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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

Administrative and Public

"High quality written work, but the magic is done on her feet. An excellent orator – persuasive and clearly has the ear and respect of the court." (The Legal 500, 2022)

Jenni acts for claimants, public bodies and public interest groups across a wide range of areas, including all aspects of healthcare and community care, mental health, regulation, local and central government, education, prisons and welfare benefits. She is often involved in advising public bodies, including NHS bodies, local authorities and regulators, as to the scope and meaning of their powers and duties.

Cases of note:

- ***R (Timson) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2022] EWHC 2393 (Admin)** - Judicial review claim concerning the legality of the scheme for making involuntary deductions from welfare benefits to pay fuel and water debts
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Article 39) v Secretary of State for Education* [2020] EWCA Civ 1757** - Challenge to regulations introduced in response to the pandemic and which had the effect of removing or weakening safeguards for vulnerable children
[Judgment](#)
- ***Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v Johnson* [2022] EWCA Civ 778** - Challenge to the operation of the Universal Credit Scheme, successful on grounds of irrationality
[Judgment](#) - check
- ***R (Hutchinson) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care* [2018] EWHC 1698** - Case concerning the powers of the Secretary of State and NHS England to introduce a new model for the provision of health and social care in England
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Miller) v Health Service Commissioner for England* [2018] EWCA Civ 144** - Judicial review concerning the requirements of procedural fairness in the course of the ombudsman's investigation into complaints against doctors
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Justice for Health Ltd) v Secretary of State for Health* [2016] EWHC 2338** - Junior doctors' contract: challenge to the decision-making of the Secretary of State
[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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