

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Daniel Leader

LANGUAGES: Fluent French, spoken and written.

EDUCATION:

- 2013-14 **University College London** – LLM in International Law (Distinction)
- 1997-99 **City University and Inns of Court School of Law**, Barrister at Law
- 1991-95 **Oxford University** - Politics, Philosophy and Economics – First Class (First class grades in all three disciplines and Distinction in 1st year examination)
- 1986-90 **Ipswich School, Ipswich**

LEGAL CAREER

I am a lawyer, with 22 years litigation experience, I specialises in human rights, environmental, international law, anti-corruption and group actions. The cases I work on often lie at the interface between politics and law. I have a broader interest in public policy environmental law, climate change and business and human rights, and have contributed extensively to the policy developments on business and human rights in the UK and in Europe. Before qualifying as a lawyer, I worked for Gordon Brown MP as an economist and helped to develop Labour's economic policy framework in the run up to the 1997 election.

April 2008 – onwards: Leigh Day. Barrister & Partner since 2012.

I specialise in international human rights, environmental law, anti-corruption and group actions, with a particular focus on business and human rights. I am recognised as a global leader in the field of business and human rights and as one of the UK's leading environmental lawyers (see [link here](#) to Chambers & Partners Global and also UK [here](#) for more detail).

Leigh Day is a leading human rights law firm specialising in international litigation and cases arising out of grave human rights abuses and environmental damage. It is a leader, in particular, in the field of business and human rights and has pioneered new litigation strategies for holding companies to account for abuses committed in the Global South. Over the past 20 years Leigh Day has successfully taken cases to the High Court in London on behalf of thousands of victims of corporate abuse.

The cases we have brought have changed the legal landscape both in the UK and in other common law jurisdictions. Two recent cases reached the Supreme Court (Vedanta and Shell) and set new precedents determining that parent companies can be legally liable for harms committed by their foreign subsidiaries.

A list of key cases is below.

Environmental law

- Okpabi v Shell plc (Ongoing) in 2021 UKSC 3 in a landmark Supreme Court judgment in which the Ogale and Bille communities won their appeal against Royal Dutch Shell and the Court expanded the ambit of parent company liability. The Court held unanimously that the Claimants had an arguable case that should proceed to

trial. The matter is currently being heard in the KBD and the claimants were recently given permission to bring claims for breaches of constitutional rights against Shell. In 2024 the case went to the Court of Appeal which clarified the law of causation for environmental claims. See: theguardian.com/business/2023/nov/23/shell-to-face-human-rights-claims-uk-over-chronic-oil-spills-niger-delta

- The Bodo Community v Shell (Ongoing) – successful claim for compensation and clean up on behalf of 30,000 Nigerians following the oil spills which caused the largest destruction of mangrove habitat in history. The claim settled for £55 million and the clean-up claim is ongoing before the Technology and Construction Court and has been set for trial in May 2025.
- Lungowe v Vedanta plc [2019] UKSC 20 (with Martyn Day and Oliver Holland). Claims on behalf of 1,826 Zambian farmers arising out of damage to the environment caused by harmful discharges from the Konkola Copper Mine. The Supreme Court set out the jurisdictional principles in cross-border claims against parent companies.
- In 2017/18, I was in the Court of Appeal three times with regard to three ground-breaking parent company liability cases: AAA v Unilever plc [2018] EWCA Civ 1532; Okpabi (on behalf of the Ogale Community) v. 1) Royal Dutch Shell plc and 2) Shell Nigeria [2018] EWCA Civ 191; Lungowe v Vedanta Resources PLC & Konkola Copper Mines PLC [2017] EWCA Civ 1528.
- Currently exploring novel climate change litigation cases against major fossil fuel companies and potential claims against airplane companies for greenwashing their emissions record.

Human Rights

- Siddiqui v Reuters (ongoing) - Currently Representing the family of Danish Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist who was killed by the Taliban while on assignment in Afghanistan for Reuters.
- AAA v Flamingo Farming (ongoing) – Currently representing 64 Kenyan victims of human rights abuses against a leading multinational agribusiness operating in Kenya.
- Mutua v FCO [2013] - The landmark successful Mau Mau litigation leading to a £14 million settlement on behalf of 5,000 victims.
- The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry into the use of the 5 banned interrogation techniques by the British Army in Iraq.
- I have brought numerous human rights group claims on against numerous multinational corporations including AAA v. Unilever plc (2018), AAA v Gemfields plc (2019), AAA & Ors v Camellia PLC & Ors. (2020), AAA v Petra Diamonds Ltd (2021).
- In 2023 I secured a confidential multi-million settlement on behalf of 100 Claimants with regard to serious human rights abuses on and around a mine in Zambia.

