



Anna Bicarregui

Year of call: 2004

Email: anna.bicarregui@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"Very committed and personable, she has a very good manner with clients and is excellent in court." Chambers and Partners

"Anna is a top-quality advocate who always remains calm and in command of both the witness and the case. She has excellent judgement in inquiries, understanding how really to make a difference for her clients." The Legal 500 2023

Anna is a public lawyer who specialises in education law. Anna advises on all aspects of education law from admissions to exclusions, special educational needs, educational negligence, discrimination, academy conversion, higher education disciplinary matters. She regularly appears in the First-tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal and High Court on education matters.

Between 2016 and 2022, Anna was one of the junior counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, working on the residential schools investigation, the Anglican investigation and as part of a team drafting the final report.

Anna has extensive experience of Court of Protection (COP) work, providing training on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and other aspects of the COP to local authorities and organisations. She regularly appears in both the Court of Protection and the High Court in deprivation of liberty cases.

Anna regularly advises on employment matters and appears in the employment tribunal and employment appeal tribunal. She is often instructed on employment matters which are related to educational institutions.

Areas of expertise

Education

Court of Protection

Inquiries and Investigations

Employment

Inquiries and Investigations

As junior counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) between 2016 and 2022, Anna has experience of all aspects of working on a public inquiry. Working on two of the investigation strands (residential schools and Anglicans (Peter Ball case study)), Anna was involved in scoping the investigations, advising on evidence, disclosure and other legal points, drafting requests for further evidence, advising on applications for core participant designation, analysing and reviewing documents, preparing hearings, questioning witnesses at the public hearings, analysing evidence, the warning letter process and drafting reports.

Anna is also part of the team drafting the IICSA final report.

Anna has also conducted investigations for schools and local authorities into safeguarding matters.

Cases of note:

- **The Anglican Church Case Studies: 1. The Diocese of Chichester 2.** - The response to allegations against Peter Ball Investigation Report May 2019 - This phase of the Anglican Church investigation examined two case studies. The first was the Diocese of Chichester, where there had been multiple allegations of sexual abuse against children. The second concerned Peter Ball, who was a bishop in Chichester before becoming Bishop of Gloucester. In 1993, he was cautioned for gross indecency, and was convicted of further offences in 2015, including misconduct in public office and indecent assault.
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- **Residential schools investigation, March 2022** - This investigation had several dimensions. A first phase focused on residential specialist music schools and residential special schools, where, for different reasons, pupils faced heightened risks of sexual abuse and there had been numerous allegations and convictions. It then examined a variety of other types of schools in which staff had been convicted of the sexual abuse of pupils, or in which serious safeguarding concerns had arisen. Separate to the investigative work undertaken in preparation for the phase one and phase two public hearings, the chair and panel asked counsel to the inquiry to prepare a written account regarding allegations of child sexual abuse at schools which no longer exist or are under new management. The account was prepared by counsel using the information gathered from a number of sources in relation to eight schools.
Judgment

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

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clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com