



**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
- International Trade, 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

#### **The UK Bribery Act: A Perfect 10 or an uninspired 5/10?**

1 July 2021

From its conception, the UK Bribery Act 2010, which came into force on 1 July 2011, presented itself as a radical and comprehensive overhaul of UK anti-bribery and corruption law. So, a decade on, what does the score card look like?

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#### **Anti-money laundering registration for art market participants: What you need to know**

7 June 2021

The deadline for all “art market participants” to register with HMRC is 10 June 2021. This article explains the key obligations imposed by the MLRs 2017.

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## UK - Whistleblowing Laws in Europe: An international guide

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### Compulsory Document Production Notices – Normal Service Resumed

11 February 2021

The UK Supreme Court has handed down a judgment in R (on the application of KBR, Inc) (Appellant) v Director of the Serious Fraud Office (Respondent) [2021] UKSC 2 that now states the SFO will not be able to cut corners in obtaining evidence located overseas nor make it any easier to prosecute companies.

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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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### Regulatory Enforcement and Privilege – Waiver, Content, Cherry-Picking

7 October 2020

Disclosing privileged documents under a limited waiver to regulators has the potential to attract cooperation credit when regulators decide on level of penalty or, indeed, whether to undertake enforcement proceedings or prosecution. There may also be benefits in relying on privileged material in any defence to regulatory enforcement or prosecution.

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### Human rights compliance programmes: Why now?

10 September 2020

Businesses are increasingly required to identify and manage their involvement in adverse environmental and social impacts throughout their organisations and supply chains. Previously, drivers for developing human rights compliance programmes have included reputation risk and compliance with best practice and "soft law" standards.

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### UK financial crime systems and controls during COVID-19: The FCA's view

21 May 2020

On 6 May 2020, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) issued a statement on how firms should apply their systems and controls to combat and prevent financial crime during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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

### Previous

#### **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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