Greenwashing/ Whistleblowing / Anti-Corruption

- In 2023 I brought a landmark claim against the London Bullion Market Association for the certification of gold from a refiner despite serious alleged human rights abuses at a mine supplying it with gold. A jurisdiction challenge is due to be heard in 2023.
- In 2020, my colleague Paul Dowling and I successfully represented the Claimant in the ground-breaking case of *Rihan v Ernst & Young* [2020] EWHC 901 (QB), where damages in excess of \$11,000,000 were awarded. The case created a new tortious duty of care for multinational corporations in the context of whistleblowing.
- In 2023 Paul Dowling and I secured a £3million settlement on behalf of a whistleblower against a multinational corporation arising out of allegation of complicity in state capture in South Africa.

[Daniel Leader](#) | [Partner](#) | [Leigh Day](#)

2001 – 2008. Barrister, 36 Bedford Row, London.

Chambers of Vasanti Selvaratnam KC and Dean Armstrong KC. I had a broad civil practice which included employment and discrimination law, personal injury, asylum and immigration, education law and general civil litigation. I also practiced in the criminal and family courts. My practice included cases in the High Court, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. I also taught human rights law, employment law and advocacy to solicitors.

I also undertook international criminal law cases, including at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Court and cases at the European Court of Human Rights.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Member of the Labour Party since 1990.

2019 onwards – **Member of the Advisory Board of the Labour Campaign for Human Rights.** I have spoken at Labour conference fringe events on modern slavery and business and human rights issues in 2021 and 2022.

2010 - **Advisor to the Labour Party and No10's policy unit** on Human Rights Act ("HRA") related policy (part-time). My role focused on working with the policy unit and civil society organisations on human rights policy, specifically on support for the Human Rights Act.

1997-2001 - **Consultant to the John Smith Institute** (part-time). Researched social and economic policy issues and edited a range of pamphlets on economic and welfare policy including in the *Equality and Modern Economy Series*. I helped organise and participated in a series of seminars at No.11 Downing Street on a wide range of policy issues.

1994-97 - **Economist and policy researcher, office of Gordon Brown MP (then Shadow Chancellor) (full time).** I worked closely with Ed Balls and Ed Miliband to develop Labour's economic policy framework in the run up to the 1997 election. Responsibilities included speech writing and the drafting of policy documents, particularly on welfare reform and Labour's New Deal for the Unemployed, which was financed by a Windfall Tax on utilities. I further worked on the minimum wage, (I drafted a pamphlet entitled "The Case

for the Minimum Wage” published in Gordon Brown’s name) and the creation of Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs).

1991- Policy researcher in Paris for the French Socialist Government at the offices of Georgina Dufoix (former Minister of Health) and Louis Mermaz (Minister and Head of the Socialist Group in Parliament). I focused on French environmental protection and drug prevention policies and gained an understanding of French politics and policy making within Government. I retain strong links with French politicians on the centre left.

PUBLIC POLICY WORK

2019 onwards - **Member of the Steering Committee of the comparative law project on civil liability for human rights violations at the Bonavero Institute, Oxford University** and a member of the **Advisory Board of the British Institute for International and Comparative Law’s Human Rights Due Diligence Forum.**

2018 onwards - **Board Member of the Corporate Justice Coalition**, a collective of 65 NGOs, academic institutions and trade unions. I have been involved in the development of a draft UK Human Rights Due Diligence law which seeks to curb human rights and environmental abuses linked to UK business.

2014-17 - **External expert member of the UK Government Steering Board** which oversees the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

2005-06 Member of a **Parliamentary review** on the UK’s implementation of the OECD Guidelines, chaired by Lord Jonathan Mance, a Supreme Court Justice. The review brought together representatives from leading UK corporations, business organisations, civil society and legal experts and led to substantive reforms of the UK’s policy framework.

Other international/human rights work has included:

June 2011. **Member of the International Bar Association’s expert fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe** to assess the state of the rule of law.

December 2006. **Trial observer and report author for the International Bar Association in Burundi** reporting on the trial of two journalists on charges of criminal defamation.

2004. **Consultant to Global Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo**, tasked with preparing a joint Congolese NGO report to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for crimes committed in the country. The report contributed to the subsequent indictment of two Congolese warlords (Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui) at the ICC.

1999-2000. **Lawyer, CLEAR (Kenya) and International Law Group (DR Congo).** Lived in Kenya and DRC and worked with African lawyers on access to justice, strategic human rights and constitutional litigation, including challenging the mandatory death sentence in Kenya. I was awarded the Bar Pro Bono Award for my work in Africa in 2000.

