



## Fenella Morris KC

Year of call: 1990 | Silk: 2012

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

*"She is an absolutely superb practitioner, who is fearless, knowledgeable and a brilliant advocate. She is extremely articulate and judges like her."*

### Chambers and Partners

Fenella Morris KC is a versatile advocate with a wide-ranging practice that encompasses public law, professional discipline and regulation, healthcare and education, pensions and financial services, local government, and procurement and state aid. She is consistently ranked highly in the legal directories.

Her clients include regulators (from the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care to the Pensions Regulator and Civil Aviation Authority) and those whom they regulate, from the largest private health and social care providers, to nomads on the AIM. She acts for a huge range of NHS bodies, universities, local authorities, trade unions, sporting organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

She appears in many landmark cases and has a wealth of experience as an advocate up to the Supreme Court and European Court of Human Rights. She is skilled at leading large multi-disciplinary teams in high-value, high-controversy litigation, and understands the issues that arise for high-profile institutions and individuals.

Fenella mediates and arbitrates diverse disputes and is a member of the Sport Resolutions' Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators. She carries out sensitive investigations, most recently into UKAD's Operation Blackout, was counsel to the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review and is instructed in the Covid Inquiry.

Fenella was awarded 'Professional Discipline Silk of the Year' at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2021, and was The Times' Lawyer of the Week, 16 July 2020. She is joint head of chambers' Public Law team and a Bencher of Middle Temple.



## Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public  
Regulatory and Disciplinary  
Healthcare  
Education  
Local Government  
Court of Protection  
Consultation  
Human Rights and Civil Liberties  
Procurement  
Sport  
Alternative Dispute Resolution

## Education

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*"Able to deal extremely well with complex and novel issues." The Legal 500 2022*

Fenella represents and advises higher and further education bodies, local authorities, schools, students and their families, examination and funding bodies and the Office for Students. Her recent work involves a judicial review challenge to a university's decision to exclude a student and the OIA's decision to uphold it, advising Oxbridge colleges on the interpretation and application of their statutes, advising a Russell Group university on the resolution of academic misconduct issues relating to its staff, challenges to decisions to award degrees, challenges to refusals in admissions processes and claims of negligence and breach of contract in universities. She has also acted for universities in relation to their commercial activities and joint ventures.

She often advises on overlapping issues of professional education and regulation, such as the approval of higher education institutions as providers of professional education, or disciplinary matters arising during professional studies. She has particular expertise in cases concerning the interrelationship between health, social services and education, and the safe-guarding and treatment of sick and disabled children and deprivation of liberty in educational settings.

### Cases of Note

- ***R (Barking and Dagenham College) v Office for Students* [2019] EWHC 2667 (Admin)** - Higher education institution's challenge to regulator's algorithm-based decision.
- ***R (Trinity College (CSP) Ltd) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government* [2021] EWHC 1355 (Admin)** - Cambridge college's innovation grant application refused.
- ***Saha v Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine* [2013] EWHC 2438 QB** - Claim against university by PhD student for damages in excess of £1.5m arising from alleged harassment by supervisor and his research team.

## Recommendations

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Fenella is recommended by all the major directories for Administrative and Public Law, Professional Discipline, Healthcare, Local Government, Education, Community Care and Court of Protection.

### Quotes

*"Fenella is approachable and easy to work with and gives clear, helpful advice." Chambers and Partners 2024 (Community Care)*

*"She is a high-quality practitioner."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Local Government)

*"Fenella is the best advocate on her feet in this area. She gives really strong and easy to understand advice."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Professional Discipline)

*"Fenella is highly intelligent with very clever arguments. She's also a great team player and is excellent with clients."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Professional Discipline)

*"My number-one go-to for professional disciplinary matters."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Professional Discipline)

*"Fenella is a strategic thinker and an effective advocate, who is able to resolve problems effectively."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Administrative & Public Law)

*"She is a good advocate, who is calm and collected; a go-to for public law matters focused in healthcare and mental health."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Administrative & Public Law)

*"Fenella is very accessible and extremely practical in her approach."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Court of Protection: Health & Welfare)

*"Fenella is a star and a public law all-rounder. She has excellent insight and is extremely good with clients."* Chambers and Partners 2024 (Education)

*"Fenella is a go-to KC for complex public law issues. She can think through a thorny issue and provide advice with great clarity."* Legal 500 2024 (Education)

*"Fenella has intellectual rigour, and she can think through a thorny issue and provide advice with great clarity."* Legal 500 2024 (Administrative Law and Human Rights)

*"An outstanding silk."* Legal 500 2024 (Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law)

*"She is sharp, analytical, pragmatic and commercial."* Legal 500 2024 (Public Procurement)

*"Excellent intellectual rigour."* Legal 500 2024 (Local Government)

*"Fenella is astute and pragmatic. She is a real team player who goes out of her way to support her clients and instructing solicitors. She is at the top of her game and a real ambassador for women at the Bar."* The Legal 500 2023

*"Fenella is consistently superb both in written and oral submissions and in advising on strategy and case management. She always works as part of the team and is a pleasure to work with."* The Legal 500 2023

*"Excellent legal knowledge combined with a deep understanding of the public sector decision making framework. She provides pragmatic advice which clients understand. This enables clients to deal with the real world problems and find solutions."* The Legal 500 2023

*"She is a very strong advocate and is lovely to work with."* *"She is very easy to work with, really analytical and a great advocate."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"She's extremely sharp on the analysis and provides very clear answers. There's no beating about the bush."* *"She has excellent rapport with the court."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"Very analytical and a great advocate. She's also down to earth and easy to work with."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"An experienced public law QC who provides a fantastic service to her clients."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"An effective advocate who is very popular with her instructing clients."* *"Fenella handled a ground-breaking case very well."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"Very friendly, bright in the law and intelligent. Really impressed with the way she puts things across in court; judges seem to listen to her."* *"Extremely good, very authoritative. She's very impressive."* *"Always user-friendly and provides excellent advice."* Chambers and Partners 2022

*"Fenella is great for high level, complex, high profile cutting edge work. Has a good understanding of the health sector."* The Legal 500 2022

*"Able to deal extremely well with complex and novel issues"* The Legal 500 2022

*"Fenella is fantastic in court."* The Legal 500 2022

*"Great on complex, cutting-edge high-profile cases, and an excellent advocate with good leadership skills."* The Legal 500 2022

*"She is excellent on her feet, and is able read the court and advance arguments in the most persuasive manner."* The Legal 500 2022

## Appointments

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Benchers of Middle Temple, June 2018

## Memberships

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- ALBA
- ARDL
- Trustee of the Free Representation Unit

## Qualifications

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- CEDR-accredited mediator, 2002
- Pegasus Scholarship (New Zealand), 1998
- Diploma in Law, City University, London, 1989
- BA (Hons), PPE, Wadham College, Oxford, 1987

## Publications

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Fenella is the co-author of two editions of the Law Society's guide to the Mental Capacity Act. She is a contributor to the joint Law Society and BMA Guidance on the Assessment of Mental Capacity. She wrote the chapter on Health Law in the UK Supreme Court Yearbook 2016-17.

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### 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