

# Ravi Naik

+44 (0)79 6614 3682 | [ravi@awo.legal](mailto:ravi@awo.legal) | @ravinaik |  
<https://www.awo.agency/about/ravi-naik/>

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCES

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### AWO

2 John Street, London

JANUARY 2020 – PRESENT

Co-founder and Legal Director of AWO, the leading data rights agency. Alongside the regulated solicitor's firm, AWO provides consultancy services and public policy advice. In a short period of time, we have received instructions on agenda setting cases and policy shaping matters. High-profile examples of recent instructions include:

- Instructed by the Claimant in the case of *RTM v Bonne Terre et al*, which set the standard on consent under the data protection regime. The case also had significant and widespread consequences for the online gambling industry, as well as the online advertising system at large.
- Challenge for Tanya O'Carroll against Facebook's surveillance advertising business model. Using the "right to object" to opt-out from profiling by the company. The case could have significant implications for the business model of behavioural advertising. The case featured on BBC's *Today* programme, and many print publications.
- Wider instructions on challenges to the use of data within the gambling industry, including instructions to unpick the complex web of actors involved in profiling and monitoring of individuals with a view to challenging the legality of those practices. AWO has also been instructed by several reformed gamblers – and support organisations – to help individuals to start to understand how they were analysed and profiled. The cases and the issues have been subject to international and national press, with the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, the *BBC* and others running stories on the cases. That work has led to reform of the industry's approach to data use.
- Instructed by the Serpentine Arts Technologies and its Future Art Ecosystems project to provide advice on a novel and complex project to train a generative AI model on creative content.
- Instructed by the European Digital Media Observatory to draft a Code of Conduct for researcher access to platform data. Acting as legal counsel to the chair of the Working Group and lead drafters of the Code. The Working Group included academics, civil society organisations and platforms (including Google and Facebook). The draft Code was published in May 2022 and has already changed the way in which academics can access platform data.
- Instructed as the legal advisor to a team conducting a human rights analysis by *Waterfront Toronto* for the proposed "smart city" development by Google in Toronto. This was the first such human rights assessment of a smart city that we are aware of.
- Instructions from members of the Irish Council on Civil Liberties on challenges to Google's data collection practices, testing the reach of the "purpose limitation" principle.
- Instructed by 21 civil liberties organisations in an important and high-profile challenge to the "behavioural advertising" industry. That complaint concerns the practices of Google and the IAB. The case has led to the Belgian supervisory authority to take enforcement action against the IAB. Certain legal questions arising from that enforcement action resulted in a CJEU decision.
- Advising the *Select Committee on Democracy and Digital Technologies* to advise on their report *Digital Technology and the Resurrection of Trust*. Follows instructions from the Oxford University Technology and Elections Commission to produce a report on the regulations concerning democracy in the digital age, following a similar piece of work for the Constitution Society.
- Instructions from unions including UNISON, the TUC, Equity and FIFPRO.
- Instructions from regulators such as the Information Commissioner's Office.

Despite a short period of time in practice, AWO have cemented their position as the leading firm for challenging technological developments in an increasingly digital world. This has been reflected in numerous press and media appearances and comment in national and international media.

This legal work at AWO is conducted in addition to a number of positions and appointments. Examples of those appointments and positions is set out further below.

**IRVINE THANVI NATAS SOLICITORS**  
19 - 21 Great Tower Street, London

JANUARY 2010 - JANUARY 2020

Partner and head of both the Public Law and Data Rights Department of the firm. Responsible for supervision, management and case work in both departments. Taking both departments from inception to worldwide renown. The data rights department has achieved particular recognition, winning numerous awards for its ground-breaking practice at the forefront of civil liberties, data rights and technology. This includes the *Law Society Human Rights Lawyer of the Year* award in 2018, a *Netflix* documentary and an in-depth profile for the *Law Society Gazette*. Select cases and matters to emerge from the data protection part of this practice are detailed below.

