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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

Healthcare

Jenni has particular expertise in relation to all aspects of healthcare, community care and mental health. She acts for individuals and their families, NHS bodies, private healthcare providers and health regulatory bodies. Her work as Counsel to the Infected Blood Inquiry has involved the detailed exploration of medical ethics in treatment and research and the medical, psychosocial and financial impacts where medical treatment causes harm.

Cases of note:

- ***Jennings v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority* [2022] EWHC 1619 (Fam)** - Case concerning the lawfulness of the posthumous storage of embryos; interpretation of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act by reference to Article 8
[Judgment](#)
- ***Re AB* [2020] EWHC 692 (Fam)** - Application regarding the statutory right of a personal representative to access a deceased patient's records under the Access to Health Records Act
Judgment- no link
- ***R (KK) v Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust* [2019] EWHC 3565** - Judicial review challenge to the NHS Trust's protocol regarding referral of transgender prisoners for gender reassignment surgery
Judgment- no link
- ***Welsh Ministers v PJ* [2018] UKSC 66** - Mental Health Act case considering whether a responsible clinician could impose conditions on a community treatment order amounting to a deprivation of liberty
[Judgment](#)
- ***Tinsley v Manchester City Council* [2017] EWCA Civ 1704** - Whether a patient entitled to aftercare services under the Mental Health Act is required to fund such services from an *award of damages*
[Judgment](#)
- ***Jefferies v BMI Healthcare* [2016] EWHC 2493 (Fam)** - Consent to the posthumous storage of embryos under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (M) v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority* [2016] EWCA Civ 611** - Judicial review of a refusal of the HFEA to issue a special direction for the export of gametes
[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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