

## **Black History Month 'Saluting our Sisters' at Four Brick Court**

Black History Month is not only a time to learn, understand and acknowledge the ongoing hardships in the black community. It is also an opportunity to appreciate and highlight the rich history of black culture and its excellence. This year marks the 36th anniversary of Black History Month, and throughout October 2023, members of the Legal Black, Asian and ethnic minorities have been celebrating.

This year's central theme is 'Saluting our Sisters'; despite countless contributions to society, the achievements of black women, in particular, have too often been overlooked or forgotten. The theme showcases the key roles pioneering black women have played in social justice movements, building communities, fighting against oppression, and paving the way for permanent change.

This article will feature the accomplishments of two Black female practitioners from Four Brick Court, Chambers of Isabelle Watson, and their role in positively shaping the legal sector.

Bibi Badejo (Call: 2005) is a practising Barrister at our specialist family law chambers. She has a wealth of experience of over 12 years. Bibi has conducted cases of non-accidental injuries, including non-accidental head injuries, domestic violence, human rights, female genital mutilation, mental health, and a range of matters. She is an elected Governing Bencher of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. Before her career at the bar took off, she volunteered as a McKenzie Friend for a domestic violence charity and was a duty advisor for a housing charity in Greenwich (Greenwich Housing Rights).

Bibi is a passionate, accomplished advocate with extensive advanced advocacy training from the best in England, the US, and Australia; cross-examination expert Roger Dodd also coached her. Bibi continued to pursue her advocacy and became an accredited Advocacy Trainer for Inner Temple in 2017. In 2021, The Advocacy Podcast and The Advocacy Coach were born, founded, and hosted by Bibi to support and provide a dedicated hub for legal professionals to learn and advance their advocacy skills.

Bibi interviews stellar lawyers from all over the world, and they provide insightful, practical advice for the listeners in a relaxed conversation-style podcast, including their personal experience with advocacy. Since launching the podcast, Bibi and The Advocacy Podcast team have received 100K downloads in over 150 countries with over 2000 subscribers. The Advocacy Podcast is also available on the British Airways inflight entertainment. The Advocacy Coach Members' Club offers access to exclusive advocacy training and content designed by Bibi.

Recently, Bibi became our newly elected Joint Deputy Head of Chambers. She was also a panellist for [Nuffield Family Justice Observatory's](#) Webinar: New Research on ethnic disparities in Care Proceedings and a guest speaker at the [Black Counsel Forum 2023](#). Bibi provides bespoke Advocacy Training for Four Brick Court, delivering an intense six-month advocacy training programme for pupil barristers, which includes the use of professional actors trained to create a realistic court experience. She has successfully coached five members of Chambers to be advocacy trainers.

To learn more about Bibi Badjeo and her continuous contributions to the bar, click the links below.

<https://www.bibibadejo.com/>  
<https://www.theadvocacypodcast.com/>  
<https://www.theadvocacycoach.com/>  
<https://www.4bc.co.uk/our-people/barristers/bibi-badejo/>

Emma Hughes, pupil barrister at our specialist family law chambers, previously worked at Miles & Partners Solicitors in the Public Family Law department. She dealt primarily with cases that involved care proceedings which featured non-accidental injury, radicalisation, sexual abuse, and an array of matters.

Emma received an Access to the Bar Award and a Jules Thorn Scholarship from Middle Temple, which kickstarted her career at the Bar. Emma is a valued and significant member of the Bridging the Bar Committee, and she strives to create opportunities for those from underrepresented backgrounds. In 2018, Emma's role as the MTSA president allowed her to organise and host the first [Black History Month Qualifying session](#), which has now become an annual event, and she wrote an [article on the MT Black Lives Matter Event](#).

Emma is also the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association (MTYBA's) Vice President and was previously MTYBA Diversity and Inclusion officer for two years before sitting on the [Bar Council Race Working Group](#). She was recently a host for the MTSA & MTYBA Black History Event, which took place on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, which honoured black achievement and addressed struggle and racism.

To learn more about Emma Hughes and her continuous contributions to the Bar, click the links below.

<https://bridgingthebar.org/programmes/>  
<https://www.mtyba.org/committee>  
<https://www.4bc.co.uk/our-people/barristers/emma-hughes/>

Gina Tarawally