

Brenda Efurhievwe



Call: 2019

Specialist in:

- Personal Immigration
- Business Immigration
- Civil Law
- Modern Slavery & Trafficking Team
- Civil Actions Against Public Authorities
- Direct Access Trained

Experience

Brenda specialises in immigration and public law, as well as civil actions against public authorities. Following her extensive experience in human rights work, she is particularly skilled at assisting vulnerable clients with experiences of complex trauma.

Immigration and Public Law

Brenda regularly represents individuals in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-Tier and Upper Tribunals in asylum and immigration appeals, human rights claims, deportation appeals, judicial reviews and bail applications. She also advises on and acts in judicial reviews and urgent interim relief applications in the High Court.

Brenda regularly delivers seminars on matters relating to asylum and immigration law. Her webinar on “Afghan clients: quasi refugee routes and issues in contemporary asylum claims” can be accessed on Free Movement. She is also a contributing author and panel member of the LexisNexis Immigration Law panel.

Brenda is fluent in Polish and holds a Masters of Law (Magister Prawa) degree from the University of Wroclaw; she is happy to accept instructions in Polish.

Her recent notable cases include:

R (Complete Care Ltd.) v SSHD AC-2026-LON-002780 – representing a Claimant challenging the revocation of its sponsor licence. Brenda secured permission to judicially review the



revocation decision on 4 grounds, and assisted the business in obtaining interim relief preventing the SSHD from taking any curtailment action against the business' sponsored workers and mandating that she does not refuse to renew the visa of existing sponsored workers, by reason of the revocation.

R (LHA) v SSHD, AC-2026-LON-002999 – Brenda acted in an urgent, out of hours interim relief application, successfully preventing her age disputed client's removal to France.

R (HUP) v SSHD, AC-2026-LON-002662 – Brenda assisted an asylum seeker returned under the UK-France agreement in securing permission to judicially review his reasonable grounds decision. She continues acting in this matter.

R (AOP) v SSHD [2026] EWHC 971 (Admin) – representing a potential victim of trafficking in their challenge of a negative reasonable grounds decision, which concluded that the financial exploitation suffered by the Claimant could not meet the definition of trafficking. Brenda continues to represent the Claimant in their application to the Court of Appeal.

R (DFL) v SSHD, JR-2025-LON-004558 – secured permission to judicially review SSHD's decisions relating to the attempted removal of a vulnerable Applicant to the US, despite the aborted attempt to "section" them under s.48 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Judicial review permission was granted on all grounds; the claim was subsequently settled by the SSHD.

R (BNK) v SSHD, JR-2025-LON-001537 – Secured permission to judicially review the delay in considering the referral of a lone mother and her young children under the Separated Families Pathway of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme ("ACRS"). Permission was granted on the grounds that it is arguable that the Secretary of State's decision to consider all referrals made under this scheme in date order may be unlawful. The Respondent's grounds of resistance did not indicate a discretion to consider referrals out of date order. Brenda's submissions also demonstrated that considering all referrals under this scheme in a strict date order is arguably irrational and inconsistent with the Respondent's obligations under s. 55 of the 2009 Act, as particularly vulnerable children should be given priority. The matter was subsequently settled by consent.

MA v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Case No: UI-2025-000713 – Successfully represented a bisexual Appellant in their error of law appeal at the UT. The FTT decision was set aside in its entirety and Brenda subsequently represented the Appellant at the remitted FTT hearing, where the credibility of his account was accepted. The appeal was allowed on



asylum and human rights grounds.

NAA v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Case No: UI-2025-000444 – Represented an Iraqi asylum seeker in a successful error of law appeal before the Upper Tribunal. The FTT decision was set aside, as it was found that the FTT's credibility assessment involved several material errors of law.

AA, BO and TO v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Case Nos: UI-2025-001061, UI-2025-001063, UI-2025-001062 – Represented a vulnerable Nigerian widow and her two young children in their successful asylum appeal in the FTT. The family were initially granted international protection due to a risk of FGM. Brenda also successfully represented the family in the SSHD's appeal in the UT, where it was held that the FTT decision shall stand, as it did not involve a material error of law.

