

Hanif Mussa KC

"He is superb. He is totally forensic in going through the evidence and does withering cross-examination. He is just one of the most straightforward and brilliant people but wears it very lightly."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Year of call: 2007
Appointed to silk: 2022
Degree: BA Hons (Cantab.) History, (Double First); Kennedy Scholar, Harvard University (First place nationally); Diploma in Law, City University (Distinction, top of year); Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding, top of year)
Languages: Kutchi (fluent), French (working knowledge)



Hanif has expertise across numerous practice areas, including Public & Regulatory law, Commercial law (including Group Litigation), EU law and Competition law, Civil Liberties & Human Rights (including Discrimination law), and Public and Private International Law. He has significant experience of cases in the Telecommunications, Financial Services, Environment, and Energy sectors amongst others.

Hanif is also an experienced advocate who has appeared successfully before a wide range of courts and tribunals in cases of significant public importance. He has been instructed as sole or leading counsel in the High Court, Divisional Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, and has experience of leading large teams. Hanif has also acted in litigation before a range of international tribunals, including the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. Hanif is a member of the Equality & Human Rights Commission's panel of counsel. He was Junior Counsel to the Crown (A Panel) before taking up appointment as King's Counsel.

Examples of current and recent cases include an appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the lawfulness of the trial of voter identification requirements at elections, an application to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of repressive measures taken against lawyers, an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the jurisdiction of the English Court to entertain claims brought by 700,000 individual Claimants arising from the collapse of a dam in Brazil, acting for Premier League football clubs in Commercial Court claims brought against their insurers for business interruption loss, and a five-week trial of follow-on damages claims in respect of a cartel, in which he cross-examined numerous economic and financial experts. He is currently instructed in a ten-week trial of damages claims under an opt-out collective proceedings order.

Hanif is recommended in both of the leading independent legal directories. He is currently ranked in nine different practice areas, and has won praise from his clients. Recent comments include:

- "He is superb. He is totally forensic in going through the evidence and does withering cross-examination. He is just one of the most straightforward and brilliant people but wears it very lightly." - Legal 500, 2025
- "A consummate advocate with a huge intellect. He is insightful and very persuasive." - Chambers and Partners, 2025

- "Hanif has a super brain and impeccable judgement. He's also got a great court manner and is a pleasure to work with." - Legal 500, 2024
- "I have to say he's probably the most brilliant person I've come across... He sees things that no one else sees; he says things that just knock your socks off." - Chambers and Partners, 2023

EXPERIENCE

Public & Regulatory

Hanif's practice encompasses all areas of public law, including commercial judicial review and public procurement as well as civil liberties and human rights. Prior to taking Silk, he was shortlisted for both the Chambers and Partners junior of the year for Public Law and the Legal 500 junior of the year for Public Law.

Examples of high-profile litigation in the constitutional context include Supreme Court appeals concerning (1) the lawfulness of the trial of voter identification requirements (2) the compatibility of the Ivory Act 2018 with fundamental rights and (3) whether domestic public law recognises a principle of equal treatment.

Examples of high-profile litigation in the commercial and regulatory context include acting on behalf of Uber in defence of various challenges to its ability to operate in London, on behalf of a tobacco manufacturer in seeking to obtain the refund of a fine of £50 million imposed for alleged breaches of competition law, on behalf of KPMG LLP in a case concerning whether its decisions were amenable to judicial review, on behalf of Virgin Trains in its successful challenge to the tender process for the West Coast Main Line, and on behalf of Tottenham Hotspur in its challenge to decisions concerning the legacy use of the Olympic Stadium.

"He is knowledgeable and gives a great perspective. He is very user-friendly and great with the client."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

R(Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2022] UKSC 11; [2020] EWCA Civ 723; [2019] EWHC 641 (Admin)

Acting successfully in defending an urgent expedited claim for judicial review concerning whether the government was permitted to authorise the use of identification requirements at the local government elections in May 2019, and successfully resisting subsequent appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

[Confidential] v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

(ongoing)

Acting for a Claimant in a proposed judicial review of a decision to grant a subsidy to a competitor, under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, raising issues such as the proper forum for a challenge and the available grounds.

R(Wild Justice) v The Water Services Regulation Authority

[2023] EWCA Civ 28; [2022] EWHC 2608 (Admin)

Acting successfully in the Court of Appeal and Administrative Court in judicial review proceedings concerning the monitoring and enforcement of obligations of sewerage companies in respect of discharges from wastewater treatment works.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (No. 4)

[2022] EWCA Civ 1201; [2021] EWHC 2199 (Admin); [2020] EWHC 2950 (Admin)

Successfully resisting, at first instance and on appeal, a claim for judicial review seeking to challenge decisions concerning the modification of the Government's approach to licensing the supplementary culling of badgers in the Next Steps for the Strategy for Achieving Bovine Tuberculosis Free Status for England.

R(Andrews) v Minister for the Cabinet Office (No. 2)

[2021] EWHC 2233 (Admin)

Acting successfully in a claim for judicial review concerning whether the omission to make further provision in legislation to assist blind and partially sighted voters in time for the general election in December 2019 breached human rights.

[Confidential] v Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

(Administrative Court, 2021-2022)

Acting in a claim for judicial review concerning the extent of the Secretary of State's obligations under the International Development Act 2002 to ensure that foreign aid is not misused.

R(Larkfleet) v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(Administrative Court, 2021)

Successfully resisting a claim for judicial review concerning the lawfulness of the withdrawal of regulatory accreditation granted to solar photovoltaic generating station, which enabled the station to claim renewable obligation certificates.

R v Crown Court at Southwark and others

[2020] EWHC 1053 (Admin)

A case in the Divisional Court concerning whether the statutory regime for the imposition of notification requirements on sexual offenders is compatible with rights under Article 8 ECHR.

