



Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance

Ailsa became a Member of Chambers in October 2019 following successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Ben Lloyd, Simon Ray, and Alison Morgan KC. Following pupillage, Ailsa spent 10 months on secondment as Judicial Assistant to Lord Reed in the UK Supreme Court, after which she returned to chambers in August 2020. During 2022, Ailsa was instructed (alongside Christopher Knight of 11KBW) to assist Sir Tom Winsor in his independent review into the departure of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick. Ailsa also spent a period during 2023-2024 working for the human rights and law reform NGO 'JUSTICE'. As the organisation's interim criminal lawyer, Ailsa led a working party chaired by Prof. Nick Hardwick CBE aimed at improving decision-making in prisons across areas including segregation, adjudications and categorisation.

Ailsa accepts instructions across the range of Chambers' practice areas, most frequently defending and prosecuting before the Crown courts. She is a CPS Level 3 (General Crime) and RASSO prosecutor, and has acted as disclosure counsel for the West Midlands CPS on three multi-handed murders and one historic child sexual abuse trial. Ailsa has also successfully defended before the Crown Court in cases of assault against an emergency worker, exposure, sexual assault and drugs offences, among others. Ailsa is also beginning to develop a practice in extradition.

Ailsa has also appeared before Social Work England and the High Court (Administrative Division) in regulatory proceedings; acted for the Office of Product Safety and Standards in confiscation proceedings under the Consumer Protection Act 1987; and appeared for vulnerable defendants in civil contempt proceedings (one set of which was ultimately discontinued after Wookey competence issues were raised) before the county court. She has additionally acted for the Home Office in relation to the provision of recovery needs support for a victim of trafficking, and adequate accommodation for an asylum seeker. Ailsa is open to receiving instructions in new areas of public law, in particular prison law. She is also interested in public international and international criminal law, and is pleased to take on pro bono work via Advocate.

Previous Experience

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Memberships

Criminal Bar Association
Bar Human Rights Committee
Young Fraud Lawyers' Association
CPS Advocate Panel (Level 3)
Advocate

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