



Maya Chilaeva

Called: 2020

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Maya has a broad commercial practice spanning international arbitration, commercial litigation, insurance and shipping disputes.

Despite her level of call, she has already appeared at every level of the English Court system, including the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, as well as the High Court (in both trials and interlocutory applications). She also acts in arbitrations under ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, LMAA and GAFTA Rules.

Before coming to the Bar, Maya worked as an investment analyst at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, obtaining financial accounting qualifications and gaining a practical understanding of commercial agreements which she brings to her practice as a barrister.

Fluent in Russian and Chechen, she frequently acts in cases with CIS and international elements.

Notable cases

- **JTI POLSKA Sp. Z o.o. v Jakubowski** [2023] UKSC 19 – Supreme Court leapfrog appeal on liability under the CMR Convention, led by John Kimbell KC. One of **The Lawyer Magazine's Top 10 Appeals of 2023**. Maya made oral submissions before the Supreme Court which can be viewed via this [link](#).
- **Churchill v Merthyr Tydfil CBC** [2023] EWCA Civ 1416 – landmark Court of Appeal case on non-court dispute resolution, led by Michel Kallipetis KC.
- **Andrey Rogachev v Mikhail Goryainov** [2024] EWHC 2436 (Ch) – 12-day High Court trial arising from a partnership dissolution. Led by Paul McGrath KC.
- **\$255m Aviation Insurance Dispute (2024) – Top 20 Case of 2024**. Acted for claimants (led by Robert-Jan Temminck KC) in relation to aircraft stranded in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.
- **Confidential LCIA Arbitration (2025)** – Oslo-seated arbitration concerning the interpretation of a broker agreement in the context of a capital raise for a renewable energy investment (led by Alex Wright KC).

Maya's advocacy skills were recognised by the BPP Advocacy Scholarship and the Lord Denning and Hardwicke Scholarships (Lincoln's Inn).

She further honed her advocacy by winning **The Times 2TG National Mooting Competition** in 2020.

Her year-long experience in the Commercial Court, assisting judges in matters ranging from interlocutory applications to an eight-week trial in the case of **PCP Capital Partners LLP v Barclays Bank** [2021] EWHC 1852 (Comm), informs her approach to case preparation.

Maya is dedicated to delivering exceptional service to her clients and is willing to accept pro bono instructions when appropriate.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Maya has worked on a wide range of commercial matters including applications for interim relief, stakeholder proceedings and anti-suit injunctions. She has advised on and drafted pleadings in a wide variety of disputes ranging from contractual disputes, fraud and the economic torts, shareholder disputes, the sale and carriage of goods and consumer contracts.

Recent work includes:

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Alex Wright KC) in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a debt financing agreement in relation to a

renewable energy asset investment in the Nordics.

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Paul McGrath KC and James Shirley) in a joint venture dispute **Andrey Rogachev v Mikhail Goryainov** [2024] EWHC 2436 (Ch), a 12-day Chancery trial arising out of a partnership dissolution.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Yash Kulkarni KC) in a dispute arising out of a COVID vaccine supply agreement between a corporate and a government entity.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Robert Jan-Temminck KC) in aviation insurance and jurisdiction disputes arising out of the detention by Russia of commercial aircraft in the aftermath of its invasion of Ukraine.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Joseph Sullivan) in an application to strike out a claim in unlawful means conspiracy brought against the defendants to previous (discontinued) litigation against the same claimants, their solicitors and barrister (**King v Stiefel** [2021] EWHC 1045 (Comm)).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Joseph Sullivan) in the Court of Appeal to clarify the reflective loss rule in **Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Newman Industries Ltd** [1982] Ch 204 (**Broadcasting Investment Group Ltd v Smith** [2021] EWCA Civ 912).
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Rob Thomas KC) in a London seated UNCITRAL arbitration representing a contractor involved in disputes arising from contracts for the construction and installation of a drilling rig in Iraq.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Poonam Melwani KC) in a sale of goods and vessel construction dispute.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by John Kimbell KC) in a substantial dispute involving claims of restitution for payments made under duress and liquidated damages for delayed delivery.
- Advising and drafting pleadings in a range of sale of goods disputes.

