



Anna Bicarregui

Year of call: 2004

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“Very committed and personable, she has a very good manner with clients and is excellent in court.” Chambers and Partners

“Anna is a top-quality advocate who always remains calm and in command of both the witness and the case. She has excellent judgement in inquiries, understanding how really to make a difference for her clients.” The Legal 500 2023

Anna is a public lawyer who specialises in education law. Anna advises on all aspects of education law from admissions to exclusions, special educational needs, educational negligence, discrimination, academy conversion, higher education disciplinary matters. She regularly appears in the First-tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal and High Court on education matters.

Between 2016 and 2022, Anna was one of the junior counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, working on the residential schools investigation, the Anglican investigation and as part of a team drafting the final report.

Anna has extensive experience of Court of Protection (COP) work, providing training on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and other aspects of the COP to local authorities and organisations. She regularly appears in both the Court of Protection and the High Court in deprivation of liberty cases.

Anna regularly advises on employment matters and appears in the employment tribunal and employment appeal tribunal. She is often instructed on employment matters which are related to educational institutions.

Areas of expertise

Education

Court of Protection

Inquiries and Investigations

Employment

Education

Anna is an education law specialist. She appears regularly in the First Tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal and High Court on education related matters. She also advises on all areas of education law, including special educational needs, disability discrimination, admissions and exclusions, educational negligence, school finance, matters related to academies, further education and higher Education. Anna also advises on teacher misconduct and referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Teaching Regulation Agency.

Anna regularly provides training sessions for local authorities on special educational needs and discrimination.

Anna was a contributor to Richard McManus' academic handbook "Education and the Courts", the third edition of which was published in December 2012.

Cases of note:

- ***CM v Bexley* [2011] UKUT 215 (AAC), [2011] ELR 413** - Important case on how costs should be calculated in special educational needs cases.
[Judgment](#)
- ***CL v Hampshire CC (SEN)* [2011] UKUT 468 (AAC)** - Special educational needs case on the degree of specificity required in a statement of special educational needs (now education, health and care plans). Anna successfully resisted the appeal on behalf of the local authority.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Chapple v Suffolk County Council* [2011] EWCA Civ 870** - The Court of Appeal gave judgment on a local authority's duty to provide the provision in a statement of special educational needs and the requirement for candour from a local authority when responding to an appeal in the Upper Tribunal.
[Judgment](#)
- ***West Sussex County Council v ND & LD* [2010] UKUT 349 (AAC)** - Case on the weight to be attributed to a young person's wishes and feelings in a special educational needs case.
[Judgment](#)
- ***B v Worcestershire C.C.* [2010] UKUT 292 (AAC)** - Upper Tribunal decision on the approach to costs and section 9 of the Education Act 1996. Anna successfully resisted the appeal on behalf of the local authority.
[Judgment](#)
- ***FC v Suffolk County Council* [2010] UKUT 368 (AAC)** - Upper Tribunal case considering procedural unfairness in a special educational needs case. Anna successfully resisted the appeal on behalf of the local authority.
[Judgment](#)

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