R(FACT) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[2020] EWCA Civ 649; [2019] EWHC 2951 (Admin)

Acting successfully in the Court of Appeal and Administrative Court in a claim concerning whether restrictions imposed by the Ivory Act 2018 in relation to the commercial trade in antique ivory products are compatible with EU law. The Supreme Court refused permission to appeal.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (No 2)

Acting for the Defendant in a challenge to the government's policy of licensing badger control in the Low Risk Area of England, as part of its efforts to combat TB in cattle.

R (Barraud) v Civil Aviation Authority and others

Acting on behalf an interested party in a judicial review case in the Court of Appeal concerning whether there are obligations of consultation in respect of changes to vectoring practices of aircraft arriving at Gatwick Airport.

Napp v United Kingdom; Mundipharma NL v Netherlands; Mundipharma DE v Germany

(ongoing)

Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights concerning violations of rights under Article 6 ECHR and A1P1 as a result of the determination of valuable patent rights by the European Patent Office.

R(Jolly) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(Administrative Court, 2020)

Acting for the Secretary of State in defending a challenge to the Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2019, which seeks to prohibit the performance and display of wild animals as part of circus acts in a travelling circus.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[2019] EWCA Civ 1562; [2018] EWHC 2190 (Admin)

Acting successfully for the defendant in resisting a challenge to the government's decision to license the supplementary culling of badgers as part of its strategy to combat bovine TB both at first instance and on appeal.

R (Holmcroft Properties Ltd) v KPMG LLP and others

[2018] EWCA Civ 2093; [2016] EWHC 323 (Admin)

Acting successfully for the defendant in proceedings concerning whether decisions of an independent reviewer appointed under s.166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 are amenable to judicial review.

Uber London Limited v Transport for London

(Westminster Magistrates' Court, June 2018)

One of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2018. Acting for Uber in its successful appeal against the decision of Transport for London to refuse to renew its London operator's licence.

R(Gallaher Group Limited and others) v Competition and Markets Authority

[2018] UKSC 26; [2016] EWCA CIV 719

Acting in an appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the scope of the defence of objective justification in respect of a claim of unequal treatment or substantive unfairness arising out of the OFT's Tobacco investigation.

R(Uber London Limited and others) v Transport for London

[2018] EWCA Civ 1213; [2017] EWHC 435 (Admin)

One of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2017. Acting on behalf of Uber in challenges to a series of new regulations implemented by TfL, including those imposing a new English language requirement on private hire vehicle drivers and requiring Uber to provide a new telephone support facility. The new regulations were alleged to infringe rights to freedom of establishment and to give rise to racial discrimination.

R(GGV(S) Limited) v Southampton City Council

[2017] EWHC 165 (Admin)

Acting as sole counsel on behalf of the Claimant in a challenge by way of judicial review to the award of a provisional statement for the grant of a large casino licence.

Southern Rail judicial review: R(Association of British Commuters) v Secretary of State for Transport

(Administrative Court, 2017)

Acting successfully on behalf of the Defendant in resisting a claim alleging an unlawful delay in enforcing the obligations of the operator of the Southern Rail network.

LTDA v Transport for London, Uber London Limited and others

(Court of Appeal, 2016)

Acting for Uber in an appeal to the Court of Appeal considering whether its system makes provision of a taximeter contrary to the requirements of applicable legislation.

R (Diomed Direct Limited) v Clearcast Limited

(Administrative Court, 2016)

Acting successfully on behalf of the Clearcast Limited in proceedings alleging that Clearcast's pre-clearance functions in relation to television broadcasting were amenable to judicial review. The challenge was withdrawn after permission was refused.

R (LPHCA) v Transport for London, Uber London Limited and others

(Administrative Court, 2016)

Acting successfully for Uber in defending proceedings for judicial review brought by a trade body to contest Uber's licence to operate in London. The challenge was withdrawn at the permission stage.

HCA International Limited v Competition and Market Authority

[2015] EWCA Civ 492

An appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the circumstances in which a court quashing a decision on an application for judicial review is obliged to remit the matter for reconsideration by a fresh decision-maker.

DECC v Breyer Group and others

[2015] EWCA Civ 408

An appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning whether a proposal made by a government department to modify a statutory subsidy scheme was capable of violating the rights of providers of solar photo-voltaic technology under A1P1 ECHR.

British Gas Trading v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority; Northern Power Grid v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(Competition and Markets Authority, 2015)

Acting on behalf of Ofgem in the first appeals under the new statutory licence modification appeal process applicable to the UK energy sector.

R (Association of Member Directed Pension Schemes) v Financial Conduct Authority

(2015)

Acting on behalf of the AMPS in challenge by way of judicial review to the decision of the FCA imposing enhanced capital requirements for SIPP operators.

Secret Hotels2 Limited v HMRC

[2014] 2 All ER 685 (Supreme Court)

An appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the proper meaning and application of the Sixth Directive on VAT in the context of the online hotel accommodation sales industry.

R (Virgin Trains Limited) v The Secretary of State for Transport

Acting for Virgin in a challenge to the decision of the Secretary of State to award the franchise to run the West Coast Main Line to First West Coast Limited.

R (Tottenham Hotspur) v OPLC and others; R (Tottenham Hotspur) v Newham BC and others

Acting for Tottenham in two sets of judicial review proceedings challenging decisions to appoint West Ham as preferred bidder for the Olympic Stadium.

EU & Competition

Hanif practices in all areas of EU law and competition law, and has appeared in cases before the Courts in Luxembourg. Prior to taking Silk, he was shortlisted for the Legal 500 junior of the year for EU and competition law.

Recently, Hanif has acted in a number of high-profile EU and competition cases, including acting for (1) the CMA in its defence of the merger decision in the Microsoft-Activision case; (2) the Dawsongroup claimants in their claims against DAF arising from the Trucks cartel; and (3) the LG defendants in a five week trial of follow-on damages claims brought by Granville Technology and others arising from the LCD cartel (which is only the third such case heard in this jurisdiction). He is currently instructed for K-Line in a ten week trial of follow on damages claims brought by Mark McLaren Class Representative Limited under the terms of an opt-out collective proceedings order.