Shipping

Maya has acted in a wide range of disputes concerning shipping and commodities, including disputes under charter parties, bills of lading and overseas sales contracts. She has acted in both court proceedings and in arbitrations, particularly under the LCIA and LMAA Rules. She also has experience in relation to wet shipping matters such as collisions and general average.

Recent work includes:

- Advising (led by Simon Rainey KC) in relation to an Admiralty Court claim arising from an allision at an international port between a moored vessel and a manoeuvring vessel.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Simon Croall KC) in arbitration proceedings concerning the impact of prolonged vessel detention in the Panama Canal on long-term contracts of affreightment.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by James Turner KC) in a commercial arbitration involving the interpretation and enforcement of a purchase option under back-to-back time charterparties.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by James Turner KC) in a London seated LCIA arbitration on behalf of a contractor in disputes arising out of contracts for the construction and installation of offshore pipelines connecting several oil fields offshore Turkmenistan.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Rob Thomas KC) in a London seated UNCITRAL arbitration representing a contractor involved in disputes arising from contracts for the construction and installation of a drilling rig in Iraq. The case involves allegations of wrongful termination, breach of contractual obligations, and the consequential loss of the value of the rig.
- Advising (led by John Russell KC) in a GAFTA arbitration dispute on the impact of sanctions on contractual obligations and on defending potential English High Court injunction proceedings.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Thomas Macey-Dare KC) in a case arising out of the recovery of a wave energy converter off the coast of Scotland. The case raises issues as to the proper construction and operation of a contract on BIMCO Supplytime form.
- Acting (as sole counsel) in a high-value arbitration concerning claims and counterclaims arising under a time charterparty. Specifically, dealing with allegations of breaches of speed and consumption warranties, port delays, failure to meet conditions precedent for delivery, and bunker redelivery obligations.
- Acting (led by John Kimbell KC) in an arbitration concerning a multi-million dollar dispute over the construction and delivery of two multi-purpose vessels, involving claims of economic duress, the validity of contractual addenda, and unresolved warranty claims related to previous vessels.
- Acting (as sole counsel) in GAFTA arbitration proceedings in a dispute concerning the proper construction of standard industry terms.
- Acting for a shipyard (led by Peter Stevenson) in an arbitration concerning the design and manufacture of a luxury yacht.
- Acting (led by John Kimbell KC) for buyers in two consolidated arbitration proceedings concerning delays to design and build of two cargo vessels.
- Advising (as sole counsel) and drafting pleadings in a variety of disputes arising out of both time and voyage charterparties, including demurrage, unseaworthiness, unsafe port claims and the scope of off-hire provisions, including in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Advising and drafting pleadings in relation to claims under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and the Marine Insurance Act 1906.
- Advising and drafting pleadings for owners and cargo-interests in a variety of disputes arising out of contracts for the carriage of cargo by road, sea and air.

International Arbitration

Much of Maya's practice is conducted under institutional and trade arbitration rules including ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, LMAA, GAFTA and FOSFA, covering sectors including commodities, shipping, and finance.

Recent examples of international arbitration work include:

