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Jenni Richards KC

Year of call: 1991 | Silk: 2011

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"She is absolutely outstanding in all aspects of her career. Her ability to get on top of huge amounts of complex material in pressured circumstances is quite incredible. Her legal analysis and judgement are second to none, and her advocacy is outstanding." The Legal 500, 2022

Jenni has an extensive public law, human rights and regulatory practice acting for claimants, defendants and interested parties in all areas affected by public law and public decision-making. Her expertise is wide-ranging and includes healthcare, local government, civil liberties, equalities, professional and financial regulation, community care and mental health, education, welfare benefits and prison law. She appears before courts of all levels, in particular the Administrative Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. She often advises public bodies (including local authorities, NHS bodies and regulators) on a broad range of issues relating to their powers, responsibilities and duties. Jenni is Counsel to the Infected Blood Inquiry, in which role she has been responsible for questioning government ministers, senior civil servants, clinicians and academics about aspects of political, governmental, clinical and ethical decision-making from the 1970s to the present day. Jenni is also an experienced mediator, with a particular focus on the mediation of judicial review claims and Court of Protection disputes.



Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Civil Liberties and Human Rights

Inquests and Inquiries

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Local Government
Healthcare
Inquests
Court of Protection and Medical Treatment
Alternative Dispute Resolution

Local Government

"The go-to silk for anything that requires thinking outside the box and imaginative legal argument"(The Legal 500, 2022)

Jenni's local government practice is wide-ranging. She frequently advises local authorities on a wide range of issues relating to their powers and duties, and regularly acts for and against local authorities. She has, for example, carried out an independent standards investigation into allegations of misconduct on the part of the leader of a county council, advised about commissioning responsibilities in relation to assistance with medication and about obligations under the Care Act, advised about applications under the new burdens doctrine, and represented a local authority in relation to qualifying criteria for exempt accommodation.

Cases of note:

- ***R (British Medical Association) v Northamptonshire County Council* [2020] EWHC 1664 (Admin)** - Judicial review regarding the compliance of a Local Safeguarding Arrangements Plan with the requirements of the Children Act 2004
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (AA) v Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council* [2019] EWHC 3529 (Admin)** - Challenge to the decision of a local authority to close a day centre for adults with learning difficulties
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (RD) v Worcestershire County Council* [2019] EWHC 449 (Admin)** - Judicial review regarding withdrawal of portage services in breach of parents' legitimate expectation
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (KE) v Bristol City Council* [2018] EWHC 2103 (Admin)** - Challenge to a local authority's budget allocation for special educational needs
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Wolverhampton City Council) v South Worcestershire CCG* [2018] EWHC 1136 (Admin)** - Dispute between a local authority and two clinical commissioning groups as to responsibility for an adult with continuing health care needs
Judgment- no link
- ***R (National Aids Trust) v NHS England (Local Government Association intervening)* [2016] EWCA Civ 1100** - Case concerning the public health responsibilities of local authorities and, in particular, whether local authorities or NHS England bears responsibility for commissioning pre-exposure prophylaxis designed to prevent the transmission of HIV.
[Judgment](#)

Recommendations

- *"An extremely compelling advocate and a first rate silk"*(Chambers and Partners, 2022)
- *"Her drafting and attention to detail are excellent. On her feet she is able to work quickly and has near encyclopedic knowledge"*(Chambers and Partners, 2022)
- *"She can be incredibly compassionate but also ruthless in getting witnesses to discuss facts they don't want to"*(Chambers and Partners, 2022)

- *"Always very pleasant to work with, makes herself available at short notice and is very good with clients. Extremely clever but makes things accessible to lay people. She's also a brilliant advocate."* (Chambers and Partners, 2022)
- *"Extremely steeped in regulatory work and very good"*(Chambers and Partners, 2022)
- *"Jenni's ability to devour huge amounts of information is phenomenal. She gives every case everything she has. She always has the ear of the court and brings a real clarity to the issues in her submissions. Her written work is also cogent and to the point and presented in a way that clients understand and are able to properly consider and digest."*(The Legal 500, 2022)

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association
- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

Qualifications

- 1989 BA Hons Law (First Class) – Clare College, Cambridge
- 1991 LLM – University of Toronto

Languages

- Working knowledge of French

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