



Alice de Coverley

Year of Call: 2014

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Commercial

Alice acts in a wide range of contractual matters.

Alice has particular experience and interest in contractual matters arising in the education sector. In particular, she specialises in breach of contract claims involving schools and universities.

She also has particular experience in contracts regarding the sale of goods, supply of services, consumer credit, school fees and debt recovery actions. She conducts claims involving issues such as agency, construction of contracts, misrepresentation and duress.

Alice has an extensive understanding of credit hire and subrogated claims on behalf of insurers, with an in depth knowledge of the relevant statutes and case law. She has conducted successful Circuit Judge appeals in this area.

Recent examples of cases Alice has been involved in include:

- Successfully representing a parent in a claim for breach of contract against their child's independent school.
- Successfully defending universities in applications to strike out claims for disability discrimination and/or breach of contract.
- Successfully representing a nurse at the County Court in the recovery of her unpaid wages from an employment contract.
- Successfully defending a claim against an Architect for unpaid fees on the basis of improper conduct in how the fee was calculated and the substandard way in which the works were performed.
- Successfully representing a joiner, in defending a claim for breach of contract in relation to extensive works done on the claimant's doors and windows.

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.