

# Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

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## Charles Enderby Smith joins the Carter-Ruck partnership

Leading litigation law firm Carter-Ruck is pleased to announce that Charles Enderby Smith joined the firm's partnership on 1 May 2023.

Charlie joined the firm in 2015 having previously worked in the London and Hong Kong offices of international law firm Linklaters.

Charlie's international law practice spans issues of Public International Law, European Law and Human Rights Law. He maintains a leading and pioneering sanctions practice, spanning national and international administrative and judicial challenges before various tribunals including the authorities and courts of the EU, the UK, the US and the UN. His sanctions cases often test new rules and legislation, establishing important principles of law, and they also frequently allow him to call upon his experience in media law to further protect his clients' interests.

In the last 12 months Charlie and the International team have achieved consistently first-class results for clients, reinforcing the firm's position as a "go to" for targeted sanctions and restrictive measures work, and for international work more generally.

Working alongside Carter-Ruck's Head of International Law Guy Martin, as well as Brick Court, Charlie was before five judges of the General Court of the European Union in September 2022 in an application for annulment of sanctions imposed upon prominent businessman, Mr Nizar Assaad, by the EU. A significant judgment was handed down on 8 March 2023 upholding Mr Assaad's annulment application, representing an emphatic win for Carter-Ruck's client. Unusually, the judgment goes further than a straightforward annulment of the applicable EU sanctions, casting significant doubt on each and every one of the factual grounds relied on by the Council and providing a fulsome vindication of the client's position. The General Court also found that important principles of EU public law had been breached by the restrictive measures under challenge.

Charlie was also part of the Carter-Ruck team which, working with Blackstone Chambers, secured an unambiguous victory for Carter-Ruck's client His Majesty Juan Carlos I, the former King of Spain, on 6 December 2022. The court of appeal upheld the King's application to strike out certain aspects of a claim brought against him in England and Wales on the grounds of State/sovereign immunity.

Charlie had further success earlier in 2022 representing the late former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and his family in relation to sanctions which had been imposed on them by the EU Council in the wake of the Arab Spring.

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A judgment of the EU General Court dated 6 April 2022 annulled these sanctions and brought an end to a 10-year legal battle which was widely publicised and followed in the media. This result followed previous successes both in the EU Court of Justice relating to sanctions which had been imposed at earlier dates, and in relation to administrative decisions of the EU Council and UK government.

This (amongst other) work has led to Charlie being ranked as a Band 1 Sanctions Law expert by [Chambers & Partners](#) and also highlighted as a recommended lawyer in the [Legal 500](#), where he is referred to as a “future superstar” and a “rising name in the field of public international law”.

Carter-Ruck’s senior partner [Cameron Doley](#) commented “We are delighted to welcome Charlie to the Partnership and look forward greatly to the energy and leadership he will undoubtedly provide to the firm”.

Head of International Law, [Guy Martin](#) says “Charlie is an enormous talent. He is unwavering in his commitment to supporting clients through the challenges they face. Charlie has contributed a huge amount to the firm and its International practice and I am absolutely delighted he has accepted partnership”.