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Rob Thomas KC) in a London seated UNCITRAL arbitration representing a contractor involved in disputes arising from contracts for the construction and installation of a drilling rig in Iraq.
- Advising (led by John Russell KC) in a GAFTA arbitration dispute on the impact of sanctions on contractual obligations and on defending potential English High Court injunction proceedings.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Alex Wright KC) in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a debt financing agreement in relation to a renewable energy asset investment in the Nordics.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Chris Smith KC) in an LMAA arbitration arising out of the misdelivery of a cargo of timber, followed by a section 69 appeal in the Commercial Court regarding the scope and application of Article III, Rule 6 of The Hague Visby Rules.
- Advising (led by Ruth Hosking) on the enforceability of arbitration agreements and the capacity of foreign insurers to pursue claims directly under bills of lading.
- Acting for charterers (led by Simon Croall KC) in an arbitration concerning a dispute under two long-term charterparties on issues such as the proper interpretation of bespoke clause relating to the costs of transiting Panama Canal.
- Advising (as sole counsel) and drafting pleading in arbitration proceedings raising issues of procedural conduct and the enforceability of forum selection clauses.
- Assisting as junior counsel (led by Paul Downes KC) in an LCIA arbitration. The case raised issues about the proper interpretation and application of a "Market Test" clause in an agreement related to the sale of steel mills in the context of contractual claims exceeding €100m and involved complex disclosure applications.
- Acting (as sole counsel) in GAFTA arbitration proceedings in a dispute concerning the proper construction of standard industry terms.
- Advising and drafting applications to challenge arbitral awards under sections 67, 68, and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

Insurance

Maya is regularly instructed to advise and act in insurance and reinsurance matters, particularly aviation, marine and cargo insurance disputes.

Illustrative cases include:

- Acting as junior counsel for a group of claimants (led by Robert Jan-Temminck KC) in a US\$255m claim against international insurers concerning aircraft stranded in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, ranked in **The Lawyer Magazine's Top 20 Cases of 2024**.
- Advising (led by Ruth Hosking) on the enforceability of arbitration agreements and the capacity of foreign insurers to pursue claims directly under bills of lading.
- Instructed (as sole counsel) to advise in relation to several high value marine cargo insurance disputes.
- Advising on, drafting and revising insurance rules for an insurance club, with a focus on addressing issues related to costs, limits, and deductibles (assisting Nigel Cooper KC).
- Advising in arbitration proceedings on the application of English insurance law principles to for

Aviation

- Instructed as junior counsel for a group of claimants (led by Robert Jan-Temminck KC) in a \$255m claim against international insurers concerning aircraft stranded in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, ranked in **The Lawyer Magazine's Top 20 Cases of 2024**.
- Advising and settling pleadings in a range of carriage by road, air and sea disputes.
- Advising (as sole counsel) on a complex commercial dispute concerning the enforceability of a settlement agreement under English law. Analysing the potential application of the Montreal Convention and carrier liability limits under the terms of the air waybill.
- Instructed to advise on the merits and draft pleadings in an arbitration involving a high-value dispute under two long-term charterparties concerning the allocation of costs incurred by Owners at Panama Canal transit auctions. The key issue was the interpretation of a bespoke clause relating to extraordinary Panama transit costs.

CMR

Maya is regularly instructed to act in CMR and other road carriage and multi-modal transport matters. She acted in a rare leapfrog appeal to the Supreme Court in **JTI Polska v Jakubowski** [2024], only the second CMR case to reach the Supreme Court.

Other Experience

Maya serves as Rapporteur for the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (“SIFoCC”).

In 2025, together with the SIFoCC Secretariat, she produced a report of SIFoCC’s Fifth Full Meeting in Doha. The report is available to view and download on the [SIFoCC website](#).

Maya has volunteered for Advocate, a charity which offers advice and representation to litigants in person.

She was a member of the committee for the Commercial Court’s 125th Anniversary.

Academic

BPP Law School London: BPTC (2019)

City University London: GDL, Distinction (2017)

London School of Economics: BSc in International Relations and History (2013)

Awards

Winner, The Times 2TG Mooting Competition (2020)

Advocacy Scholarship, BPP Law School (2018)

Lord Denning and Hardwicke Scholarships, Lincoln’s Inn (2017-2018)

Publications

Co-authored (with Pia Dutton, 3 Verulam Buildings): “Smart Contracts: can they be aligned with traditional principles or are bespoke norms necessary?” Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law (September 2018)

Languages

Maya is fluent in Russian and Chechen.