

Méabh Kirby

Call: 2025



Méabh joined XXIV Old Buildings as a tenant on 1 October 2026, after successful completion of her pupillage. She gained experience across all of Chambers' core practice areas throughout pupillage, during which she was instructed on *Into Nominee & Anor v Study Group UK & Anor* [2026] EWHC 1201 (TCC) in respect of a summary judgment application regarding the frustration of a lease.

Examples of recent instructions include:

- Acting as junior counsel (led by Hugh Miall KC) on a multi-jurisdictional civil fraud claim in the High Court.
- Acting as junior counsel (led by Steven Thompson KC) on an aviation arbitration dispute.

Before coming to the Bar, Méabh graduated with first-class honours from Trinity College Dublin, ranking third overall in her year. Méabh went on to complete the BCL at the University of Oxford where she graduated with Distinction. She also graduated with Distinction from the University of Law where she undertook the Legal Practice Course (LPC).

Méabh formerly practised as a solicitor at Farrer & Co, specialising in trust and estate litigation (2022 – 2025), and as Senior Paralegal in an international group litigation firm (2020 – 2022), where she worked on *Municipio de Mariana & others v. BHP Group PLC and BHP Group Ltd* [2021] EWCA Civ 1156 before the Court of Appeal, amongst other pieces of high-profile group litigation. The case raised complex private internal law issues, an area which Méabh maintains an interest in.

Méabh's other experience includes working as judicial extern to the Honourable Michael Fitzgerald and Philip Gutierrez in the California Federal Court, research assistant to Professor Laura Hoyano at the University of Oxford, researcher with Oxford Pro Bono Publico, and legal intern at the Office of the Attorney General of Ireland.

Méabh is committed to pro bono work and volunteers with Schools Consent Project in her spare time, attending schools to teach students about consent. Méabh has also been featured on the Attorney General's Pro Bono Recognition List (2025) for her work with Mary Ward Legal Centre.

Expertise

Art, Cultural Property & Luxury Assets

During pupillage, Méabh gained experience of advising on the construction of a contract concerning a luxury goods organisation.

Aviation & Travel

As a pupil, Méabh gained experience of aviation litigation including:

- Drafting the defence and counterclaim on an arbitration dispute regarding a wet-lease agreement.
- Advising on a contractual dispute relating to the purchase of a defective aircraft engine.
- Drafting a skeleton for a dispute between an airline and another company which raised corporate capacity and conflicts of law questions.
- Advising on the contractual interpretation of an engine lease agreement.

Civil Fraud & Asset Recovery

Méabh has experience of the following:

- Drafting a particulars of claim for a civil fraud claim and a skeleton for an application seeking a worldwide freezing order, proprietary relief and permission to serve out of the jurisdiction (as a pupil).
- Drafting a defence to a claim alleging conspiracy and fraudulent misappropriation of assets (as a pupil).
- Drafting a skeleton, ex parte freezing injunction and particulars of claim for a civil fraud claim (as a pupil).

Commercial Litigation

Méabh gained experience of a range of commercial litigation matters during pupillage including:

- Assisting with proceedings relating to the enforcement of foreign judgments in the English courts, raising complex questions of private international law (*Li & Ors v Yuan & Anr* [2026] EWHC 242 (Comm)).
- Advising on the interpretation of an option agreement.
- Advising on the merits of a security for costs application in relation to a wider dispute which gave rise to claims of conspiracy, deceit and breach of fiduciary duty.

Company & Partnership Law

Méabh has gained experience in the following areas during pupillage:

- Drafting the particulars of claim for the liquidators of an insolvent company seeking to bring a claim for breach of

director's duties and wrongful trading.

- Drafting points of defence to an unfair prejudice petition.
- Advising on the merits of a wrongful trading claim in respect of a former director and drafting the particulars of claim.

Insolvency

- Drafting skeleton for dispute related to a director's loan account as a pupil.

Real Estate Litigation

As a second six pupil, Méabh was instructed on *Into Nominee & Anor v Study Group UK & Anor* [2026] EWHC 1201 (TCC) which considered the circumstances in which a lease could be frustrated.

Trusts, Probate & Estates

As a pupil, Méabh gained experience in a wide range of trust and probate disputes including:

- Drafting grounds of appeal for a dispute relating to the creation of a trust in an offshore jurisdiction.
- Advising on a blessing application and its impact upon the interests of the unborn beneficiaries.
- Drafting a defence to a proprietary estoppel claim.

Publications

- **What Does the Assisted Dying Bill Mean for the Rule on Forfeiture?** TL4 Private Client Magazine (co-authored)
- **'Acting For Vulnerable Clients: Best Practice For Advisors'** WealthBriefing and Family Wealth Report
- Contributor to Oxford Pro Bono Publico's report on **"Best Interests of the Child' Assessment in Immigration Detention Proceedings'**

Academic History

- LPC (Distinction), University of Law (2022)
- BCL (Distinction), University College, Oxford (2020)
- LLB Law (First Class Honours), Trinity College Dublin (2018)

Scholarships and Prizes/ Awards:

- First Class Honours Prize (Trinity College Dublin)

Languages

- Irish (moderate)

Business Details

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