



Alice de Coverley

Year of Call: 2014

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Personal Injury

Alice de Coverley appears in court on a regular basis, acting for both Claimants and Defendants in fast-track and multi-track personal injury matters.

Alice has a particular specialism in fraudulent claims.

She regularly advises on liability and quantum, and drafts statements of case in areas including:

- Personal Injury claims involving education providers
- Fraudulent claims for Personal Injury (including occupancy, low velocity impact, fundamental dishonesty)
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Credit Hire
- Highways Act claims
- Animal Act claims
- Occupiers' Liability
- Employers' Liability
- Fatal Accidents
- Public Inquiries.

Alice has significant experience in working with children with disabilities, mental health conditions and special educational needs. This greatly assists her in dealing with the medical aspects of these cases and working with vulnerable witnesses.

Alice is currently instructed on a part-time secondment at the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Alice is currently acting for Ofsted as Junior Counsel on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse (IICSA). Alice is keen to increase her instructions in Public Inquiry and Inquest work.

Recent examples of cases Alice has been involved in include:

- Advising and successfully representing a child who fell from an unstable school playground structure causing significant permanent facial scarring.
- Advising claimants in abuse claims arising out of substandard supervision by teachers at a school.
- Advising and successfully representing claimants and defendants in fraudulent personal injury claims.
- Successful Circuit Judge appeal on mitigation of loss in relation to a credit hire claim.

Recommendations

"I spoke with my client last night and wanted to relay to you how pleased she was with yesterday. She could not praise you enough and said that you went above and beyond what she expected."

"I thought I would pass on Mr C's comments as to how much he appreciated your time on Friday and he said what a fantastic Barrister that you are. I thought you should know how much he thought of you."

Academic qualifications

- City Law School GDL (Commendation)
- City Law School BPTC (Very Competent)
- Durham University BA Hons Theology (2:1)

Scholarships

- "Just Rights" Human Rights - the Big Voice Mooting Competition Champion, 2013, winning in the final at the Supreme Court
- In 2012 the School Exclusion Project won the Bar Pro Bono Award
- In 2014 the School Exclusion Project was runner up in the Attorney General LawWorks Pro Bono Awards for 'Best Contribution by a Team of Students'.

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Editorial Board Member of [Counsel Magazine](#).

Professional bodies

- Education Law Association (ELAS)
- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- [Centre for Women's Justice](#)

Direct Access

Alice accepts Direct Access instructions for Education Law cases.

Alice is particularly passionate about Education Law. Prior to commencing pupillage, Alice was the Chief Director of The School Exclusion Project for four years. This is an award-winning pro-bono unit dedicated to representing parents of permanently excluded school children.

Alice is instructed to act and advise in relation to a broad range of Education Law matters, including:

- Breach of contract and negligence claims involving education providers
- School Exclusions
- School Admissions
- Appeals to the SEND Tribunal on the content of EHC Plans

- Discrimination (particularly disability discrimination) claims in the FTT and County Court
- Internal academic appeals / Fitness to Practice appeals
- Appeals to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator

Recent matters which Alice has been involved in include:

- Advising medical and nursing students in claims under the Equality Act where the University's competency assessment standards conflicted with the duty to make reasonable adjustments.
- Advising a Higher Education provider on their duties under the Equality Act when a student disclosed a previously unknown disability after examinations had taken place.
- Advising in relation to negligence claims for failure to diagnose learning difficulties.
- Advising in relation to breach of contract claims involving Independent Schools.
- Advising parents of school pupils with disabilities who have been unlawfully permanently excluded.
- Drafting funding applications to the European Human Rights Commission, to support client's cases concerning discrimination in education.
- Drafting submissions to the Health and Conduct Committee/Fitness to Practice Committee.
- Appeals against Termination of Registration.
- Drafting submissions to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

Alice has also helped to create a number of [BBC Radio 4](#) programmes about [school exclusions](#).

Whilst Alice was Chief Director of The School Exclusion Project, it featured in the press several times addressing unlawful exclusions – [for instance](#).

She is also a volunteer for the charity Inspiring the Future, which connects young people in state schools and colleges with those from the world of work. She has recently been part of their Inspiring Women campaign, mentoring girls from various schools to raise their aspirations and break down stereotypes.

Alice is happy to provide training in relation to Education Law. Of late she provided training on school admissions appeals to Local Authorities, a talk on disability discrimination to a children's charity and ran a seminar on school exclusions for solicitors. Please get in touch with her clerks should this be something you would wish to organize.