



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

Inquests

Jenni has considerable expertise in coronial law and extensive experience in difficult and sensitive inquests and inquiries, in particular those in which there is a public component such as the responsibility of the state in relation to the cause of death. She has advised and represented coroners in relation to the conduct of inquests, judicial review claims and applications under section 13 of the Coroners Act.

She has represented local authorities, NHS bodies, central government and families at inquests ranging in subject matter from asbestos exposure to deaths in custody. She has been involved in leading cases concerning the investigative and substantive obligations under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Jenni represented the Yorkshire Ambulance Service at the Hillsborough Inquests.

Cases of note:

- ***R (TR) v HM Senior Coroner for West Yorkshire* [2017] EWCA Civ 318** - Case concerning the extent of a coroner's powers to conduct an investigation and inquest into the question of whether a child was still-born or survived her birth and died later
[Judgment](#)- no link
- ***R (Ferreira) v HM Senior Coroner for Inner South London* [2017] EWCA Civ 31** - Whether a jury inquest was required in relation to the death of an adult in hospital who may have been deprived of her liberty.
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Lewis) v HM Coroner for Shropshire* [2009] EWCA Civ 1403** - Power of coroner to allow jury to consider possible as well as probable causative factors
[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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