- Acting for Professor David Carroll and others in the lead cases against Cambridge Analytica and related entities. This included a globally reported civil claim for individuals subjected to political profiling, using unique and unprecedented arguments of the jurisdictional reach of the data protection regime. Submissions were also made to the Information Commissioner's Office leading to the ground-breaking step of the Commissioner seeking the prosecution of the company. This work on jurisdiction and enforcement action against the Cambridge Analytica has been reported on and publicised internationally, in particular by The Guardian's Carol Cadwalladr, Winner of Reporter Without Borders' 2018 L'Esprit de RSF Award. Netflix released a documentary on the subject, *The Great Hack*, in 2019.
- Representing individual clients in "right to be forgotten" cases against global tech companies, including Google, WordPress, Facebook and Microsoft.
- Representing clients in litigation against Thompson Reuter's financial risk profiling database, *World Check*.
- Acting on cases concerning the retrieval of information, including Uber and Tinder, on the unlawful disclosure of private information and the request the deletion of information held on the Police National Computer.
- Providing advice and acting for publishers, NGOs and charities on publication risks, GDPR policies and litigation including Amnesty International, Open Rights Group and members of Extinction Rebellion.
- Acting for journalists for claims of data misuse by public and private authorities.
- Advising several multi-national companies on data rights and policy advice, including on the GDPR and Data Protection Act strategy and compliance.
- Pioneering research on data and democracy in the digital age, for the *Oxford Internet Institute* and the *Constitution Society*.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS**  
GENEVA

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

Researcher for Senior Advisor Gerald Staberock on several projects, including advising the United Nations Security Council on principles of international law while countering terrorism and assisting with drafting amicus submissions before numerous national courts including the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

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- University of the West of England - *Honorary doctorate* (2022)
- University College London - *Honorary Professor of Practice* (2023)
- Law Society, *Human Rights Lawyer of the Year* (2019)
- Trinity College Law Society, *Praeses Elit Award* (2019)
- Society of Asian Lawyers, *Junior Lawyer of the Year* (2018)
- Oxford University's Internet Institute - *Visiting Fellow* (2021 - present)
- Law Society - *Human Rights Committee Member* (2021 - present)
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law - *Commissioner on the Independent Commission on UK Counter-Terrorism* (2021 - 2022)
- European Centre for Press and Media Freedom - *Member of Legal Affairs Committee* (2020 - 2023)
- Ada Lovelace Institute - *Reshaping Data Working Group Member*
- Aspen Institute - *Council on Fair Data Future*

- Law Society, *Junior Lawyer of the Year* (shortlisted, 2017)
- Legal Aid Lawyer of Year, *Junior Lawyer* (shortlisted, 2017)
- Chambers & Partners – Listed in three separate categories: Data Protection, Administrative & Public Law and Civil Liberties. AWO is listed as a recognised data protection firm.
- Legal500 – *Next Generation Partner*

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

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Select publications include:

- [\*The Gentle Civiliser of Technology\*](#)- Harvard University Journal of Law and Technology (Feb 2020)
- [\*Political campaigning: The law, the gaps and the way forward\*](#) (2019) *Oxford Internet Institute* (as part of the Oxford University Commission on technology and Elections)
- [\*Data and Democracy in the Digital Age\*](#) (2018) *The Constitution Society* (co-authored with Julianne Kerr Morrison of Monckton Chambers and Stephanie Hankey of Tactical Tech)
- [\*You Really Don't Want to Sell Your Data\*](#) (7 April 2020) in *Slate*
- [\*We're taking on Cambridge Analytica in a legal fight for data rights\*](#) (23 March 2018) in *the Guardian*
- [\*Let's take back control of our data – it's too precious to leave to the tech giants\*](#) (3 Oct 2017) in *the Guardian*

This pioneering work on data rights was also profiled by the [\*Law Society Gazette\*](#) and subject to two documentaries, *Coded Bias* and *The Great Hack*, on *Netflix*. Often appears on broadcast media, including interview on the [\*BBC on data rights\*](#).

Select talks and lectures include:

- Journal of Law and Technology, Harvard University (2019) – Guest lecture
- Duke University, Data Governance Design Conference (2019) – Keynote speech
- Bonavero Institute of Human rights, University of Oxford (2019) – Data rights in practice, guest lecture
- University of Bristol, Law School (2019) – Distinguished Alumni lecture

## EDUCATION

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### BPP

2010 – 2012 (PART TIME, Evenings)

Commendation

### LEGAL PRACTICE COURSE

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

2007 – 2008

Distinction in International law and Human Rights Law

### LLM – INTERNATIONAL LAW

### UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST LLB (HON.) OF ENGLAND

2002 – 2006

### UPPER-SECOND CLASS HONOURS (2:1)