

ELEANOR SHARPSTON (b.1955) read economics and modern languages at King's College Cambridge, taking 1st class honours (1976), before switching to law. After doing interdisciplinary graduate work in law and economics at Corpus Christi College Oxford, which she combined in part with her professional training, she was called to the Bar in 1980 and, with generous scholarship support from her Inn of Court (Middle Temple), started in private practice. She spent the next 7 years mainly in Brussels as a junior working with Jeremy Lever QC on EC competition and anti-dumping cases. That was followed by a three year stint at the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC) as a *référéndaire* (judicial assistant) working with Advocate General, later Judge, Sir Gordon Slynn.

In 1990 she returned to the UK and began to combine an academic career as a university lecturer (first at University College London and then back at King's College Cambridge) with rebuilding her practice at the English Bar at Hailsham Chambers (4 Paper Buildings). As an academic, her research interests within EC law were the fundamental principles, citizenship of the Union and issues arising from enlargement; but she also worked on comparative law and the European Convention of Human Rights. As a practitioner, she appeared on behalf of the United Kingdom in over 50 cases before the CJEC; but she also did private client work, including a number of pro bono human rights cases.

She "took silk" (became Queen's Counsel) in 1999; and shortly thereafter served for three years (with Michael Pooles QC) as joint head of Hailsham Chambers. She was made a Bencher of Middle Temple in 2005. On 10 January 2006 she was appointed to serve as one of the eight Advocates General at the ECJ.