



## Natalie Pratt

Call: 2018

### Barrister

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**Natalie** has a busy chancery practice, and has appeared in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, County Court and First-tier Tribunal. Natalie specialises in injunction proceedings (including against persons unknown and in the context of protests) and committals, and has a particular interest in property litigation.

In particular, Natalie appeared as junior counsel in *Wolverhampton City Council & Ors v London Gypsies and Travellers & Ors* [2023] UKSC 47, *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2022] EWCA Civ 13, *Thurrock Council & Anr v Adams & Ors* [2022] EWHC 1324 (QB), *Arla Foods Limited & Anr v Persons Unknown* (BL-2022-001396) and *MBR Acres Limited & Ors v Free the MBR Beagles & Ors* [2021] EWHC 2996 (QB), as well as appearing as sole counsel in various other injunction proceedings.

Before joining the Bar, Natalie lectured the law of property and trusts, and was awarded a PhD for a thesis titled 'The Real Tragedy of the Commons: The Absence of Suitable Institutions in English Law to Secure Mutual Self-Interest Commons'.

#### INJUNCTIONS AND COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS

Natalie specialises in injunction proceedings generally, and especially against persons unknown and also in the context of protests. In particular, she was instructed as junior counsel in:

- *Wolverhampton City Council & Ors v London Gypsies and Travellers & Ors* [2023] UKSC 47
- *Arla Foods Limited & Anr v Persons Unknown* (BL-2022-001396)
- *Thurrock Council & Anr v Adams & Ors* [2022] EWHC 1324 (QB)
- *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2022] EWCA Civ 13
- *MBR Acres Limited & Ors v Free the MBR Beagles & Ors* [2021] EWHC 2996 (QB)
- *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors*

Natalie has experience of injunction matters as sole counsel, including in:

- *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham v Gbadegesin* [2023] EWHC 2371 (KB), obtaining a final injunction pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, s222 to secure compliance with improvement notices served under the Housing Act 2004, ss11-12
- *Reigate and Banstead Borough Council v Mitchell & Ors* [2022] 6 WLUK 80 obtaining an injunction pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, s187B (both without notice and on the return date)
- In the County Court, obtaining an injunction pursuant to the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977

Natalie has also appeared in committal proceedings, both as junior and sole counsel, following alleged breaches of injunction orders, including in:

- *Thurrock Council & Anr v Cook & Ors* (2022) (sole counsel)
- *MBR Acres Limited v Maher (aka Thibeault) & Anr* [2022] EWHC 1123 (QB)
- *Brentwood Borough Council v Moran & Ors* (2022) (sole counsel)
- *Brentwood Borough Council v Ward & Ors* (2022) (sole counsel)

## **PROPERTY**

Natalie is instructed regularly in property related matters. Natalie's recent work includes:

- Advising on and appearing in injunction proceedings to restrain breaches of covenant
- Possession proceedings related to tunnels under a highway, and occupied by protestors
- Applications pursuant to the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996
- Lease forfeiture proceedings
- Advising on and appearing in service charge disputes
- Application to appoint a property manager
- Various other possession hearings, including proceedings against trespassers

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING**

Natalie was instructed as junior counsel in:

- *Wolverhampton City Council & Ors v London Gypsies and Travellers & Ors* [2023] UKSC 47
- *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2022] EWCA Civ 13
- *London Borough of Havering & Ors v Stokes & Ors* [2021] EWCA Civ 1129
- *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2021] EWHC 1201 (QB)
- *London Borough of Havering & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors* [2021] EWHC 2648 (QB)

Broadly, these proceedings concern the lawfulness of borough-wide and de facto borough-wide injunctions against persons unknown (including those granted pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, s187B and the Local Government Act 1972, s222), and various incidental matters.

Natalie also appeared as junior counsel for the Local Authority in *Thurrock Council & Anr v Adams & Ors* [2022] EWHC 1324 (QB), in which injunctive relief was sought to restrain nuisance and trespass on the highway arising from the recent Just Stop Oil protests, and appeared as sole counsel in the associated committal proceedings *Thurrock Council & Anr v Cook & Ors* (2022).