Hanif's EU law work includes the full range of areas formerly governed by EU law. He has acted in high profile sanctions cases before the General Court, and is currently involved in a number of cases addressing the effect of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Hanif also has a wide-ranging competition law practice that encompasses regulatory proceedings and private law claims. He has experience of market investigations, mergers and state aid issues, and has particular expertise in the competition law issues raised in the telecoms sector.

“Hanif has a wonderful court presence and senior judges really listen to him. Hanif is very clever and user friendly.”

— LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

Mark McLaren Class Representative Limited v Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd and others

(ongoing)

Acting for K-line in defence of follow-on damages claims brought in respect of the cartel in the provision of services for the deep sea carriage of new motor vehicles under the terms of an opt-out collective proceedings order. The case is listed for a ten week trial in 2025.

Microsoft Corporation v Competition and Markets Authority

Acting for the CMA in a challenge under s.120 Enterprise Act 2002 to its decisions in respect of the proposed Microsoft/Activision merger.

Granville Technology Group Ltd and others v LG Display Co Ltd and others

[2024] EWHC 13 (Comm) (and ongoing)

Acting as the advocate for the Defendants in a five week trial in the Commercial Court of a follow on damages claim, arising from the European Commission's decision in respect of the LCD cartel. Hanif cross-examined a range of economic and financial experts.

[Confidential] v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

(ongoing)

Acting for a Claimant in a proposed judicial review of a decision to grant a subsidy to a competitor, under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, raising issues such as the proper forum for a challenge and the available grounds.

R(Wales & West Utilities Limited) v Competition and Markets Authority

(ongoing)

Acting for an interested party in a claim for judicial review concerning the CMA's determination of appeals against the RIIO-2 price controls.

Dawsongroup Plc and others v DAF Trucks NV and others

(settled, 2023)

Acting for the Claimants in substantial follow-on damages claims brought in respect of the Trucks cartel, listed for a 17 week trial.

National Grid Electricity Transmission and National Grid Gas v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(CMA, 2021)

Acting for NGET and NGG in statutory appeals to the CMA against GEMA's decision to impose licence conditions reflecting its RIIO-2 price controls

Various claimants v Office of Communications

Acting for a number of broadband providers in relation to Ofcom's Wholesale Fixed Telecoms Market Review 2021

R(FACT) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[2020] EWCA Civ 649; [2019] EWHC 2951 (Admin)

Acting successfully in the Court of Appeal and Administrative Court in a claim concerning whether restrictions imposed by the Ivory Act 2018 in relation to the commercial trade in antique ivory products are compatible with EU law. The Supreme Court refused permission to appeal.

R(Uber London Limited and others) v Transport for London

[2018] EWCA Civ 1213; [2017] EWHC 435 (Admin)

One of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2017. Acting on behalf of Uber in challenges to a series of new regulations implemented by TfL, including those imposing a new English language requirement on private hire vehicle drivers and requiring Uber to provide a new telephone support facility. The new regulations were alleged to infringe rights to freedom of establishment and to give rise to racial discrimination.

Gallaher Group Limited and others v Competition and Markets Authority

[2018]; UKSC 26; [2016] EWCA Civ 719

Acting for the respondent in an appeal to the Supreme Court in relation to a claim for judicial review brought against the CMA seeking the repayment of a fine of more than £50 million imposed for an alleged cartel infringement.

Emerald Supplies Limited and others v British Airways and others

Acting on behalf of Thai Airways in defending additional claims brought in the context of substantial follow-on claims for damages for infringements of competition law in the air freight sector.

Proceedings re: sanctions

Acting in three sets of annulment proceedings brought in the General Court concerning the imposition and renewal of sanctions against high profile individuals associated with the former government of Ukraine.

AXA PPP v Competition and Markets Authority

(CAT, 2015-17)

Acting for an intervener in proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal arising from the CMA's private healthcare investigation.

Multilateral interchange fees litigation

(Commercial Court, 2016)

Acting in substantial standalone and follow on damages claims brought by a retailer in respect of card charges levied by payment card schemes.

Cases T-265/12 and T-267/12 Schenker and Deutsche Bahn and others v European Commission

(General Court, 29 February 2016)

Acting successfully for the European Commission in proceedings before the General Court in defence of a decision imposing fines on participants in an international freight forwarding cartel.

HCA International Limited v Competition and Market Authority

[2014] CAT 23

Successfully representing the Applicant in proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal challenging the decision of the CMA to require the divestiture of two central London Hospitals.

Secret Hotels2 Limited v HMRC

[2014] 2 All ER 685 (Supreme Court)

Acting for the Respondent in an appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the proper meaning and application of the Sixth Directive on VAT in the context of the online hotel accommodation sales industry.

Case C-279/12 Fish Legal and Shirley v Information Commissioner and others

[2014] 2 WLR 568

A reference for a preliminary ruling from the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union in respect of the EU Environmental Information Directive.

Talk Talk Group Plc v Office of Communications – wholesale broadband access

[2013] EWCA Civ 1318

Acting successfully for the Respondent in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the circumstances in which there is a material change in the market for the purposes of ex ante competition law.

R (Virgin Trains Limited) v The Secretary of State for Transport

Acting for Virgin in a challenge to the decision of the Secretary of State to award the franchise to run the West Coast Main Line to First West Coast Limited, relying on EU principles of transparency and equal treatment.

British Telecommunications Plc v Office of Communications – partial private circuits

[2012] EWCA CIV 1051

Acting successfully for Ofcom in an appeal against a decision of the Competition Appeal Tribunal to uphold Ofcom's finding requiring BT to repay some £42 million for breach of ex-ante competition rules concerning pricing.