LECTURING

I write and speak widely about business and human rights issues at conferences and universities in Britain and internationally, including at Oxford, UCL, LSE, Kings College London, Essex University, Harvard, Stanford and the annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights.

AWARDS

The Times lawyer of the week (May 2011)

Mary Ward Pro Bono Award (2007) for pro bono work at the law centre.

Bar Council's Sydney Elland Goldsmith (2000) for access to justice work in Africa.

Inns of Court School of Law - The William Shaw Award (Gray's Inn). (1998-99)

Diploma in Law at City University, London - Karmel Scholarship (Gray's Inn), the City University Prize. (1997-98)

Scholar, Brasenose College, Oxford. (1992-94)

Annex 1: RECENT CASES

Okpabi v. Royal Dutch Shell plc [2016 - Ongoing]. A group action on behalf of two Nigerian communities following extensive oil pollution from Shell's infrastructure. In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court set out guidance on the principle of parent company liability in English law.

AAA v. London Bullion Market Association [2022 - Ongoing]. A civil claim on behalf of victims of human rights abuse around the North Mara Gold mine which the LBMA has certified as free of human rights abuse.

Athol Williams v Bain Capital LP [2022 – Ongoing]. An anti-corruption and whistle-blowing case on behalf of a former Bain Capital partner related to state capture and corruption in South Africa.

AAA v LV Insurance [2021] Instructed by members of LV Insurance to block its demutualisation and sale to Bain Capital.

Rihan v EY Global Ltd [2020]. An anti-corruption and whistle-blowing case on behalf of a former EY partner who refused to sanction a cover up of audit findings of money laundering and conflict minerals in the Dubai Gold trade, which resulted in a ground-breaking judgment from the High Court.

Lungowe v Vedanta plc [2019]. A group action on behalf of 1,826 Zambian farmers arising out of damage to the environment caused by harmful discharges from the Konkola copper mine. The Supreme Court set out the jurisdictional principles in cross-border claims against parent companies.

AAA v. Petra Diamonds Ltd [2021]. A civil claim on behalf of 96 victims of human rights abuses on and around a diamond mine in Tanzania.

AAA v Camellia plc [2020]. A civil claim on behalf of 85 victims of human rights abuses on and around an agricultural plantation in Kenya.

AAA v Gemfields Ltd [2019] A civil claim by 300 Mozambicans arising out of human rights abuses on and around a ruby mine in Northern Mozambique.

AAA v Unilever [2018]. A civil claim on behalf of 218 Kenyan tea workers who contended that Unilever failed to protect them from the foreseeable risk of ethnic violence in 2007.

The Bodo Community v. Shell [2015]. A group action on behalf of a community of 30,000 Nigerians for compensation and remediation of their land arising out of extensive oil spills in the Niger Delta. The claim led to a settlement of £55 million and the largest restoration of oil damaged mangrove habitats in history.

The “Mau Mau litigation” (Mutua v FCO [2013]) which resulted in reparations for 5,000 victims of colonial era torture at the hands of the British colonial authorities and a public apology by the Foreign Secretary, William Hague.

The Baha Mousa Inquiry [2010] into unlawful torture techniques employed by the British Army in Iraq.

PUBLICATIONS (In Annex):

March 2022. The developing legal landscape on parent company liability - corporate impunity drawing to a close? UCL Centre for Law and Environment 29.3.22

November 2021. Why the EU's block on the UK's accession to the Lugano Convention harms human rights Law Societies EU 24.11.21

June 2021. Okpabi v Shell and Four Nigerian Farmers v Shell: Parent Company Liability Back in Court. Business Human Rights Journal 30.6.21

November 2015. The Mau Mau Litigation – Justice at Last Oxford Human Rights Hub 3.11.15

June 2011. Contributor to International Bar Association's report "*Zimbabwe: Time for a new approach*".

2008. Author of International Bar Association's report "*The Media on Trial*" on the arrest and charge of two journalists in Burundi on charges of criminal defamation.

2007. "*Business and Human Rights – Time to Hold Companies to Account*". International Criminal Law Review, 8 (2008), 447.

2009. Co-author of Leigh, Day & Co's public submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Commission on Human Rights Inquiry on business and human rights.

2005. Co-author of a public submission by *Rights and Accountability in Democracy* to the British Government on the reform of the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises (recommendations which were largely later adopted).

INTERESTS: Hiking, tennis & squash, faith, pro-bono and voluntary work.

REFERENCES: Upon request