



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

Administrative and Public

Rachel acts on behalf of both claimants and defendants across a range of public law cases, including consultation challenges, Equality Act/Human Rights Act claims, and EU law issues. Rachel undertook a secondment to the Department for Exiting the European Union in 2019/2020.

She has particular interests in education law (including special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and Equality Act issues) and is currently instructed by the Department for Education in the Covid-19 Inquiry, and in healthcare, regularly acting in community care and mental health challenges as well as serious medical treatment cases, and advising on contractual issues arising in healthcare settings.

Rachel was appointed to the Attorney General's C Panel in September 2020 and is regularly instructed by a range of departments.

Cases of note

- *Zulfiqar v Secretary of State for the Home Dept* [2022] EWCA Civ - (With Rory Dunlop QC)
Represented the Home Office in a case concerning interpretation of the foreign national offender

provisions in the UK Borders Act 2007 (UKBA) and the proper approach to the Article 8 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) proportionality exercise. ([Judgment](#))

- ***WC & BB v Somerset County Council [2021] EWHC 2936 (Admin)*** - (With Steve Broach and Gethin Thomas) Challenge to the reorganisation of schooling in Somerset on consultation/public sector equality duty (PSED)/discrimination grounds. ([Judgment](#))
- ***Windrush Lessons Learned Review*** - (With Katherine Apps) Instructed to assist the independent assessor, Wendy Williams, with her revisit of the Home Office's progress in meeting the recommendations of her report into the Windrush scandal. ([link](#))
- ***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 and the Article 8/10 ECHR balancing act. ([Judgment](#))
- **Proposed challenge to remote education provision** - Instructed by the Department for Education in relation to a proposed challenge to provision of remote education.
- **Proposed consultation challenge** - (With James Eadie QC) Instructed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in relation to a proposed challenge to a consultation on changes to the private parking regime.

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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