R (Tottenham Hotspur) v OPLC and others; R (Tottenham Hotspur) v Newham BC and others

Acting for Tottenham in a State Aid challenge relating to the decision to appoint West Ham as preferred bidder for the Olympic Stadium.

Talk Talk Group Plc v Office of Communications – wholesale broadband access

[2012] CAT 1

An appeal in the Competition Appeal Tribunal concerning the circumstances in which there is a material change in the market for the purposes of a market review conducted by Ofcom prior to imposing an SMP condition in compliance with EU law.

R((1) Petsafe Ltd (2) ECMA) v The Welsh Ministers

[2011] EuLR 270

A challenge to delegated legislation relying on TFEU provisions on the free movement of goods and the freedom of establishment.

Uber London Limited v Transport for London

(Westminster Magistrates' Court, June 2018)

One of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases of 2018. Acting for Uber in its successful appeal against the decision of Transport for London to refuse to renew its London operator's licence.

Commercial

Hanif has a broad commercial law practice. Recent experience includes large-scale litigation concerning the lawfulness of interest rate variation clauses in mortgage agreements, an eight-week trial of foreign law tort claims, and a number of significant claims under business interruption insurance policies.

Hanif has particular experience of group litigation. He has acted or is acting in a number of mass tort claims brought against mining companies (Glencore and BHP), litigation under group litigation orders (including in the financial services context), and in damages claims brought under collective proceedings orders (including for K-line in respect of the McLaren CPO).

Hanif also has a particular interest in private international law, and is currently instructed in a number of applications and appeals concerning aspects of the law of jurisdiction.

“Hanif is very clever and knows his stuff.”

— LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

The Arsenal Football Club Plc and others v Allianz Insurance Plc and others

(ongoing)

Acting for a number of Premier League football clubs in claims brought under policies of insurance for business interruption arising from the COVID-19 pandemic

Municipio de Mariana and others v BHP plc and BHP Ltd

[2022] EWCA Civ 951 (and ongoing)

Acting in relation to the largest group litigation brought in England and Wales, resulting from the collapse of the Fundao Dam in Brazil. Hanif has been working on a range of jurisdictional and foreign law issues.

Various claimants v A Bank

(ongoing)

Acting for a range of banks in strategic group litigation before the Financial Ombudsman Service and High Court concerning the lawfulness of interest rate variation provisions in standard variable rate mortgages.

Mark McLaren Class Representative Limited v Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd and others

(ongoing)

Acting for K-line in defence of follow-on damages claims brought in respect of the cartel in the provision of services for the deep sea carriage of new motor vehicles under the terms of an opt-out collective proceedings order. The case is listed for a ten week trial in 2025.

Granville Technology Group Ltd and others v LG Display Co Ltd and others

[2023] EWHC 2418 (Comm)

Acting successfully for the Defendants in an application concerning the operation of the presumption that foreign law is materially the same as English law, and pleading requirements concerning the same. In light of the Supreme Court's clarification of the nature and effect of the presumption in *Brownlie v FS Cairo (Nile Plaza) LLC* [2022] AC 995, Mr Justice Foxton accepted the Defendants' submission and declined to follow the reasoning of Mr Justice Andrew Baker in *Iranian Offshore v Dean* [2019] 1 WLR 82, and concluded that a party disputing the application of the presumption does not always need to plead that fact.

Dawsongroup Plc and others v DAF Trucks NV and others

(settled, 2023)

Acting for the Claimants in substantial follow-on damages claims brought in respect of the Trucks cartel, listed for a 17 week trial.

Altair Green LLP and others v Carbon Capital Limited and others

Acting in major commercial fraud proceedings concerning very substantial claims relating to a collective investment scheme.

EE, H3G, Vodafone and Telefonica v Office of Communications

(Commercial Court, 2019-20)

Acting in interlocutory proceedings in the commercial court in respect of claims for the restitution of annual licence fees paid by mobile network operators to the telecommunications regulator.

Vilca and others v Xstrata Ltd and others

[2016] EWHC 389 (QB); [2016] EWHC 946 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1825 (QB); [2016] EWHC 2757 (QB); [2017] EWHC 1582 (QB); [2018] EWHC 27 (QB).

Acting successfully for the defendants in a tort claim by 22 Peruvians regarding a protest at a mine in Peru which raised issues of foreign act of state, choice of law and corporate liability for the acts of the Peruvian National Police. The litigation led to a number of important judgments including on issues of disclosure ([2016] EWHC 389 (QB); [2016] EWHC 946 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1825 (QB)) and expert evidence ([2016] EWHC 2757 (QB); [2017] EWHC 1582 (QB); [2018] EWHC 27 (QB)).

Emerald Supplies Limited and others v British Airways and others

Acting on behalf of Thai Airways in defending additional claims brought in the context of substantial follow-on claims for damages for infringements of competition law in the air freight sector.

Breyer Group and others v DECC

Acting on behalf of the Defendant in defending claims for damages totalling almost £200 million in respect of the alleged breach of property rights of businesses operating in the solar photovoltaic industry. The case settled shortly before a ten-week trial.

Howard and others v Chelsea Yacht and Boat Company Limited and others

Acting for the Defendant in a Part 8 claim raising the issue of whether commercial proceedings may be used to obtain a declaration relating to criminal liability.

Burrell and others v Helical (Bramshott Place) Ltd

(High Court, 2016)

Defending a property developer against substantial claims brought under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations. The claims were discontinued shortly before trial.

Multilateral interchange fees litigation

(Commercial Court, 2016)

Acting in substantial standalone and follow on damages claims brought by a retailer in respect of card charges levied by payment card schemes.

ICCI v Taiwan Business Bank

Acting on behalf of a major foreign bank in relation to enforcement proceedings brought in respect of a foreign judgment.

Russian property litigation

Acting on behalf of a company in ongoing international proceedings concerning a dispute over land in Moscow worth some 600 million Euros.

