



**Laura Ford**

**Partner**

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Laura Ford advises and represents clients in the conduct of UK and multi-jurisdictional investigations into allegations of serious and complex misconduct, including in the areas of bribery, fraud, money laundering, sanctions, data breach, human rights and market abuse.

She also advises clients in the design and implementation of their global compliance programmes - from risk assessment to policy drafting and training - and conducts due diligence and investigations in the context of corporate transactional activity.

A number of Laura's recent mandates have involved the financial services sector, including representing Thomas Kalaris in the Serious Fraud Office prosecution arising out of Barclays' capital raising from Qatar in 2008 and a large scale sanctions investigation for a retail bank. She is also experienced in conducting investigations and compliance mandates in the defence, retail, gambling and property sectors.

- Global Governance and Compliance
- Investigations
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Regulatory and Government Affairs

- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Industrials

- Advising Thomas Kalaris in the fraud trial concerning Barclays' capital raising and related payments to Qatar in 2008, resulting in acquittal on all charges in March 2020.
- Advising a UK retail bank in connection with a large scale Iranian and Cuban sanctions investigation and back book review, completing in June 2020.
- Advising a global aerospace and defence company in connection with its third party anti-corruption due diligence programme across Europe and Asia.
- Advising one of the world's largest retailers in connection with investigations into wide-ranging misconduct by a senior manager and the timely recognition of supplier funding completing in 2017.
- Advising an engineering, procurement and construction client on a large scale SFO investigation into bribery and corruption in a Nigerian liquefied natural gas project, resulting in the first civil recovery order in the context of bribery related conduct, with an acceptance on no wrongdoing on the part of our client, in 2011.
- Advising an international gambling technology plc in connection with its annual compliance programme, including a three-yearly

compliance “health-check” across a range of compliance topics, including anti-bribery, money laundering, responsible gambling and human rights, and quarterly anti-money laundering risk assessments.

- Advising Andy Coulson, a former Editor of the News of the World, in connection with the Leveson Inquiry and police investigations into allegations of phone hacking and conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, completing 2013.
- Advising a motorsport team in connection with an internal investigation into allegations of bribery in connection with driver selection, completing 2018.
- Advising an international timeshare company in connection with suspected large scale data theft which is ongoing.
- Advising a property management company in connection with a whistleblower allegation of systemic fraud and the subsequent investigation and resolution of the matter, concluding in March 2020.

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

### Prior Experience

- 2017 to date, Legal Director, DLA Piper, London & Birmingham
- 2012 to 2017, Senior Associate, DLA Piper, London & Birmingham
- 2008 to 2012, Associate, DLA Piper, London & Birmingham
- 2006 to 2008, Trainee Solicitor, DLA Piper, Birmingham

### Education

- College of Law, Birmingham, Legal Practice Course, 2004
- University of Leeds, Law LLB, 2003

### Memberships

Laura Ford is a Solicitor registered with the Law Society of England & Wales

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### **Anti-money laundering: Global perspectives and updates**

30 June 2022

Governments around the world are more determined now than ever to curb illicit financing in all forms.

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#### **The Global Crackdown on Money Laundering**

15 June 2022

Governments and corporations in the world's major financial centres have long talked tough on anti-money laundering (AML), but their actions have not always shared the force of their words.

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#### **United Kingdom - Global bribery offenses guide**

11 January 2022

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## Corruption Perceptions Index 2020 – a European perspective

11 February 2021

On 28 January 2021 Transparency International Launched the 2020 edition of its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people.

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## Supply chain integrity and investigations: Key considerations for retail businesses

20 November 2020

It is impossible to ignore the controversies that have emerged this year in the UK's Leicester textile industry, which include allegations of modern slavery and other serious misconduct levelled at suppliers of household retail fashion names.

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- Foreign Companies Compelled To Produce Materials - The Scope Of The SFO's Powers Redefined, September 2018
- Cyber Risk in the Retail Sector, Computer Business Review, May 2018
- Manufacturing Firms at Greater Risk of Criminal Liability? (BQ Magazine, April 2018)
- ICBC Standard Bank avoids prosecution for bribery failings (British American Business Council Newsletter, March 2016)
- Failing to Prevent Bribery – Prevention is Better than Cure (DLA Piper Regulatory Update, October 2015)
- Financial Crime chapter updates (Thomson Reuters Insurance Handbook, August 2015)
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Due Diligence (DLA Piper "WIN-WISE" update, July 2015)
- Certainty at last? Sentencing guidelines for corporate criminality published (DLA Piper Regulatory Update, February 2014)
- Deferred Prosecution Agreements - What's the big deal? (Manufacturing Matters, April 2014)
- Advise clients on fraud rules (The Lawyer, October 2012)
- Risks and Rewards of SOCA disclosures in the non-regulated sector (In House Lawyer, April 2012)
- Deferred prosecution agreements: the way forward? (In House Lawyer, February 2012)

## Events

### Upcoming

#### Corporate Crime, Compliance and Investigations Symposium 2022

October 4 to October 27

Webinar

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### Previous

#### Whistleblowing laws of Europe

14 March 2022

Webinar

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### **Pan-European Week: Crime made Clear – Navigating criminal and compliance risks**

19 April 2021

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### **Your Business Exposed: Key Risks in a COVID-19 World**

18 November 2020

Webinar

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### **A practical guide to privilege in cyber investigations**

15 October 2020

Webinar

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## **NEWS**

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### **Laura Ford recognised in GIR Women in Investigations 2021**

20 May 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Laura Ford, a partner in the firm's Litigation and Regulatory practice, has been named by Global Investigations Review in its list of Women in Investigations, 2021.

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