
CHAMBERS UK BAR 2023

The Leading Barristers and Sets in the UK

Education



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings)

include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

Contents:

London p.255

London

Education
Leading Sets
Band 1
11KBW
Matrix Chambers
Band 2
39 Essex Chambers
Band 3
Landmark Chambers
3PB Barristers
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Goudie James 11KBW*
Leading Silks
Band 1
Mountfield Helen <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Oldham Peter 11KBW*
Sheldon Clive 11KBW
Wolfe David <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Band 2
Giffin Nigel 11KBW
Moffett Jonathan 11KBW [Ⓐ] *
Scolding Fiona <i>Landmark Chambers</i> [Ⓐ]
Sharland Andrew 11KBW [Ⓐ] *
Wise Ian <i>Monckton Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Band 3
Auburn Jonathan 11KBW [Ⓐ] *
Bowen Nicholas <i>Doughty Street Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Dunlop Rory 39 Essex Chambers
Hannett Sarah <i>Matrix Chambers</i> [Ⓐ]
McColgan Aileen 11KBW*
Morris Fenella 39 Essex Chambers
Purchase Mathew <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Squires Daniel <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
New Silks
Clement Joanne 11KBW*
Ward Galina <i>Landmark Chambers</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
[Ⓐ] direct access.
[◇] (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

11KBW

THE SET

11KBW retains its reputation as a leading set for education matters, and houses a deep bench of barristers experienced in the handling of the full range of disputes. Particular areas of strength for the team include cases concerning SEN, discrimination claims and examination disputes, and members are regularly called upon to act for universities, schools and local authorities, as well as teachers, parents and students. The set's barristers also field expertise in school reorganisations, admissions and exclusions, and employment disputes arising in the education

Education
Leading Juniors
Star individuals
Broach Steve 39 Essex Chambers
Band 1
Armstrong Nicholas <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Cross Tom 11KBW*
Greatorex Paul 11KBW [Ⓐ] *
Lawson David <i>Serjeants' Inn Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Band 2
Anderson Jack 39 Essex Chambers
Glenister Leon <i>Landmark Chambers</i>
Hadfield Charlotte 3PB Barristers*
Luh Shu Shin <i>Doughty Street Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Band 3
Akhtar Shazia <i>Gatehouse Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Bicarregui Anna 39 Essex Chambers [Ⓐ]
Darwin Claire <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
de Coverley Alice 3PB Barristers*
Desai Raj <i>Matrix Chambers</i>
Dilaimi Laith <i>Old Square Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇] *
Eddy Katherine 11KBW*
Friel John 3PB Barristers [Ⓐ] *
Hay Deborah <i>Deborah Hay</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Line Alexander <i>Outer Temple Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Rawlings Clive <i>Doughty Street Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇] [Ⓐ]
Tkaczynska Anna <i>Serjeants' Inn Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Walker Amelia 1 Crown Office Row (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Band 4
Agyekum Jennifer 3PB Barristers*
Apps Katherine 39 Essex Chambers
Barnes Katherine 39 Essex Chambers
Greaves Mark <i>Matrix Chambers</i> *
Iyengar Harini 11KBW*
Mellon Gráinne <i>Garden Court Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Oldham Jane 11KBW*
Thelen Jennifer 39 Essex Chambers
Waldron Emma 3PB Barristers*
Wilson Lachlan 3PB Barristers
Up-and-coming individuals
Gannon Zoe 11KBW*
Irving Alice <i>Doughty Street Chambers</i> (ORL) [Ⓐ] [◇]
Mitchell Ben 11KBW*
Wyrd Matthew 3PB Barristers*

sector. 11KBW successfully defended a High Court challenge to a local authority's discharge of its duties under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996. Members also defended a disability discrimination case in the County Court against London Metropolitan University. "11KBW have really good in-depth knowledge of the education sector," said one interviewee.

Client service:

"Chris Smith is excellent. He responds quickly and is extremely helpful."

"Lee Cutler is very responsive."

"The clerks always come back to me quickly and with options."

Joint senior clerks Mark Dann and Lucy Barbet lead the clerking team.

SILKS

James Goudie KC (see p.843) James Goudie KC is an accomplished education practitioner with experience in a variety of other areas, including administrative law, environmental law and employment law. He regularly advises local government and universities on challenges against admissions procedures and construction projects. His broad education expertise results in him being instructed on anything from novel Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) matters to academy conversions and higher education work. He is also adept at handling cases involving allegations of discrimination.

