



Katherine Barnes

Year of call: 2014

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"Katherine is a brilliant advocate." Chambers and Partners

"Katherine is an excellent barrister and a pleasure to work with. She is dedicated and works hard. She is responsive, insightful, and you can trust her to get the best possible results." Legal 500

Katherine is a public law specialist. She has an exceptionally diverse practice which ranges from commercial regulatory work (including planning, environment and procurement) to public interest and human rights matters.

She is recognised by Chambers and Partners and/or Legal 500 in the fields of public law, civil liberties & human rights, planning, environment, community care and education.

Katherine graduated from Queens' College, Cambridge with a first class degree in French and Spanish before converting to law. She then obtained an LLM with distinction in public law and human rights from the London School of Economics.

She has appeared as sole counsel in the Court of Appeal, High Court, Upper Tribunal, Court of Protection, County Court, Crown Court and Magistrates Courts.

As former co-chair of Young Legal Aid Lawyers, Katherine is committed to access to justice and legal aid work. She is also a member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's panel of counsel.

Areas of expertise

Planning

Environment

Energy and Natural Resources (including nuclear)

Administrative and Public

Education

Community Care and Mental Health

Healthcare

Regulatory, Disciplinary and Licensing

Inquiries

Procurement

Environment

Katherine practises all public law aspects of environmental law, and is listed in the field by the Legal 500. Her advisory and litigation work in this area includes:

- Energy regulation (including renewables and nuclear)
- Water regulation (including with regards to the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive)
- Contaminated land
- Environmental permitting
- Strategic Environmental Assessment framework in relation to a variety of plans and strategies in both a development and water context
- Air quality, particularly in the context of aviation, road infrastructure projects and large- scale residential development. She has also advised on air quality strategies.
- Tree Protection Orders
- Habitats Directive
- Environmental Impact Assessment

Cases of note:

- ***R (Cathie) v Cheshire West* [2022] EWHC 2148 (Admin)** - Acted for the Claimant in a judicial review of a decision to approve an odour management plan.
- ***R (Stubbs) v Lake District National Park Authority* [2020] EWHC 2293 (Admin)** - Acted as sole counsel in a judicial review of the authority's refusal to make a traffic regulation order restricting 4x4s on two roads in the Lake District National Park.
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Wood Boilers) v Gas and Electricity Markets Authority* [2020] EWHC 1578 (Admin)** - Acted for a renewable energy company in a judicial review of Ofgem's refusal to continue paying subsidies for one of its schemes.
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (Brommell) v Reading District Council* [2018] EWHC 3529 (Admin)** - Acted as sole counsel for the claimant in a judicial review of a of planning permission for a school on public playing fields.
- ***R (Dillner) v Sheffield County Council* [2016] EWHC 945 (Admin)** - Acted for the successful defendant in a challenge to a street maintenance project involving the replacement of street trees.
[Judgment](#)

Recommendations

Katherine is listed by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 in public law, civil liberties & human rights, planning, environment, community care and education:

"She gives strategic advice, is very pleasant to work with and is very helpful with the client." Chambers and Partners 2022.

"She is extremely thorough, has great attention to detail and an exceptional understanding of the core issues in her cases. She is also a pleasure to work with." Chambers and Partners 2022.

"Her strengths are clarity of advice, willingness to think outside of the box, and her ability to resolve an issue expediently." The Legal 500 2022.

"Katherine is an excellent barrister and a pleasure to work with. She is dedicated and works hard. She is responsive, insightful, and you can trust her to get the best possible results." The Legal 500 2021.

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA) (committee member)
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Education Law Association (ELAS)
- Human Rights Law Association (HRLA)
- Planning and Environmental Bar Association (PEBA)
- United Kingdom Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) (former co-chair)

Qualifications

Education

- Queens' College, University of Cambridge, BA(Hons) French and Spanish (First Class) (2010)
- City University, GDL (2012)
- The London School of Economics, LLM Public Law and Human Rights (Distinction) (2013)
- BPP University, BPTC (2014)

Scholarships and prizes

- Foundation Scholarship, Queens' College, University of Cambridge (2010)
- Lord Haldane Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2011)
- Hardwicke Award, Lincoln's Inn (2012)
- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2013)

Additional Information

In her free time, Katherine enjoys travel, theatre and reading novels. She also sings with Voce Chamber Choir, whose concerts have ranged from Tallis to Poulenc to singing with the Rolling Stones at Glastonbury.

Languages

- French (fluent)
- Spanish (fluent)

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