



Rachel Sullivan

Year of call: 2015

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Rachel has a broad public law practice, with a particular interest in education and healthcare law. She also has a busy inquiries practice, and is currently instructed as junior counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. She also practises planning and environmental law. She regularly appears in the High Court, Court of Protection and County Courts as well as the appellate courts, on behalf of individuals, central and local government, NHS bodies and companies.

Rachel is on the Attorney General's C Panel of counsel.

Prior to joining chambers, Rachel worked at the Free Representation Unit and continues to undertake pro bono work on a regular basis, through Advocate and others.

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Inquiries and Investigations

Planning and Property

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Rachel acts across the full range of Court of Protection issues, including health and welfare and property and financial affairs as well as serious medical treatment issues. She is experienced in urgent/out of hours applications, as well as more unusual applications including applications for committal following breach of an injunction. She contributes to the 39 Essex mental capacity newsletter and is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor, families, health bodies and local authorities.

Cases of note

- ***RKS v London Borough of Hillingdon*** - Application by P's brother, who also lacked litigation capacity, to set aside a previous order permitting sale of P's property by the local authority, on the basis that the property was held by P in trust.
- ***Re T*** - Application that surgery to remove cataracts was in the best interests of P, who had been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA) and could not be safely discharged home due to cataracts causing bilateral blindness (Mr Justice Knowles).

- **Re TH** - Application for decision that surgery was in the best interests of P, who had sustained a compound fracture to his femur in opaque circumstances whilst non-compliant with anti-psychotic medication (Mr Justice Hayden).
- **Abbasi v Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2021] EWHC 1699 (Fam)** - With Vikram Sachdeva QC and Jack Anderson) Represented the Press Association in a case concerning the High Court's jurisdiction to maintain (or impose) reporting restriction orders protecting the anonymity of clinicians and other staff providing care to a child following the child's death. ([Judgment](#))
- **Application for withdrawal of life sustaining treatment** - Represented the father (pro bono) in a case concerning the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a child.
- **Re MR: committal application** - Represented the local authority on an application for committal of a person involved with P who had repeatedly failed to abide by injunctions restraining contact imposed by the High Court.

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Court of Protection Bar Association
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
- Environmental Law Foundation

Qualifications

Education

- 2014-15 City University London BPTC (Outstanding)
- 2013-14 Oxford Brookes University Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)
- 2012-13 University of Oxford English 650-1550 MSt (Distinction)
- 2009-12 University of Oxford English Language and Literature (BA) Hons (First class)

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2014 Stephen Chapman scholarship, Inner Temple
- 2014 OUP Prize (jointly), Oxford Brookes University
- 2014 Academic Prize (jointly), Oxford Brookes University
- 2013 Scholarship, Oxford Brookes University
- 2012 Jeremy Griffiths Memorial Studentship, Oxford University
- 2012 Fung Scholarship, Oxford University
- 2010 Gibbs Prize, Oxford University
- 2010 Academic scholar, New College Oxford

Additional information

Rachel regularly undertakes pro bono work through Advocate. Until 2019, she was the chair of the Free Representation Unit, a charity which provides free legal representation in employment and welfare benefit cases, and where she worked as a legal officer prior to pupillage. She also has experience volunteering as an Appropriate Adult (2014-16) and on suicide helplines.

She is currently sits on the Ethics Committee of the British Psychoanalytic Society.

Rachel is a member of chambers' management board and one of the equality and diversity officers for chambers.

Appointments

- 2020-2025 – Attorney General's C Panel
- 2020-2024 – Management Board
- 2020 – EDI Officer

Languages

- Spanish (conversational)
- French (basic)

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