



## Alexis Hearnden

Year of call: 2005

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### *"Absolutely phenomenal."* Chambers and Partners

Alexis Hearnden is an experienced advocate with a successful regulatory and public law practice. She acts for regulators and those they regulate across a range of professions, including solicitors, doctors, dentists, fertility clinics, architects, vets, and osteopaths before tribunals, in judicial review proceedings and in statutory appeals. In the world of sport, she advises sport national governing bodies, particularly in safeguarding matters.

Alexis regularly represents family members, local authorities, health authorities and the Official Solicitor in the Court of Protection, which complements her broader public law work in the areas of mental health, community care and healthcare.

She is recommended as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners in the areas of Professional Discipline and in the Court of Protection, and by The Legal 500 for Professional Discipline. Alexis was nominated for Professional Discipline Junior of the Year at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2020.

## Areas of expertise

Disciplinary

Regulatory

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Community care and mental health

Sport

## Disciplinary

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Alexis acts for a range of professional regulators and professionals across a range of sectors including General Medical Council (GMC), the Professional Standard Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA), the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), the Bar Standards Board, the Architects Registration Board and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Her work for lawyers facing disciplinary action includes a range of conduct issues (e.g. social media, sexual misconduct, account rules breaches, whistleblowing, non-disclosure agreements and convictions) as well as interventions and injunctions.

### Cases of note:

- **PSA v (1) Social Work England, (2) Bennett [2021] EWHC 1288 (Admin)** - Alexis acted for the PSA in a successful challenge to a decision of Social Work England to suspend a social worker for breach of immigration rules and dishonesty in order to bring a young child into the UK for adoption.  
Judgment
- **White v General Medical Council [2021] EWHC 3286 (Admin)** - A GP challenged interim conditions which were imposed after a video which went "viral" in which he expressed anti-mask views and raised concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. The case turned on arguments made in reliance on articles 8 and 10 of the ECHR and section 12 of the HRA 1998.  
Judgment
- **Sastry v General Medical Council [2021] EWCA Civ 623 (Admin)** - Led by Ivan Hare KC, Alexis acted for the GMC in the Court of Appeal in a decision giving important clarity on the nature of appeals under s40 and s40A of the Medical Act 1983.  
Judgment
- **Garaffa v General Medical Council [2021] EWHC 539 (Admin)** - Alexis acted in a statutory appeal where a consultant had performed an irreversible procedure on a patient who was undergoing gender re-assignment surgery, which he had not consented to.  
Judgment
- **PSA v Health and Care Professions Council [2019] EWHC 2819 (Admin)** - Alexis acted for the PSA in a challenge to a decision of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in a case where a paramedic had sent messages of a sexual nature to a patient. The court, allowing the appeal, found that the charges as drafted had failed to properly put the gravity of the misconduct to the committee.  
Judgment
- **Neumans v Solicitors Regulation Authority [2018] EWCA Civ 325** - As junior counsel to Fenella Morris KC acting for a firm appealing against a decision of the High Court not to withdraw a notice of intervention, where procedural unfairness was alleged against the SRA.  
Judgment
- **Doherty v Nursing and Midwifery Council [2017] EWCA Civ 1344** - As junior counsel to Fenella Morris KC Alexis acted for the Nursing and Midwifery Council in the Court of Appeal in a case concerning the correct interpretation of the test applied by the Registrar when a nurse or midwife applies to renew her registration where a conviction was declared at renewal.  
Judgment

## Recommendations

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*She's fantastic. Really smart and well regarded.* "A very capable and accomplished junior." "Very good on her feet and knows the law well." Chambers and Partners

*"A very calm and measured barrister who manages difficult clients really well."* Chambers and Partners

*"Alexis has an incisive eye, cutting through excess detail to get to the central issues of a case quickly and always provides very clear and sensible advice."* The Legal 500

*"Absolutely phenomenal."* "She is very good, experienced, committed to this kind of work and she does it well." "A good junior with an excellent eye for detail." Chambers and Partners

*"A very sensible and realistic advocate."* "She is meticulous in her preparation and she brings a good, pragmatic approach to court. She's very well regarded by peers and solicitors as well as judges." Chambers and Partners

*"Alexis is easy to work with and builds a good relationship with our clients. She is also effective in dealing with expert evidence."* The Legal 500

*"Alexis is thorough and detailed in her advice. Her drafting is excellent, and she has a reassuring and measured approach to difficult and complex issues."*The Legal 500

*"Excellent with clients and extremely quick."*Chambers and Partners

*"She is fast becoming a go-to barrister for cases where creative thinking is required. She works incredibly hard, and nothing is too much for her."*Chambers and Partners

*"She comes across exceptionally well and all of her submissions are incredibly thorough. One of those people who has a fantastic bank of knowledge to call on and is a genuinely nice person to work with."*  
Chambers and Partners

## Memberships

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- Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Court of Protection Bar Association (CPBA)
- Justice
- South Eastern Circuit

## Qualifications

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### Education

2004-2005: Inns of Court School of Law. BVC – Very Competent.

2003-2004: City University. CPE – Commendation.

2000-2003: Mansfield College, Oxford. BA (Hons) (Politics, Philosophy, Economics) 2:1.

1993-2000: Newstead Wood School for Girls.

### Scholarships and prizes

2003-2004: Ashworth Scholarship Award, Inner Temple.

2000-2003: Mansfield College, College Exhibition Award for academic excellence.

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