsel for the claimant (with Andrew Caldecott QC and Manuel Barca). Settled with substantial damages paid to the claimant.

**Grobbelaar v News Group Newspapers** [2002] 1 WLR 3024 – Junior Counsel for claimant (led by Richard Hartley QC) in the House of Lords (misdirection in the summing-up, excessive damages and perversity) and Court of Appeal [2001] 2 All ER 437 (*Reynolds* privilege; misdirection and unreasonable verdict).

**Attorney-General v BBC** [2001] EWHC Admin 1202 – Junior Counsel for BBC (led by Andrew Caldecott QC) in contempt proceedings arising from the publication of the identity of a victim of sexual abuse.

### Publications and Seminars

Contributor to *Arlidge, Eady & Smith on Contempt*, 5th Edition, 2017

Author, *Atkin's Court Forms on Confidence, Privacy, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Interception of Communications*, 2018

Author, *Atkin's Court Forms on Contempt*, 2014

### Qualifications

MA (Hons), Modern History, University of Oxford (Brasenose College)

CPE Postgraduate diploma in law, City University