



Alexis Hearnden

Year of call: 2005

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"Absolutely phenomenal." Chambers and Partners

Alexis Hearnden is an experienced advocate with a successful regulatory and public law practice. She acts for regulators and those they regulate across a range of professions, including solicitors, doctors, dentists, fertility clinics, architects, vets, and osteopaths before tribunals, in judicial review proceedings and in statutory appeals. In the world of sport, she advises sport national governing bodies, particularly in safeguarding matters.

Alexis regularly represents family members, local authorities, health authorities and the Official Solicitor in the Court of Protection, which complements her broader public law work in the areas of mental health, community care and healthcare.

She is recommended as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners in the areas of Professional Discipline and in the Court of Protection, and by The Legal 500 for Professional Discipline. Alexis was nominated for Professional Discipline Junior of the Year at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2020.

Areas of expertise

Disciplinary

Regulatory

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Community care and mental health

Sport

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Alexis regularly represents local authorities, the Official Solicitor and families in health and welfare and property and affairs cases. She is experienced working with vulnerable clients and witnesses, as attested to by Chambers and Partners "her forte is dealing with lay clients. She is very skilled in this area of work". Her welfare cases include forced marriage, capacity to consent to sex, residence, care, deprivations of liberty (including damages claims), medical treatment (including sterilisation). On the property and affairs side, she acts in cases concerning the conduct of deputies and challenges to enduring and lasting powers of attorney.

Cases of note:

- **Local Authority v MF [2022] EWCOP 54** – Sir Jonathan Cohen concluded that it was in the best interests of MF, who had been diagnosed with a moderate learning disability and schizoaffective disorder, to move from his home (against his family's wishes). Alexis acted for MF.
[Judgment](#)
- **PH v Brighton and Hove City Council [2021] EWCOP 63** - The BBC and Sky applied to lift reporting restrictions to be able to report on the case of Tony Hickmott, who has remained in a secure unit years past the point where doctors advise that he is fit for discharge. Alexis acts for Mr Hickmott (by his litigation friend, the Official Solicitor) in the long running welfare proceedings.
[Judgment](#)
[BBC News](#)
[Sky News](#)
- **Livewell Southwest CIC v MD [2020] EWCOP 57** - An application for orders permitting sedation, transfer by ambulance to hospital, general anaesthesia and the complete extraction of all teeth.
[Judgment](#)
- **Croydon LBC v KR, ST [2019] EWHC 2498** - Mrs Justice Lieven held that an application brought by the local authority under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court – to ensure that husband and wife lived separately – was a “colossal interference” with their Article 8 rights and was neither necessary nor proportionate. Alexis acted for the wife of the patient.
[Judgment](#)
- **London Borough of Hackney v SJF, JF [2019] EWCOP 8** - A capacity and best interests dispute concerning the residence and care for P, a woman with complex health problems. Alexis acted for her son who himself had learning difficulties and anger management problems requiring careful, sensitive support and representation.
[Judgment](#)
- **Luton Borough Council v (1) SB, (2) RS [2015] EWHC 3534 (Fam), [2017] 4 WLR 61** - Alexis acted for the local authority in a forced marriage case where a young man with autism underwent a marriage ceremony in Pakistan and the court declared that – by virtue of his incapacity – the marriage was not recognised in England and Wales.
[Judgment](#)
- **SCC v MCA [2017] EWCOP 18** - Alexis acted for a local authority in a case concerning Rule 3A representatives.
[Judgment](#)
- **Miles v Public Guardian [2015] EWHC 2960 (Ch)** - Alexis acted for the Public Guardian in an appeal concerning the interpretation and effect of a lasting power of attorney.
[Judgment](#)

Recommendations

She's fantastic. Really smart and well regarded. "A very capable and accomplished junior." "Very good on her feet and knows the law well." Chambers and Partners

"A very calm and measured barrister who manages difficult clients really well." Chambers and Partners

"Alexis has an incisive eye, cutting through excess detail to get to the central issues of a case quickly and always provides very clear and sensible advice." The Legal 500

"Absolutely phenomenal." "She is very good, experienced, committed to this kind of work and she does it well." "A good junior with an excellent eye for detail." Chambers and Partners

"A very sensible and realistic advocate." "She is meticulous in her preparation and she brings a good, pragmatic approach to court. She's very well regarded by peers and solicitors as well as judges." Chambers

and Partners

*"Alexis is easy to work with and builds a good relationship with our clients. She is also effective in dealing with expert evidence."*The Legal 500

*"Alexis is thorough and detailed in her advice. Her drafting is excellent, and she has a reassuring and measured approach to difficult and complex issues."*The Legal 500

*"Excellent with clients and extremely quick."*Chambers and Partners

*"She is fast becoming a go-to barrister for cases where creative thinking is required. She works incredibly hard, and nothing is too much for her."*Chambers and Partners

*"She comes across exceptionally well and all of her submissions are incredibly thorough. One of those people who has a fantastic bank of knowledge to call on and is a genuinely nice person to work with."*Chambers and Partners

Memberships

- Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Court of Protection Bar Association (CPBA)
- Justice
- South Eastern Circuit

Qualifications

Education

2004-2005: Inns of Court School of Law. BVC – Very Competent.

2003-2004: City University. CPE – Commendation.

2000-2003: Mansfield College, Oxford. BA (Hons) (Politics, Philosophy, Economics) 2:1.

1993-2000: Newstead Wood School for Girls.

Scholarships and prizes

2003-2004: Ashworth Scholarship Award, Inner Temple.

2000-2003: Mansfield College, College Exhibition Award for academic excellence.

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