Natalie has also appeared as sole counsel in committal proceedings arising from alleged breaches of s187B injunctions, including:

- *Brentwood Borough Council v Moran & Ors* (2022)
- *Brentwood Borough Council v Ward & Anr* (2022)

## **COMMERCIAL**

Natalie is instructed regularly in commercial claims concerning contractual disputes. Her recent work includes:

- Drafting proceedings in a high value claim in which the contract is governed by foreign law
- Drafting various claims, defences, counterclaims and replies in contractual disputes

Advising on contractual disputes arising from the economic effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the contracting parties

## **PRIVATE CLIENT**

Natalie is instructed regularly in wills, trusts and estate matters. Natalie's recent work includes:

- A mediation relating to an imperfect lifetime gift by a deceased
- Drafting part 7 proceedings for the revocation of a grant of probate
- Advising on the creation and validity of testamentary trusts

Drafting part 8 proceedings seeking vesting orders, directions as to the administration of an estate and the removal of an executor

## **INSOLVENCY AND COMPANY**

Natalie has appeared in the High Court and County Court on bankruptcy and winding up petitions, and other insolvency related matters. Natalie's recent work includes:

- A trial of a preference, transaction at undervalue and misfeasance claim
- A trial concerning the enforcement of a personal guarantee
- Applications for the extension of administrations
- Application to re-use a company name
- Application for the removal of a trustee in bankruptcy

Applications to set aside statutory demands

## **CHARITIES**

Natalie is experienced in charity litigation. In particular, she was instructed as sole counsel in:

- *The Knightland Foundation v Charity Commission of England and Wales* [2021] UKFTT 0365 (GRC) (a four-day appeal to the First-tier Tribunal challenging the appointment of interim managers)
- Judicial review proceedings, challenging the Charity Commission's use of its power at the Charities Act 2011, s337(4)(b), and in which permission was granted on two of the four grounds of challenge

Natalie also gained experience in other charity matters during her pupillage, including:

- Shadowing counsel in *Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Ors v Derby City Council* [2019] EWHC 3436 (Ch) (a case concerning whether Foundation Trusts are charities and therefore entitled to mandatory rating relief)
- Drafting an advice concerning a fundraising appeal

Assisting and shadowing counsel in various matters relating to charity governance

## **PENSIONS**

Natalie has advised on the effect of pre-May 2000 bankruptcies on the historic bankrupt's pension entitlement.

Natalie also gained experience in pensions matters during her pupillage, including:

- Assisting Keith Rowley QC in *Univar UK Ltd v Smith & Ors* [2020] EWHC 1596 (Ch) (a claim for rectification of the governing documents of an occupational scheme)
- Assisting in the preparation of another claim for the rectification of a scheme's governing documentation

Attending the Association of Pension Lawyers Beginners Course

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2014 – 2020 PhD, King's College London
- 2016 – 2018 BPTC, BPP Law School (Outstanding)
- 2012 – 2013 BCL, University of Oxford (subject prize in Advanced Property and Trusts)
- 2009 – 2012 LLB Law (First Class Honours), University of Surrey

## **PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 2018 Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn
- 2016 Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- 2016 Hardwicke Entrance Award, Lincoln's Inn
- 2014 Subject prize in Advanced Property and Trusts, University of Oxford

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
- Chancery Bar Association
- Property Bar Association
- Charity Law Association

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- 'Recreation easements after Regency Villas Title Ltd and others v Diamond Resorts Ltd and others [2018] UKSC 57' [2019] 7 *Journal of Planning and Environment Law* 638
- 'Community property claims in the personhood perspective: part II' (2018) 30(1) *Denning Law Journal* 85
- 'A proprietary right to recreate' [2017] 4 *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* 312
- 'Community property claims in the personhood perspective: part I' (2017) 29 *Denning Law Journal* 17
- 'Confrontation, contentious use, and a West Yorkshire chip shop' [2016] 5 *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* 414
- 'A trap for unwary developers? The operation of section 62 Law of Property Act 1925 following *Wood v Waddington*' [2015] 12 *Journal of Planning and Environment Law* 1341
- 'The by right defence in village green registration' (2015) 7(2) *International Journal of Law in the Built Environment* 96
- 'Analysing conservation covenants' [2014] 12 *Journal of Planning and Environment Law* 1310
- 'The setting of the sun on the village green era?' (2014) 26 *Denning Law Journal* 234
- 'Conservation covenants: a proprietary analysis' [2014] 78 *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* 328
- 'The application of the equitable doctrine of laches to the rectification of

the town and village green register' [2014] 6 *Journal of Planning and Environment Law* 588

## **POLICIES**

Read Natalie's [Privacy Notice](#), [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Disposal Policy](#).