hailshamchambers

Clerks: **020 7643 5000**

Alicia Tew

Call: 2012



Overview

Alicia specialises in commercial disputes and costs, with particular experience in commercial fraud, professional liability and insurance.

A highly sought leading junior in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, Alicia was recently described in the 2026 edition as "*fantastic. She understands exactly what is required*" and "*approachable, strong with clients and provides commercial and pragmatic advice. You want her on your side*".

Alicia's cases within the last year include the following:

- *ICG Manager Limited & Ors v Colliers International* where she appeared as sole counsel in various applications in a valuers negligence claim led by Nicola Rushton KC. Alicia is currently preparing for trial in October 2026 led William Flenley KC. and
- *Amicus Finance v Keppie Massie* - large development finance lender claims against valuers Keppie Massie, led by Nicola Rushton KC. A £7m+ claim settled close to trial in 2026.
- £20m+ fraud claim led by Nicola Rushton KC
- Commercial breach of SPA claim led by James Pickering KC
- A multi-party $37m commercial claim: advising on interest and costs for the consequentials hearing

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Commercial law

Alicia acts in significant commercial disputes both in her own right and as a junior, and frequently deals with urgent applications such as freezing orders.

Alicia has a particular interest in commercial fraud. She has worked on civil fraud claims with Nicola Rushton KC for the last 5 years regarding unregulated collective

investment schemes, in claims for over £25m in total.

Alicia is currently led by Nicola Rushton KC in a £28m+ claim which raises issues of breaches of fiduciary duty, subrogation, unlawful means conspiracy, deceit, forgery, directors' duties, tracing, beneficial interests and equitable compensation.

Alicia is also led by James Pickering KC in a claim for deferred consideration under an SPA.

Alicia is trusted as sole counsel in commercial disputes spanning multiple sectors such as manufacturing, secured lending, property investment, and energy.

Alicia's current commercial caseload includes disputes arising out of deferred consideration due under SPAs, secured loan agreements, option agreements, directors' liabilities, secured lending, property transactions and undisclosed commission claims.

Her cases include complex issues of FCA regulated activities, competition, and consumer protection as well as standard debt and damages claims under contracts.

Costs

Alicia is described as "an extremely bright costs barrister" in Legal 500.

In 2026, Alicia is currently acting for a number of clients and solicitors' firms in detailed assessment and Solicitors Act assessments, in addition to solicitor-beneficiary cases.

Alicia also advises solicitors, clients and funders on retainers and funding agreements. For example, in 2025-26, Alicia was instructed to advise a solicitors' firm on its fee agreements in the context of an ongoing arbitration.

Alicia has a specialist practice in costs which dovetails with her specialisms in professional liability and commercial disputes.

Alicia's practice includes:

- Alicia was led by Jamie Carpenter KC in the high-profile litigation funding case of Bugsby v Therium Litigation Funding and Omni Bridgeway (Fund 5) Caymen Invt Ltd (2023).
- Alicia was led by Robert Marven KC in the Court of Appeal hearing in Kenig v Thomson Snell Passmore (2023), the first case to consider the correct approach to beneficiary assessments of solicitors' costs under section 71(3) of the Solicitors Act 1974. She appeared as sole counsel in the first instance hearing.
- Appearing in first instance and appeal courts regarding points of principle on costs, such as the application of QOCs and Part 36 offers, and jurisdiction for detailed assessment.

- Challenging and defending retainers and CFAs
- Achieving significant discounts for parties facing high bills of costs, including acting on a £1.8m costs dispute which resulted in a very favourable outcome for the client.
- Improving return for receiving parties, even where there has been a failure to update costs budgets.

She is keen to work closely with parties to assist them at an early stage on costs issues and to ensure that their strategy achieves a commercial result.

Professional liability

Alicia is ranked for professional negligence in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. She is described as "fantastic", "She understands exactly what is required", "very good and well liked in the market", giving "solid pragmatic advice." One referee says "You want her on your side".

A substantial part of Alicia's practice involves professional liability work focusing on lawyers, property and financial professionals. Unusually, Alicia is regularly instructed by both claimants and defendants.

Alicia is currently led by Nicola Rushton KC in a number of highly contested £5-10m+ valuers' negligence claims, with trials listed in 2026.

In 2026, Alicia is also currently acting as sole counsel in cases involving a variety of professionals including solicitors, valuers and accountants, for both claimants and defendants, generally in the High Court with some cases in the specialist business lists of the County Court.

Lawyers

Alicia has an extensive practice in lawyers' liability, including barristers and solicitors' claims. Her cases include claims arising out of the following areas:

- Commercial transactions and disputes, including failed ownership schemes, SPAs and company share buy-backs
- Property, particularly conveyancing including fraudulent transactions, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of undertakings, commercial and residential leases
- Tax avoidance schemes
- Data protection breaches
- Information Commissioner proceedings
- Civil litigation, including over-settlement, under-settlement, lost litigation, loss of a chance and other heads of loss
- Employment disputes including claims for alleged under-settlement and lost litigation arising out of the Employment Tribunal and EAT
- Family matrimonial finance and ancillary relief awards
- Criminal defence
- Wills and trusts

In 2024, Alicia was led by a leading silk in a complex professional negligence claim involving a cross- border personal injury claim.

In 2023, Alicia was led by Jamie Carpenter KC in a £3m+ professional negligence claim against a fraudulent solicitor acting as trustee for a victim of clinical negligence.

