



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

Education

Katherine is listed by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners in field of education law. Her work in this area includes advice and litigation relating to:

- Funding decisions
- School closures
- Special educational needs appeals
- School transport policy challenges
- School admissions appeals
- School exclusions appeals
- Disability discrimination claims both in relation to schools and universities
- Student finance
- Regulatory matters

Cases of note:

- ***R (CU) v Secretary of State for Education (ongoing)*** – Acting for the claimant in a challenge to the consultation on whether the First-Tier Tribunal's remedies are adequate in relation to discrimination claims against schools.
- ***R (LS) v London Borough of Hounslow [2023]*** - Acting for the claimant in a successful challenge to the failure to provide him with a school place as specified in his EHCP.
- ***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](#)
- ***R (AB) v Portsmouth City Council [2019]*** - Acted for the successful claimants in a judicial review of the decision by Portsmouth City Council to reduce its special educational needs funding by around £400,000.

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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