Burrell and others v Helical (Bramshott Place) Ltd

[2015] EWHC 3727 (Ch)

Acting behalf of the Defendant property developer in obtaining summary judgment on a claim brought under the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

ICC arbitration

(2015)

Acting for the Defendant in a complex patent dispute in the mobile telecommunications sector.

ICC arbitration

(2014)

Acting for the Defendant in a claim for 49 million Euros arising out of a failure to launch an IPO.

Team move litigation

Acting as sole counsel for the Defendants in High Court proceedings concerning an alleged team move, raising claims of breach of confidence, conspiracy and various economic torts.

Joint venture dispute

Acting as sole counsel for the Defendant in proceedings in the High Court concerning claims for many millions arising out of the collapse of a complex joint venture.

Khalilifamilienstiftung v Dowlatshahi and others

[2013] EWHC 220 (Comm)

Acting for the Claimant in obtaining summary judgment and a worldwide without notice freezing injunction in proceedings concerning alleged breaches of settlement agreements, fraud and false imprisonment.

Bear Rock Films Ltd and others v Henry and others

(2013)

Proceedings concerning claims for breach of fiduciary duty and trust in relation to management of company funds in the film industry.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

In the field of civil liberties, Hanif has acted in a number of cases before the European Court of Human Rights and the Supreme Court. Recent work includes consideration of the rights of children in international law during times of armed conflict, the potential to challenge decisions of the Foreign Office to decline to provide diplomatic assistance, and litigation concerning the potential to hold a private company accountable for alleged violation of human rights by the security forces of a foreign state. Prior to taking Silk, Hanif was shortlisted for Legal 500 junior of the year for Civil Liberties and Human Rights.

“Hanif is amazing on difficult points of law. He is very measured, methodical and structured.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

Karkin v Turkey

(ongoing)

Acting in an application to the European Court of Human Rights concerning alleged violations of the rights of Turkish lawyers by the Turkish State in the aftermath of an attempted coup.

R(Coughlan) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2022] UKSC 11; [2020] EWCA Civ 723; [2019] EWHC 641 (Admin)

Acting successfully in defending an urgent expedited claim for judicial review concerning whether the government was permitted to authorise the use of identification requirements at the local government elections in May 2019, and successfully resisting subsequent appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

R (Hassan Ali) v Parole Board

(Administrative Court, 2021)

Acting successfully for the Parole Board in resisting claims for judicial review concerning the compliance of its procedures adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with Articles 5 and 14 ECHR.

R(Andrews) v Minister for the Cabinet Office (No. 2)

[2021] EWHC 2233 (Admin)

Acting successfully in a claim for judicial review concerning whether the omission to make further provision in legislation to assist blind and partially sighted voters in time for the general election in December 2019 breached human rights.

R v Crown Court at Southwark and others

[2020] EWHC 1053 (Admin)

A case in the Divisional Court concerning whether the statutory regime for the imposition of notification requirements on sexual offenders is compatible with rights under Article 8 ECHR.

Children in armed conflict

A project analysing the existing international legal protections for children during times of armed conflict, and in particular the regime governing child soldiers, with a view to presenting recommendations for reform to the United Nations.

R(Weddle) v Secretary of State for Justice

A claim for judicial review brought by a long-term prisoner for breach of rights under Article 5(1) ECHR and Article 3 ECHR by reason of his failure to progress in his sentence and the conditions of his detention.

Andrews v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2019] EWHC 1126 (Admin)

Acting as sole counsel in a challenge concerning whether sufficient provision has been made by the government to assist blind voters at parliamentary elections.

Vilca and others v Xstrata Ltd and others

[2016] EWHC 389 (QB); [2016] EWHC 946 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1824 (QB); [2016] EWHC 2757 (QB); [2017] EWHC 1582 (QB); [2018] EWHC 1582 (QB)

Acting in proceedings concerning whether an international mining company can be held responsible for violations of human rights alleged to have been committed by foreign security forces in the vicinity of its property.

Article 8 litigation

Acting as sole counsel in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the scope rights under Article 8 ECHR in the context of removal decisions.

R(Lowery) v Secretary of State for Defence

Acting for Liberty in a claim for judicial review concerning HIV discrimination in the armed forces, contrary to Articles 8 and 14 ECHR and contrary to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

Human rights challenges to the security and intelligence services

Acting for Reprieve in a series of confidential cases concerning potential breaches of human rights by the security and intelligence services in conducting counter-terrorism activity.

R (Haney, Kaiyam, Robinson and Massey) v Secretary of State for Justice

[2015] 2 WLR 76 (Supreme Court)

Appeals in the Supreme Court concerning whether the Secretary of State's arrangements for the transfer of indeterminate sentence prisoners to open conditions violated Articles 5(1) and 14 of the ECHR and whether his delay in making provision for rehabilitative courses for indeterminate sentenced prisoners violated Article 5(1) ECHR.

R (Kaiyam) v Secretary of State for Justice

[2014] 1 WLR 1208

An appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the nature of the Secretary of State's common law duties in making provision for rehabilitative courses for indeterminate sentenced prisoners.

R (Qasim and others) v Secretary of State for Defence

[2014] EWHC 1369 (QB)

Acting for Afghan nationals formerly detained for a period of 10 months at Camp Bastion without charge or trial, who contended that their rights under Article 5 ECHR had been violated.

R (HC, a child) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and others

[2014] 1 WLR 1234 (Divisional Court)

Acting as sole counsel in a claim in the Divisional Court for judicial review of the failure of the Secretary of State to make additional provision for the support of 17 year olds detained in police custody, relying upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

O v Legal Aid Agency

Acting as sole counsel in proceedings for judicial review challenging decisions of the Legal Aid Agency in allocating contracts for mental health work.

