



# Ubah Dirie



YEAR OF CALL: 2014



Ubah Dirie is recognised as a tenacious and client focused advocate who specialises in advice, representation and advocacy in all areas of immigration, asylum, nationality, EU free movement, deportation and detention. She regularly appears in the First tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal.

Ubah is ranked for Immigration in the Legal 500 2024, described as:  
*"a fantastic advocate, utilising a combination of forceful and persuasive advocacy to best put her client's case forward. She is a fighter, but also graceful and prepared to negotiate when appropriate. Her real strength is in her appeal advocacy."*

She is ranked 'Up and Coming' in the Chambers UK Bar Guide 2024 for Immigration.

"Ubah's analysis, advice and advocacy are superb. Ubah is a very persuasive advocate who is highly intelligent, with excellent strategic insight."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (IMMIGRATION)

"Ubah has provided and continues to provide excellent service as counsel. She has embraced our often complex and challenging cases and performed at an exceptionally high standard before the Tribunal. This can be evidenced by our high success rates. Ubah is conscientious, reliable and an excellent communicator."

SOLICITOR, MIGRANT LEAD PROJECT

"Ms Dirie does not adopt the standard pessimism of regular Tribunal users. She looks for the chink of light and develops it."

PARTNER, LUQMANI THOMPSON

"She was one of the most accomplished and able volunteers we have had. She displayed great empathy and professionalism in dealing with clients, was extremely hard-working, reliable and responsible."

DIRECTOR, BAIL FOR IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

"She is great to work with, thorough and very thoughtful in her approach. She has handled her cases, including with judges who are known to be particularly difficult, with aplomb, displaying persistence, precision and attention to detail...She has been a wonderful advocate for our clients."

DIRECTOR, BAIL FOR IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

'Ubah is a fantastic advocate, utilising a combination of forceful and persuasive advocacy to best put her client's case forward. She is a fighter but also graceful and prepared to negotiate when appropriate. Her real strength is in her appeal advocacy.'

LEGAL 500, 2024 (IMMIGRATION)

If you would like to get in touch with Ubah please contact the clerking team:

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You can also contact Ubah directly:

[ubahd@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:ubahd@gclaw.co.uk)

## IMMIGRATION: ASYLUM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ubah has developed a reputation as a practitioner who has the ability to explain complex points of law in a simple and straightforward way. Her empathy and manner towards clients mark her out as a clear choice in difficult cases. As such, she is frequently instructed to represent vulnerable individuals including victims of

trafficking, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those with complex mental health issues or without capacity.

Ubah is fluent in Somali and has a particular interest in providing advice and representation in Somali cases. She is regularly instructed in complex asylum appeals, notably soon after the completion of her pupillage she was instructed as junior counsel in the Country Guidance case *OO-Algeria (CG) [2016] UT UKUT 65*.

Ubah also has a particular interest in immigration matters involving EEA nationals and their family members. She has gained extensive experience in representing third country nationals in retained rights appeals and sham marriage cases.

## NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be found below. [More recent news can be found here.](#)

*MAM (Sierra Leone) v SSHD [2019]* - EEA deport of a former child soldier. Pro bono. Appeal allowed.

*AN (Rwanda) v SSHD [2019]* - Article 3 health case – litigation friend required, appellant lost capacity soon after proceedings began. Appeal allowed.

*MAM (Somalia) v SSHD [2019]* - Asylum appeal of a high-ranking soldier in the Somali National Army. At risk on return for desertion. Appeal allowed.

## BACKGROUND

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Before coming to the Bar, Ubah worked in a variety of sectors, including hospitality, healthcare and education. She spent a period of time as a teaching assistant at a Pupil Referral Unit in Wembley.

Ubah was also a client adviser at the Refugee Council and caseworker at Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID). At BID she assisted detainees in their applications for bail and assisted in the running of bail workshops at Harmondsworth and Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs). She continues to represent detainees on behalf of BID and the Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) project on a pro bono basis.

During her studies she was awarded the 2014 Sibel Dedezade Pro Bono Award by City University for her work at City Law School's General Legal Advice Clinic, which was recognised nationally in the Times Higher Education (THE). She was also awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering by the University of Sussex for managing and coordinating the volunteer advisor programme at the Students' Union Advice and

Representation Centre.

## **AWARDS**

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Queen Mother Scholarship - Middle Temple scholarship for BPTC

Sibel Dedezade Pro Bono Award

Kellaway Scholarship - Scholarship to undertake LLM

Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering - University of Sussex Students' Union

## **EDUCATION**

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University of Sussex - LLB Law (Hons)

University of Sussex - LLM Law

City Law School - BPTC

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA)

Human Rights Lawyers' Association (HRLA)

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)

Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)

## **LANGUAGES**

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Somali

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