Civil Law

Due to her diverse professional experience, Brenda is also particularly interested in matters at the intersection of civil and public law, with a focus on claims against public authorities. She represents Claimants in matters including claims for damages for unlawful detention, civil penalty notice appeals, data protection breaches, claims relating to personal injury and cross border matters. She frequently represents Appellants challenging the imposition of civil penalties in relation to carrier's liability and allegations of employing individuals with no right to work in the UK.

Notable cases:

Sedico Logistics Sp. Z o.o. v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2026] EWHC 222 (KB) – acting via direct access, Brenda represented a Polish company in its High Court appeal against the refusal of its application to strike out the SSHD's claim for leave to sell one of its vehicles, detained because of non-payment of a civil penalty under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Jen and Jamie Ltd v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2025] EWCC 41, [2025] 7 WLUK 288 – Brenda represented the Appellant in one of the only reported Civil Penalty Notice Appeals. Brenda was instructed to continue representing the Appellant before the Court of Appeal; the Appellant was granted permission to appeal regarding the issue of judicial discretion. The Court of Appeal will consider whether the Judge erred in law by determining that he is not entitled to have regard to matters outside of the Code of Practice,



while considering the level of penalty.

Pro bono work

Brenda undertakes pro bono work with a number of organisations including the Windrush Justice Clinic and Bail for Immigration Detainees. During her time as a 2025 Pegasus Scholar, Brenda volunteered with Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (the Association for Legal Intervention) in Poland, where she assisted asylum seekers stranded at the Polish-Belarusian border in matters including interim measures applications before the ECtHR. In recognition of her volunteer work, Brenda was shortlisted for Advocate's 2026 Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year award.

What the directories say

"I have found her work to be of the highest standard. She is a lawyer we would be pleased to continue instructing, being confident that her legal professionalism, her determination and her successes would make every difference to our clients' chances of being granted bail."

Pierre Makhlouf, Legal Director Bail for Immigration Detainees

"[I]t was a pleasure to instruct Brenda to represent one of our challenging appeals in the Tribunal where her eloquent and excellent arguments proved to be successful as our client's appeal was allowed. She has been very reliable and resourceful in what she does."

Nazrah Ismail, NI Legal Services

"I have found her to be accessible, diligent, hardworking and thorough, with a very good grasp of the law on the subject [of Civil Penalty notice appeals]. My client has been similarly very impressed."

Adrian Green, Partner at Stachiw Bashir Green

Education

OISC Level 3 Immigration Adviser; OISC Level 3 Asylum and Protection Adviser (June 2024)

LL.M. (3.78) – Columbia Law School (2020-2021)

BPTC part-time (Outstanding, first in cohort) – BPP (2017-2019)

Magister Prawa (4.5) – University of Wroclaw (2014-2017)



LLB Sandwich (First Class Honours) – University of Surrey (2007-2011)

Memberships

Bail for Immigration Detainees

Human Rights Lawyers Association

Inner Temple

ILPA

Windrush Justice Clinic

Languages

Polish – fluent

French – communicative

Awards

Pegasus Scholar (2025)

Parker School International and Comparative Law award – Columbia Law School (2021)

Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar – Columbia Law School (2021)

Human Rights Fellow – Columbia Law School (2020/2021)

Fulbright All Disciplines Award – UK Fulbright Commission (2020/2021)

International Peace Scholarship – PEO (2020/2021)

Princess Royal Scholarship 2017 – Inner Temple (2017)

International Postgraduate Bursary – BPP (2017)

Publications

The appeal of judicial discretion in civil penalty appeals: Court of Appeal grants permission

An article considering the County Court decision in *Jen and Jamie Ltd v SSHD* and explaining



the reasons for the increase of civil penalty notice appeals.

[Learn more here.](#)

Asylum 22: A Critical Analysis of ‘Crisis Management’ under CEAS

A critical examination of the EU response to the mass-influx of asylum seekers. This sociolegal analysis considered the reasons behind the current operation of the Common European Asylum System with a particular focus on the underlying shortcomings, including the Catch 22 scenario under which asylum seekers become penalised for irregular entry, despite the inherent necessity to enter a country in order to seek its protection and the lack of safe, legal routes into the EU. The article examined various aspects of the response to the ‘European Refugee crisis’, focusing on the threat posed by the continued application of the model introduced in the EU-Turkey ‘statement’.

A Fortress built upon refoulement?

An analysis of Poland’s policy of refoulement of Chechen asylum seekers, as an example of EU approaches to asylum.