R (Hall and others) v Secretary of State for Justice

Acting as sole counsel for the Secretary of State in defending numerous ongoing claims for judicial review brought by prisoners concerning alleged violations of Article 5(1) ECHR and the Secretary of State's public law duties arising from the failure to make adequate provision for rehabilitation.

Her Majesty's Attorney General v Stephen Pardon

[2012] EWHC 3402 (Admin)

Acting as sole counsel on behalf of the Attorney General in proceedings in the Divisional Court before the Lord Chief Justice for an Order of Committal for contempt.

R (Hadjarab) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and others

Acting for a detainee at Guantanamo Bay in a claim for Norwich Pharmacal relief seeking disclosure of exculpatory information necessary to secure his release and resettlement.

R (Khazaal and others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Acting for four Iraqi civilians who have brought claims of breach of Article 3 and Article 5 of the ECHR relating to their detention and treatment by British military forces in southern Iraq between 2005 and 2008.

Public International Law

Hanif has a keen interest in public international law and has acted in a number of cases before the domestic and international courts addressing issues of public international law. He recently worked on a project considering the international legal protections for children during armed conflict, with a view to presenting recommendations for reform to the United Nations, and is a contributor to a book on the subject. Hanif has advised and acted for the UK government in relation to a range of matters involving the intersection of public international law and public law.

Cases

Karkin v Turkey

(ongoing)

Acting in an application to the European Court of Human Rights concerning alleged violations of the rights of Turkish lawyers by the Turkish State in the aftermath of an attempted coup.

Napp v United Kingdom; Mundipharma NL v Netherlands; Mundipharma DE v Germany

(ongoing)

Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights concerning violations of rights under Article 6 ECHR and A1P1 as a result of the determination of valuable patent rights by the European Patent Office.

International Financial Sanctions

Advising governments on obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1472, and EC Regulation 2580/2001 concerning the imposition of anti-terrorism financial sanctions, and the relationship with international human rights and humanitarian law.

International Monetary Fund

Advising a member State on the Articles of Agreement, By-Laws and Rules of the International Monetary Fund, in connection with proposals for a \$10 billion package of aid proposals.

Children in armed conflict

A project analysing the existing international legal protections for children during times of armed conflict, and in particular the regime governing child soldiers, with a view to presenting recommendations for reform to the United Nations.

BIT dispute

Acting on behalf of investors in a claim concerning the breach by a foreign state of obligations under a bilateral investment treaty.

Case C-279/12 Fish Legal and Shirley v Information Commissioner and others

[2015] All ER (EC) 795

A reference for a preliminary ruling from the CJEU raising issues concerning the effect of the Aarhus Convention on the interpretation of the EU Environmental Information Directive.

R (Qasim and others) v Secretary of State for Defence

[2014] EWHC 1369 (QB)

Acting on behalf of formerly detained Afghan nationals in proceedings concerning the relationship between obligations under Article 5 ECHR and international humanitarian law.

R (HC, a child) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and others

[2014] 1 WLR 1234 (Divisional Court)

A claim for judicial review of the failure of the Secretary of State to make additional provision for the support of 17 year olds detained in police custody, relying upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Bocardo S.A. v United Kingdom

A claim before the European Court of Human Rights concerning an alleged violation of rights under Article 1 of the First Protocol in relation to compensation awarded for the compulsory acquisition of rights over land.

R (Khazaal and others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Acting for four Iraqi civilians who have brought claims of breach of Article 3 and Article 5 of the ECHR relating to their detention and treatment by British military forces in southern Iraq between 2005 and 2008.

Kapil Ghosh v Governor of HMP High Point North

[2012] EWHC 4412 (Admin)

An application for habeas corpus before the Divisional Court concerning the legality of a prisoner's detention pursuant to the Council of Europe's Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoner's 1983 and the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984.

R (Chong Nyok Keyu and others) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

A judicial review seeking an investigation into the alleged execution of civilians by British troops at Batang Kali in Malaya in 1948, and raising issues concerning investigative duties under customary international law.

Telecommunications

Hanif has broad-ranging experience of telecoms work, particularly in regulatory cases. He has appeared in telecoms cases in the Competition Appeal Tribunal, High Court and Court of Appeal. He has advised both private operators and telecoms regulators on a range of issues.

“Hanif Mussa KC is very smart, gets up to speed quickly and is easy to work with.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2023

Cases

Various claimants v Office of Communications

Acting for a number of broadband providers in relation to Ofcom's Wholesale Fixed Telecoms Market Review 2021

EE, H3G, Vodafone and Telefonica v Office of Communications

(Commercial Court, 2019-20)

Acting in interlocutory proceedings in the commercial court in respect of claims for the restitution of annual licence fees paid by mobile network operators to the telecommunications regulator.

Hutchinson 3G UK Limited v Office of Communications and others

[2018] EWCA Civ 284

Acting successfully for Ofcom in resisting an appeal to the Court of Appeal by H3G concerning the auction of licences for the use of 2.3 and 3.4 Ghz radio spectrum bands.

(1) British Telecommunications Plc (2) British Sky Broadcasting Limited/Talk Talk Group Plc (3) Virgin Media Limited and Others v Office of Communications – Ethernet

[2017] EWCA Civ 330

Acting successfully on behalf of Ofcom in appeals to the Court of Appeal concerning the extent to which BT overcharged for Ethernet services.

Termination charges litigation

Acting on behalf of a commercial telecommunications operator in a claim concerning its entitlement to termination charges from Mobile Network Operators under the terms of the Standard Interconnect Agreement.

Patent and royalties dispute

Acting on behalf of a major developer of mobile telecommunications technology in a complex patent and royalties dispute.

(1) British Telecommunications Plc (2) British Sky Broadcasting Limited/Talk Talk Group Plc (3) Virgin Media Limited and Others v Office of Communications – Ethernet

[2014] CAT 4

Substantial proceedings in the Competition Appeal Tribunal concerning claims that BT has overcharged other communication providers for the provision of Ethernet services by some £200 million.

