



Katherine Barnes

Year of call: 2014

Email: katherine.barnes@39essex.com

Phone: (0)20 7832 1111

"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

Administrative and Public

"She is very good for public law challenges." Legal 500.

Katherine practises all areas of public law and human rights, with a focus on judicial review. She is an exceptionally versatile practitioner, who is just as comfortable acting for her commercial clients (which include major companies and developers) as her legally aided clients (who range from victims of trafficking to disabled prisoners). She increasingly finds herself instructed on high-profile policy and strategic challenges, litigation which she very much enjoys.

She is recognised by Legal 500 in public law, as well as in education law. She is also listed by Chambers and Partners in the fields of community care, education and civil liberties & human rights.

Her work in this field includes:

- Commercial judicial review (including procurement)
- Healthcare
- Community care (including Court of Protection)
- Education
- Asylum support and anti-trafficking
- Prisons
- Social security
- Planning and environment

Cases of note:

- ***R (Eveleigh) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2023] EWCA Civ 810** - Challenge to the Government's National Disability Strategy on the basis it failed to comply with consultation requirements.
[Judgment](#)
- Advising the Good Law Project in respect of a potential challenge to the cancellation of HS2 [2023]
- ***R (DMA) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2020] EWHC 3416 (Admin)** - Acted for the claimants in a successful challenge to the system for providing accommodation to failed asylum seekers pursuant to s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
[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](#)
- ***In The Matter of P (Discharge of Party)* [2021] EWCA Civ 512** - Acted for the first respondent local authority in an appeal to the Court of Appeal from the Court of Protection on the grounds of procedural unfairness.
[Judgment](#)
- ***R (British Medical Association) v Northamptonshire CC* [2020] EWHC 1664 (Admin)** - Acted for the claimant in a challenge concerning the failure of Northamptonshire's safeguarding plan to address remuneration for safeguarding services provided by GPs.
[Judgment](#)

- ***R (Simone) v Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Education* [2019] EWHC 2609 (Admin)** - Acted for the claimants in a high-profile challenge to the failure to provide adequate funding for the education of children with special educational needs.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v Goulding* [2019] EWCA Civ 839** - Acted for the respondent pensioner in the Court of Appeal in a case concerning the interpretation of the State Pension Credit Regulations 2002.
[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)

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

BARRISTERS • ARBITRATORS • MEDIATORS

clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com