

# Tutku Bektas

Call: 2018



Tutku Bektas is a pupil barrister developing a broad practice in public law, under the supervision of Philip Rule KC and Richard Alomo.

She has been involved in judicial review challenges, Court of Protection proceedings, prison and police law complaints, education matters as well as inquests and inquiries. Tutku also has substantial experience in public international law, international human rights law and international investment and commercial arbitration.

Before joining No5 Chambers, Tutku served as a judicial assistant to Judge Dalveer Bhandari at the International Court of Justice. In this role, she advised on various matters of public international law, including international terrorism, international humanitarian law, climate change, the law of the sea, and international investment protections. Tutku also contributed to the work of the United Nations International Law Commission, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the NUS Centre for International Law.

Prior to this, Tutku worked as an associate and trainee at the international arbitration departments of leading law firms in Paris, where she served as counsel, advisor and shadow arbitral secretary in numerous investment treaty and commercial arbitrations in mining, banking, construction, and pharmaceutical industries.

For the past eight years, Tutku has maintained an active pro bono practice in international human rights law. She has worked on applications to the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee, primarily focusing on issues related to the prolonged pre-trial detention of journalists and human rights defenders. She has collaborated with leading NGOs and campaigns around the world, including Human Rights Watch, Media Defence, Z2K, ECCHR, Advocates for Human Rights, Campaign to Bring Yahya Jammeh and his Accomplices to Justice and the UK Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom.

## Expertise

### Public Law

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Throughout her pupillage, Tutku has acquired experience and training in the following areas of law:

- **Prison law:** Conducting judicial review challenges against decisions made by the Secretary of State, Prison and Probation Service,

#### Birmingham

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Parole Board and prison governors in a diverse range of matters related release, recall and re-categorisation decisions.

- **Police law:** Pursuing (i) Human Rights Act claims against the police, particularly in cases involving delayed or ineffective police investigations; (ii) civil actions against the police.
- **Inquests:** Representing and supporting family members or other Interested Persons in multi-day inquests.
- **Education:** Representing families and local authorities in Special Education Needs (SEN) appeal hearings.
- **Community care and asylum support:** Bringing judicial review challenges against decisions made by local authorities and the Secretary of State for the Home Department addressing issues related to age assessment decisions and failures to provide adequate accommodation and support for asylum seekers.

## Education

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During her pupillage, Tutku has acquired experience and training in representing families and local authorities in Special Education Needs (SEN) appeal hearing.

## Community Care

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Tutku is also interested in undertaking judicial review challenges against decisions made by local authorities and the Secretary of State for the Home Department addressing issues related to age assessment decisions and failures to provide adequate accommodation and support for asylum seekers.

## Prison & Police Law

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Throughout her pupillage, Tutku was involved in conducting judicial review challenges against decisions made by the Secretary of State, Prison and Probation Service, Parole Board and prison governors in a diverse range of matters related release, recall and re-categorisation decisions. She also followed matters pursuing (i) Human Rights Act claims against the police, particularly in cases involving delayed or ineffective police investigations and (ii) civil actions against the police.

## Court of Protection

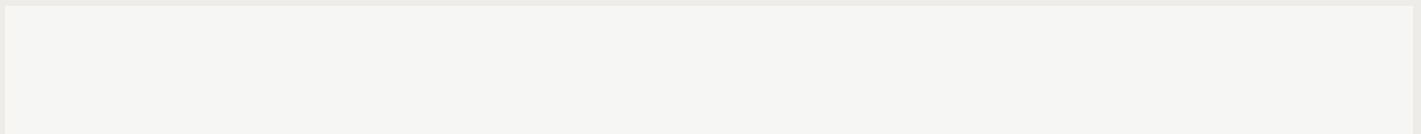
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Throughout her pupillage, Tutku has gained experience and training in both health and welfare and property and affairs matters. She was involved in S21A proceedings concerning deprivation of liberty, best interests decisions pertaining to residence, care, contact and capacity to engage in sexual relations and other matters surrounding mental capacity.

## International

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Tutku practices the following areas:



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## International Human Rights

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Before joining No5 Chambers, Tutku was actively involved in drafting applications and amicus briefs, conducting legal research and preparing reports in relation to human rights complaints before the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Committee. Her primary focus has been on issues relating to freedom of expression (Article 10 ECHR and Article 18 ICCPR), right to liberty and security (Article 5 ECHR), and right to a fair trial (Article 5 ECHR).

Tutku has collaborated with prominent human rights NGOs and campaigns in London, New York, Paris and Berlin, including the Human Rights Watch, Media Defence, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and Advocates for Human Rights. She is happy to accept instructions on a pro bono basis, leveraging her background and knowledge to advance human rights causes.

## Civil Liberties & Human Rights

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During her pupillage, Tutku has worked on claims under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010. She is well-prepared to accept instructions in a broad spectrum of civil liberties and human rights cases.

She is happy to accept instructions on a pro bono basis, leveraging her background and knowledge to advance human rights causes.

## Domestic & International Arbitration

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Prior to joining the Bar, Tutku worked as an associate and trainee at the international arbitration departments of leading law firms in Paris, where she served as counsel, advisor and shadow arbitral secretary in numerous investment treaty and commercial arbitrations in mining, banking, construction, and pharmaceutical industries. She can provide legal advice, research and drafting assistance in relation to commercial and investment arbitrations under a wide range of arbitral rules.

## Environment

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Tutku co-authored the book chapter entitled "Sea-Level Rise and the Law of the Sea: Filling the Legal Gaps through Informal Lawmaking" in Natalie Klein (ed.) Unconventional Lawmaking in the Law of the Sea with Dr. Nilufer Oral. With experience as a legal research assistant at the UN International Law Commission and the NUS Centre for International Law, she has substantial knowledge in international legal aspects of environmental law, sea-level rise and climate change. This background enables her to provide advice on the international law aspects of the evolving legal landscape in this critical area.

## Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law

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Building further upon her training in pupillage, Tutku welcomes the opportunity to represent and support family members as well as other Interested Persons in single or multi-day inquests.

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## Accreditations

- Public Interest Prize, NYU Convocation Prize
- Jessup Advocacy Award, NYU Convocation Prize
- Transitional Justice Scholarship, NYU
- Astbury Scholarship, Middle Temple
- Ahmet Ertegun Memorial Scholarship, University of Oxford

## Appointments

- Attorney and Counsellor at the New York Bar (2021)

## Qualifications

- LL.M. in International Legal Studies, New York University Law School
- Bar Professional Training Course, BPP
- B.A. in Jurisprudence, University of Oxford (Exeter College)

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