Talk Talk Group Plc v Office of Communications – wholesale broadband access

[2013] EWCA Civ 1318

Acting successfully for the Respondent in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the circumstances in which there is a material change in the market for the purposes of section 86 of the Communications Act 2003.

British Telecommunications Plc v Office of Communications – partial private circuits

[2012] EWCA CIV 1051

Acting successfully for Ofcom in an appeal against a decision of the Competition Appeal Tribunal to uphold Ofcom's finding requiring BT to repay some £42 million for breach of ex-ante competition rules concerning pricing.

Talk Talk Group Plc v Office of Communications – wholesale broadband access

[2012] CAT 1

Successfully resisting an appeal in the Competition Appeal Tribunal concerning the circumstances in which there is a material change in the market for the purposes of a market review conducted by Ofcom prior to imposing an SMP condition.

Financial Services & Banking

Hanif has acted in a number of public law, regulatory and commercial cases in the banking, financial services, and tax sectors. Hanif is currently instructed in major financial services litigation concerning interest rate variation clauses in mortgage agreements, a range of matters concerning transition from LIBOR, and numerous disputes concerning the provision of financial advisory services.

“Hanif is very clever and user friendly.”

– LEGAL 500, 2025

Cases

The Arsenal Football Club Plc and others v Allianz Insurance Plc and others

(ongoing)

Acting for a number of Premier League football clubs in claims brought under policies of insurance for business interruption arising from the COVID-19 pandemic

Various claimants v Financial Services Compensation Scheme

(ongoing)

Acting for the FSCS in relation to claims for judicial review concerning its decisions not to award compensation in respect of alleged mortgage mis-selling claims.

Prudential Regulation Authority v An Individual

(ongoing)

Acting for an individual in relation to an investigation by the PRA concerning the failure of a bank

Various claimants v A Bank

(ongoing)

Acting for a range of banks in strategic group litigation before before the Financial Ombudsman Service and High Court concerning the lawfulness of interest rate variation provisions in standard variable rate mortgages.

A Firm v The Pensions Regulator

(2019)

Acting for a regulated provider of services in the pensions industry in a challenge to sanctions imposed by its regulator.

R (Holmcroft Properties Ltd) v KPMG LLP and others

[2018] EWCA Civ 2093; [2016] EWHC 323 (Admin)

Acting successfully for the defendant in proceedings concerning whether decisions of an independent reviewer appointed under s.166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 are amenable to judicial review.

In the matter of British Home Stores

Advising the former owners of British Home Stores in respect of a departmental select committee inquiry into the failure of BHS, and as to the implications for the BHS pensions scheme.

R (Association of Member Directed Pension Schemes) v Financial Conduct Authority

(2015)

Acting on behalf of the AMPS in challenge by way of judicial review to the decision of the FCA imposing enhanced capital requirements for SIPP operators.

Secret Hotels2 Limited v HMRC

[2014] 2 All ER 685 (Supreme Court)

Acting for the HMRC in an appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the proper meaning and application of the Sixth Directive on VAT in the context of the online hotel accommodation sales industry.

R (B) v Financial Ombudsman Service

(2014)

Acting on behalf of a SIPP operator in a challenge to a FOS decision requiring the payment of compensation in respect of an unsuccessful investment.

FSA money laundering investigation

Acting on behalf of a bank being investigated by the Financial Services Authority for alleged breach of obligations in relation to money laundering.

VAT assesment dispute

Acting in proceedings for judicial review concerning the proposed modification by the HMRC of its approach to assessing VAT payments due from telecommunications companies.

Environment

Hanif has acted in a number of cases in the environmental sector before the domestic and European courts, including both public and private law litigation. Recent examples include litigation concerning the regulation of sewerage companies, the Fundao dam litigation, challenges to the Ivory Act 2018, and various cases concerning the use of renewable energy and climate change.

“He's human, approachable and industrious in his document output. He is flexible and ingenious in everything he does.”

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025

Cases

Município de Mariana and others v BHP plc and BHP Ltd

[2022] EWCA Civ 951 (and ongoing)

Acting in relation to the largest group litigation brought in England and Wales, resulting from the collapse of the Fundao Dam in Brazil. Hanif has been working on a range of jurisdictional and foreign law issues.

R(Wild Justice) v The Water Services Regulation Authority

[2023] EWCA Civ 28; [2022] EWHC 2608 (Admin)

Acting successfully in the Court of Appeal and Administrative Court in judicial review proceedings concerning the monitoring and enforcement of obligations of sewerage companies in respect of discharges from wastewater treatment works.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (No. 4)

[2022] EWCA Civ 1201; [2021] EWHC 2199 (Admin); [2020] EWHC 2950 (Admin)

Successfully resisting, at first instance and on appeal, a claim for judicial review seeking to challenge decisions concerning the modification of the Government's approach to licensing the supplementary culling of badgers in the Next Steps for the Strategy for Achieving Bovine Tuberculosis Free Status for England.

R(Larkfleet) v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(Administrative Court, 2021)

Successfully resisting a claim for judicial review concerning the lawfulness of the withdrawal of regulatory accreditation granted to solar photovoltaic generating station, which enabled the station to claim renewable obligation certificates.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (No 2)

Acting for the Defendant in a challenge to the government's policy of licensing badger control in the Low Risk Area of England, as part of its efforts to combat TB in cattle.

R (Barraud) v Civil Aviation Authority and others

Acting on behalf an interested party in a judicial review case in the Court of Appeal concerning whether there are obligations of consultation in respect of changes to vectoring practices of aircraft arriving at Gatwick Airport.

R(Jolly) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(Administrative Court, 2020)

Acting for the Secretary of State in defending a challenge to the Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2019, which seeks to prohibit the performance and display of wild animals as part of circus acts in a travelling circus.