In 2018, on secondment to Herbert Smith Freehills, Alicia assisted with a multi-billion GBP potential claim against a major City solicitors' firm.

Previously, Alicia was led by Michael Pooles KC in the defence of an alleged £100m claim brought by a property development company against a solicitors' firm, which settled close to trial. Alicia has also been led by William Flenley QC in a solicitors' negligence dispute.

Valuers

Alicia is instructed in a number of high-value lenders' claims brought against valuers in respect of commercial properties, both as sole counsel and as junior counsel. She has extensive experience of acting for both claimants and defendants in valuers' liability claims in relation to residential and commercial property.

Currently Alicia is led by Nicola Rushton KC in four high-value valuers' negligence claims arising out of development finance lending.

Finance

Alicia's work relating to financial professionals is broad, including accountants, IFAs, insolvency practitioners, tax advisors, and insurance brokers.

Alicia's cases include:

- Pursuing a £13m claim against an auditor/accountant, led by Nicola Rushton KC
- Representing accountants in a 3 day trial involving allegations of negligent advice on tax
- Advising an insurance broker accused of failures in placing insurance and handling claims
- Pursuing and defending contribution claims involving solicitors, surveyors and accountants
- Representing clients in undisclosed commission cases.

Alicia's expertise in professional negligence is closely supported by her practices in insurance coverage disputes, commercial disputes, property disputes and regulatory law.

Insurance

Alicia has strong expertise in insurance coverage and brokerage claims. She is

frequently instructed to advise policyholders and insurers on insurance disputes including notification, attachment, aggregation, exclusions and other coverage issues.

Recently, Alicia has been instructed to advise on cover under a professional negligence policy which included Insurance Act 2015 extensions for inadvertent breaches by the policyholder. She has also been instructed to advise on the extent of cover for a complex commercial dispute under a professional negligence policy.

Alicia has advised on:

- High-value potential liabilities related to Grenfell under a professional negligence policy
- Directors and officers' cover under a D&O policy relating to a major insolvent corporation
- Claims on a bond regarding fraud by insolvency practitioners
- Employers' liability policies relating to a terrorist attack against employees. Claims against bond issuers regarding fraud by insolvency practitioners
- Fire/property damage claims

Alicia advised extensively on insurance disputes when on secondment to Herbert Smith Freehills' insurance litigation team in 2018.

Property

Alicia has acted in property claims including lease extension claims, challenges to service charges in the First Tier Tribunal Property Chamber and numerous possession hearings.

Alicia has experience of a variety of property issues via her wider practice, with disputes arising from conveyancing transactions, contested land registrations, fraud, solicitors' breaches of undertakings, commercial and residential leases, and other areas. She regularly acts as sole counsel in property-related disputes involving professionals, and advises with precision on complex issues of real estate law.

Regulatory and disciplinary

Alicia's work in professional regulation involves issues of dishonesty, incompetence, health and reporting. She acts for registrants and regulators, including acting for the SRA in a misconduct case which concerned complex health issues for the respondent: SRA v Ashurst, (8 February 2018, Law Society Gazette).

Alicia advises parties throughout regulatory and ombudsman investigations (including FOS and the Legal Ombudsman) and contentious regulatory issues. Alicia has been led by William Flenley KC and Simon Howarth KC in complex cases involving the SRA and FCA.

What others say

"I have worked with Alicia in the past and she is fantastic. She understands exactly what is required." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"Alicia is very good and well liked in the market." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"Alicia Tew gives solid pragmatic advice." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"She is approachable, strong with clients and provides commercial and pragmatic advice. You want her on your side." *Legal 500, 2026*

"Alicia is an extremely bright costs barrister." *Legal 500, 2026*

"Alicia is excellent at drafting pleadings, representing us at hearings and providing sensible and pragmatic advice." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Alicia is bright, commercial and quick. She offers clear advice, is proactive and is great with the clients." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Alicia is a careful, thoughtful barrister. Her advice is thorough and well researched." *Legal 500, 2025*

"Alicia is my go-to counsel on all professional negligence claims, especially those involving claims against solicitors." *Chambers UK, 2024*

"Alicia is very approachable and incredibly knowledgeable. She is a very safe pair of hands on cases and instils confidence that all points will be picked up and well analysed." *Chambers UK, 2024*

"Clear and smooth delivery of arguments to the judge, and a good understanding of the nuances of the case law allowing her to quickly rebut opposing arguments." *Legal 500, 2024*

"Alicia has gravitas beyond her years. She is truly excellent." *Chambers UK, 2023*

"Alicia is a rising star. She is very approachable and at ease with lay clients." *Chambers UK, 2023*

Further information

Membership

Alicia is a member of the Professional Negligence Bar Association, Association of Costs Lawyers (affiliated), Chancery Bar Association, British Insurance Lawyers Association, London Bar Association, and Bar Human Rights Committee.

Personal

Alicia enjoys dancing, music and travelling. Alicia is committed to pro bono work and frequently acts for clients via Advocate and the Centre for Women's Justice. She is a charity trustee for Child Poverty Action Group.

Alicia is a pupil supervisor and the Chair of the Hailsham Chambers Wellbeing Committee. She frequently interviews pupil and tenant applicants.

Alicia is actively involved in Outreach and she mentors candidates from under-represented groups, including through Bridging the Bar. She speaks in schools and colleges to reach under-represented groups.

ICO Data protection registration number: **ZA054031**.

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