

# 3PB Education Law Team

## Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 2022 Results

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### Group rankings

- Chambers and Partners rank our education law team in Band in London.
- The Legal 500 rank our team in Tier 4 in London.

### Individual Rankings

Barrister	Specialism	Bar	Chambers and Partners	Legal 500
John Friel	Education	London	Band 3	Tier 4
Lachlan Wilson	Education	London	Band 4	
Charlotte Hadfield	Education	London	Band 3	Tier 3
Katherine Anderson	Education	London		Tier 5
Aimee Fox	Education	Midlands		Tier 1
Aimee Fox	Education	London		Tier 5
Jennifer Agyekum	Education	London		Tier 5
Emma Waldron	Education	London	Band 4	Tier 4
Alice de Coverley	Education	London	Band 4	Rising Star
Matthew Wyard	Education	London	Up and coming	
Matthew Wyard	Education	Wales and Chester		Rising Star

## Group Commentary

### Chambers and Partners

#### Education – London Bar – Band 3

3PB Barristers is a well-regarded set with a growing presence in the education sector. Members are experienced in the handling of a broad range of matters, including school admissions and exclusions, special educational needs and discrimination claims. The team also offers expertise in disciplinary matters arising in the higher education sector. The set's varied client base encompasses several education institutions, such as schools, universities and academies, as well as pupils, governing bodies and NGOs, and its barristers regularly appear before the First-tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal.

#### **Client service:**

"The clerks are very efficient and friendly. They are always willing to help and try to accommodate our requests." Chris Mitchell directs practice management at the set and is ably assisted by Tom Cox and Gemma Faulkner for education work.

### Legal 500

3PB is highly regarded for its members' *'wealth of expertise in special educational needs and disability appeals'* and are *'an excellent source of specialist education law barristers'*. Among recent instructions, [Alice de Coverley](#) represented Ofsted in several strands of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse. [Charlotte Hadfield](#) represented the claimant in *D v Hampshire County Council*, a judicial review against the council for failing to provide alternative school provision after a consultant psychiatrist had signed the child off as unfit to attend school due to his anxiety.

### Testimonials

#### Set

*'3PB are an excellent source of specialist education law barristers, whose expertise also crosses over into relevant and often complimentary areas such as public law, community care and mental health. They are one of my go-to sets.'*

*'Lots of education experience which we really appreciate. They always manage to find an expert who can provide top quality advocacy in education law.'*

*'3PB is an excellent set of chambers with a wealth of expertise in SEND appeals.'*

#### Clerking

*'The clerking is of an exceptionally high standard and responses to emails are prompt and very helpful.'*

*'Gemma Faulkner is excellent within her role. Attentive and very fast to respond to any queries and will often go above and beyond her duties to address any problems.'*

# Individual Commentary

## Chambers and Partners

### Alice De Coverley

Alice De Coverley is a well-regarded junior barrister with expertise covering a wide range of education matters. She is regularly instructed to represent government bodies, schools, universities, families and students, and is experienced in the handling of exclusions and disability discrimination claims.

"A phenomenal, astute barrister who has a friendly demeanour and an in-depth knowledge of this specialist area of law." "An extremely capable legal mind."

**Recent work:** Acted for the claimant in *Bell v The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation*, a judicial review challenging the algorithm used by Ofqual to generate A-level results during the COVID-19 pandemic in the absence of examinations.

### Charlotte Hadfield

Charlotte Hadfield is well known for her handling of SEN cases. She often acts for her clients in SEND tribunals at the First-tier and Upper levels, and is also regularly instructed to appear in judicial reviews. Her varied client list includes schools and academies, local authorities, parents and children.

"Always very good, very reliable and really quick to understand the issues." "She is hugely experienced and a safe pair of hands for the most complex SEND appeals."

**Recent work:** Acted for the claimant in *D v Hampshire County Council*, a judicial review of the council's decision not to make alternative provision for D's education after a consultant psychiatrist had signed D off as unfit to attend school due to his anxiety.

### Emma Waldron

Emma Waldron has a broad practice encompassing a wide range of education matters. She offers expertise in special educational needs and discrimination issues, and is also able to advise on admission and exclusion appeals. She regularly represents universities, schools, academies and local authorities, as well as parents and young persons.

"Very good and knowledgeable about education law." "A very sensible advocate."

**Recent work:** Successfully acted for the university in *Etowe v Newcastle University*, a case in which the claimant sought damages of approximately £200,000 for misrepresentation, breach of contract and negligence.

### John Friel

John Friel is an impressive barrister at the cutting edge of legal reform in education. He often advises on matters relating to education and disability, and is highly sought after by educational institutions in both the private and public sectors. He also represents charities and governing bodies. Friel's practice often sees him appearing before the House of Lords, the High Court and the Upper Tribunal.

"Very experienced and very, very well respected."

### Lachlan Wilson

Lachlan Wilson has an active practice encompassing a multitude of education issues. He is frequently instructed by individuals, institutions and school governing bodies connected with primary, secondary and tertiary education provision.

"He is fantastic in judicial review claims, his drafting skills are amazing and his written submissions are really persuasive." "A very good and very personable barrister."

### **Matthew Wyard**

Matthew Wyard acts for a wide range of clients, including several individuals and education institutions. He is particularly well regarded for this work before the SEN Upper Tribunal and offers additional expertise in judicial reviews.

"He is proactive, very knowledgeable and good at what he does." "His advice is excellent - comprehensive and very practical as well."

**Recent work:** Acted for the successful respondent in Nottinghamshire County Council v SF & Others, a challenge to the approach taken by the Upper Tribunal to a 'refusal to issue' appeal.

## **Individual Commentary**

### **Legal 500**

#### **LONDON**

#### **Rising stars**

**Alice de Coverley** - **3PB** 'She is empathetic with clients, strong in her advocacy and formidable in terms of her drafting style.'

Ranked: Tier 1

#### **Leading Juniors**

**John Friel** - **3PB**

Ranked: Tier 4

**Charlotte Hadfield** - **3PB** 'Charlotte is approachable and extremely helpful in both a practical and advisory capacity, using her wealth of knowledge and experience to provide thorough and clear advice.'

Ranked: Tier 3

**Jennifer Agyekum** - **3PB** 'Jennifer is hardworking, approachable and very clear in her presentation.'

Ranked: Tier 5

**Katherine Anderson** - **3PB** 'Katherine has a wealth of experience in SEND appeals and is very thorough in her approach; she is a robust advocate and her preparation is always meticulous.'

Ranked: Tier 5

**Aimee Fox** - **3PB** 'Aimee has a fantastic knowledge of the law and quickly builds up a good relationship with clients.'

Ranked: Tier 5

**Emma Waldron** - **3PB** 'Emma is our go-to counsel on contentious education matters; she is very knowledgeable and provides thorough, practical advice.'

Ranked: Tier 4

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## MIDLANDS

### Leading Juniors

#### **Aimee Fox** - 3PB

Ranked: Tier 1

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## WALES AND CHESTER

### Rising Stars

**Matthew Wyard** – 3PB *'A strong and detailed advocate who quickly identifies the relevant issues in a case. He has the ear of the Tribunal.'*

Ranked: Rising star