



Eleanor Leydon

Year of call: 2020

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Eleanor's practice is focused on public, environmental and planning law. In Summer 2022 she was seconded to the High Court (QBD) (Admin Court) as a Judicial Assistant to Mr Justice Chamberlain.

Eleanor has a busy court practice and has appeared in the High Court (QBD (Admin) and Chancery Divisions); in the Court of Protection; in a wide range of SEND tribunals; in a school admissions appeal; in the magistrates court on a planning enforcement matter; and in a range of county court matters. Eleanor also undertakes the full range of pleadings and advisory work.

Eleanor is a member of ALBA, CPBA, PEBA and UKELA. Outside of practice, she is the legal editor of *Freezing in LA!* - an independent, interdisciplinary climate change magazine.

Eleanor is committed to widening access to the Bar and is a Bridging the Bar mentor. Eleanor accepts instructions on a pro bono basis, and has completed Advocate's 25 for 25 challenge in each year of practice.

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Environment

Planning

Court of Protection

Inquiries

Environment

Eleanor is developing a specialist environmental law practice, and is particularly interested in climate change, land use, nature recovery and agriculture. She has been instructed by regulators, government, charities and individual claimants, and has advised on a broad range of environmental issues including EIA, SEA, HRA, air quality, water quality and soil health. She has in-depth knowledge of the Environment Act 2021 provisions dealing with biodiversity and nature recovery; post-Brexit agricultural law and policy; and the impact of Brexit on habitats law.

Recent highlights include:

- Advising on environmental issues arising from the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023, both during and following its progress through Parliament.
- Advising on the implementation of the EIA, SEA and HRA regimes in England, as part of the OEP's

statutory review of the implementation of the three regimes.

- Writing on climate change litigation in the Journal of Environmental Law's annual article on Significant environmental litigation in the Journal of Environmental Law's annual article on Significant UK Environmental Law Cases, 2022 and 2023 (2024 forthcoming).

Eleanor is a member of UKELA and an editor at an independent climate change magazine, and specialised in climate law and policy during her LLM at UCL. Eleanor accepts instructions on a pro bono basis in appropriate environmental cases.

Eleanor has assisted with several disputes involving the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, acting for both claimants and local authorities.

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Court of Protection Bar Association (CPBA)
- Planning and Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)

Qualifications

Education

- 2020, City University, BPTC – Very Competent
- 2019, UCL, LLM in Public Law - Distinction
- 2018, City University, Graduate Diploma in Law – Distinction
- 2016, University of Cambridge, Emmanuel College, English BA (Hons) – Double First Class

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2019, Lincoln's Inn Denning Scholarship (BPTC)
- 2017, Lincoln's Inn Bowen Scholarship (GDL)
- 2016, Bokhari Prize (a College Prize for the Highest First in the English Tripos)
- 2015, Elisabeth and Derek Brewer Prize (a College Prize for a First in Part I of the English Tripos)

Additional information

Pro Bono and Voluntary Work

Eleanor previously volunteered at Lambeth Law Centre, holding one-on-one outreach appointments, and on the Free Representation Unit's social security stream, successfully appearing in tribunal. Eleanor has also worked pro bono with City University and No5 Chambers, supporting immigrants with legal aid applications. All her clients' applications were successful: one subsequently secured funding for her immigration appeal and was ultimately granted leave to remain in the UK alongside her daughter.

Eleanor regularly blogged on human rights law developments for the UK Human Rights Blog and has volunteered for the social rights charity Just Fair.

While an intern at Protimos, Eleanor researched the international legal framework which protects indigenous rights, in particular the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Documents which she produced on FPIC were circulated among members of the African judiciary at Protimos' Judicial Action Group colloquium in Zimbabwe.

As an undergraduate Eleanor was chair of Cambridge PEN, a branch of the human rights organisation

English PEN, and delivered consent workshops to 130 undergraduates in the first year they were implemented across the university.

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