



Olivia McGonigle

Year of Call: 2021

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Education

Olivia McGonigle has experience in education cases acting on behalf of both individuals and local authorities. Olivia has undertaken a variety of cases at both First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and Magistrates' Court and is keen to further build her practice in this area.

In a recent B, F and I appeal, Olivia successfully negotiated a settlement at the door of court which led to a local authority naming a specialist independent school in section I of the EHCP.

Recent education cases include:

JA (DR) v ELA First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) – Successful B, F & I appeal, with the Tribunal naming the school despite the LA's opposition.

JA (SA) v ELA First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

LS (BS) v SoS First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

DCC v AK Magistrates' Court

DCC v KP Magistrates' Court

DCC v GL Magistrates' Court

DCC v KD (V) Magistrates' Court

DCC v AS Magistrates' Court

Articles

[Olivia McGonigle](#) looks at the appeal to the Upper Tribunal of *LC and RC v Hampshire County Council* [2023] UKUT 281 (AAC) which concerned, among other things, the test that should be applied when section I of an Educational Health and Care Plan ('EHCP') is in dispute.

[View Article](#)

Recommendations

Olivia has a "very appealing court room manner. She was prepared and really made a mark." **Crown Court Judge**

"I have been impressed with the results Olivia has got on the couple of cases she has done for me and how quickly and how detailed her notes are of the hearing" **Instructing solicitor**

"I would have assumed, watching, that you had been doing the job a good couple of years" **Defence counsel**

"Olivia went above and beyond." **Solicitor**

"I had the benefit of working with Olivia who I found to be extremely hard-working, diligent, pleasant and someone who was able to help us out at extremely short notice to prepare a very complicated witness statement in response to a fairly complicated judicial review matter. Olivia was able to get to grips with a very urgent court deadline and we were able to meet this deadline with her administrative and client care skills. She was able to take detailed instructions from the litigation friend and put this in a witness statement and not only that, was then able to put together a very detailed court bundle at very short notice." **Gregg Burrough – Senior Education Solicitor – Coram Children's Legal Centre**

"Your support gave me great relief. Thank you for fighting so hard." **Lay client**

Academic qualifications

- Bar Training Course – Distinction (BPP London)
- Graduate Diploma in Law – Distinction (BPP London)
- BA Hons History and Political Science (University of Birmingham)

Scholarships

- Butterfield Scholar (Western Circuit)
- Ann Goddard Scholar (Gray's Inn)
- Wilfred Watson Scholar (Gray's Inn)
- Residential Scholar (Gray's Inn)
- Career Commitment Scholar (BPP)
- Excellence Scholar (BPP)
- BPP Advocacy Scholar (BPP)
- GDL Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Level 1 – CPS Advocate Panel – General Crime

Professional bodies

- Gray's Inn