R(FACT) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[2020] EWCA Civ 649; [2019] EWHC 2951 (Admin)

Acting successfully in the Court of Appeal and Administrative Court in a claim concerning whether restrictions imposed by the Ivory Act 2018 in relation to the commercial trade in antique ivory products are compatible with EU law. The Supreme Court refused permission to appeal.

R(Langton) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[2019] EWCA Civ 1562; [2018] EWHC 2190 (Admin)

Acting successfully for the defendant in resisting a challenge to the government's decision to license the supplementary culling of badgers as part of its strategy to combat bovine TB both at first instance and on appeal.

Breyer Group and others v DECC

Acting on behalf of the Defendant in defending claims for damages totalling almost £200 million in respect of the alleged breach of property rights of businesses operating in the solar photovoltaic industry. The case settled shortly before a ten-week trial.

Case C-279/12 Fish Legal and Shirley v Information Commissioner and others

[2014] 2 WLR 568

A reference for a preliminary ruling from the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union in respect of the EU Environmental Information Directive.

Energy

Hanif has considerable experience of both public law and commercial cases in the energy and natural resources sectors, including regulatory appeals and private law claims in contract and tort. Recent examples include acting for companies within the National Grid group in relation to appeals against the RIIO-2 price controls, and commercial disputes arising from mining activities.

“He stands out as an excellent barrister because he communicates his advice well, is reliable and manages to provide prompt advice at short notice.”

— LEGAL 500, 2023

Cases

R(Wales & West Utilities Limited) v Competition and Markets Authority

(ongoing)

Acting for an interested party in a claim for judicial review concerning the CMA's determination of appeals against the RIIO-2 price controls.

Município de Mariana and others v BHP plc and BHP Ltd

[2022] EWCA Civ 951 (and ongoing)

Acting in relation to the largest group litigation brought in England and Wales, resulting from the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil. Hanif has been working on a range of jurisdictional and foreign law issues.

National Grid Electricity Transmission and National Grid Gas v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(CMA, 2021)

Acting for NGET and NGG in statutory appeals to the CMA against GEMA's decision to impose licence conditions reflecting its RIIO-2 price controls

R(Larkfleet) v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

(Administrative Court, 2021)

Successfully resisting a claim for judicial review concerning the lawfulness of the withdrawal of regulatory accreditation granted to solar photovoltaic generating station, which enabled the station to claim renewable obligation certificates.

Vilca and others v Xstrata Ltd and others

[2016] EWHC 389 (QB); [2016] EWHC 946 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1825 (QB); [2016] EWHC 2757 (QB); [2017] EWHC 1582 (QB); [2018] EWHC 27 (QB)

Acting successfully for the defendants in a tort claim by 22 Peruvians regarding a protest at a mine in Peru which raised issues of foreign act of state, choice of law and corporate liability for the acts of the Peruvian National Police. The litigation led to a number of important judgments including on issues of disclosure ([2016] EWHC 389 (QB); [2016] EWHC 946 (QB); [2016] EWHC 1825 (QB)) and expert evidence ([2016] EWHC 2757 (QB); [2017] EWHC 1582 (QB); [2018] EWHC 27 (QB)).

**British Gas Trading v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority;
Northern Power Grid v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority**

(Competition and Markets Authority, 2015)

Acting on behalf of Ofgem in the first appeals under the new statutory licence modification appeal process applicable to the UK energy sector.

Breyer Group and others v DECC

Acting on behalf of the Defendant in defending claims for damages totalling almost £200 million in respect of the alleged breach of property rights of businesses operating in the solar photovoltaic industry. The case settled shortly before a ten-week trial.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

BA Hons (Cantab.) History, (Double First); Kennedy Scholar, Harvard University (First place nationally); Diploma in Law, City University (Distinction, top of year); Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding, top of year)

Scholarships & prizes

Before starting practice, Hanif won a series of advocacy and mooting competitions as well as prizes for academic achievement.

- Bar European Group Phoenicia Scholarship
- Inaugural Inner Temple Advocacy Prize for the best pupil advocate at the Inner Temple
- Inner Temple Princess Royal Scholarship
- Senior Scarman Scholarship for the best overall performance at the ICSL (for finishing first in year)
- Stephen Seabrooke Memorial Prize for excellence in procedure and advocacy at the ICSL
- Inner Temple BVC Prize for performance on the BVC Course
- Winner of the Inner Temple Lawson Mooting Competition
- Inner Temple Major Scholarship
- 3 Verulam Buildings Prize for the best law conversioner at City University (for finishing first in year)
- Winner of the City University/Crown Office Mooting Competition
- John F Kennedy Memorial Trust Scholarship to Harvard enabling access as a non-degree special student/visiting fellow to each of the graduate schools at Harvard
- Prize for highest mark on Human Rights and International Politics course at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard
- Gonville & Caius College Senior Scholarships
- Gonville & Caius College Bursary Awards

Selected earlier reported cases

Commercial

- Spring Finance v HS Real LLC [2011] EWHC 57
- Derrick Barr and Others v Biffa Waste Services Limited [2011] EWHC 1003

Telecommunications

- British Telecommunications Plc v Office of Communications – NCCN 1007/Ethernet [2011] CAT 15
- British Telecommunications Plc v Office of Communications – partial private circuits [2011] CAT 5

Lecturing

Hanif regularly speaks on a wide-range of legal issues. He has delivered papers to the Public Law Project judicial review conference as well as at numerous seminars. He has recently spoken on issues such as the statutory amendments to the judicial review jurisdiction and the use of public international law in domestic cases.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Hanif was appointed a Visiting Tutor in European and Public Laws at the Department of Law, City University upon finishing the diploma in law course and taught European Law to 150 undergraduates whilst studying for the BVC.

Hanif has previously undertaken work for a range of academic institutions, think-tanks, and NGOs, including the Bingham Centre for the Rule of law, the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard, and DEMOS.

VAT registration number: 939460884

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board