Strengths:

"James has stacks of knowledge and experience."

Peter Oldham KC (see p.905) Peter Oldham KC acts in all manner of education disputes concerning schools, universities and other education authorities, including those relating to discrimination, admissions and exclusions, governance and special needs. He has extensive expertise in reorganisation matters.

Strengths:

"Peter is a reputable practitioner who contributes to the Education Bar in novel and interesting ways. He is a strong advocate."

"Peter is very knowledgeable. He knows the SEN framework back to front."

Clive Sheldon KC Clive Sheldon KC is an erudite silk who handles education law as part of a broad public law practice. He is frequently engaged in special educational needs, admissions and exclusions, and discrimination claims, and acts for schools, universities and local authorities. He also has significant experience in employment cases within the education sector.

Strengths:

"Clive is a class act and a force to be reckoned with."

"Clive is a very safe pair of hands. He is hugely respected and a genuine heavyweight in public law, education particularly."

Nigel Giffin KC Nigel Giffin KC has over three decades of experience of advising on both education-specific matters and a vast array of issues that intersect with education law. He is particularly adept at judicial review cases.

Strengths:

"Nigel is incredibly calm but very authoritative."

Jonathan Moffett KC (see p.896) Jonathan Moffett KC has a strong education practice and frequently handles disputes relating to school admissions, discrimination and educational provision for pupils with SEN. He has considerable court experience, having appeared before various courts, including the ECtHR. His clients include several local authorities and governmental bodies as well as universities.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is an outstanding barrister."

Andrew Sharland KC (see p.926) Andrew Sharland KC routinely advises local authorities, schools and further education colleges. Sharland is highly praised for his knowledge of SEN, admissions and contract law.

Strengths:

"Andrew is very hands-on and good to deal with. He is methodical and structures his arguments well."

Jonathan Auburn KC (see p.788) Jonathan Auburn KC advises an array of prominent clients in the education sector, including several local authorities and the Secretary of State for Education. Areas of particular interest include SEN funding challenges and school closures. He has acted in a number of notable judicial reviews.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is a considered advocate who is very personable and a pleasure to work with."

"Jonathan is a genuine education specialist."

"He has a fantastic understanding of education law and is really great at dealing with clients."

Aileen McColgan KC (see p.887) Aileen McColgan KC has an established practice that takes in SEN proceedings and equality law claims. She acts for both claimants and defendants, including prominent universities and local authorities. Advisory work represents a significant part of her practice, and she has considerable experience in advising and chairing disciplinary and other panels.

Strengths:

"Aileen is a top-class practitioner."

"She is a good advocate with a thorough knowledge of public law issues."

"Aileen is very passionate about what she does."

Joanne Clement KC (see p.813) Joanne Clement KC is a dynamic education junior with particular expertise in cases concerning special educational needs, school reorganisations and academy conversions. She has a strong track record advising local authorities, universities and schools. She is regularly instructed in disability discrimination claims, challenges to exam results and student disciplinary matters.

Strengths:

"Joanne is an expert in education law."

"She is phenomenal."

JUNIORS

Tom Cross (see p.820) Tom Cross is a leading junior with a thriving practice handling education, commercial law and human rights-related cases. He is regularly instructed by individuals, schools and higher education institutions, and has extensive experience appearing before the Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal. He is also regularly called upon to act for local authorities and central government.

Strengths:

"Tom is diligent and hard-working."

"Tom is super smart and an expert public lawyer."

"Tom is an experienced barrister. He is approachable and good with clients."

Paul Greatorex (see p.845) Paul Greatorex is a top choice for a number of different education cases, including those concerning special educational needs and Equality Act claims. He also has notable experience in student disputes and disciplinary proceedings, frequently instructed by local authorities and universities.

Strengths:

"Paul is a genuine expert on SEN and will really

understand the sector and the law."

"Paul is a really helpful and responsive barrister."

Katherine Eddy (see p.831) Katherine Eddy is a well-known education barrister with considerable experience in disputes, including those involving aspects of public law, contract law and employment law. She has a burgeoning practice and particular experience of cases in the higher education sector.

Strengths:

"Katherine is an impressive and very knowledgeable barrister."

Harini Iyengar (see p.863) Harini Iyengar has a broad education practice encompassing special needs tribunals, judicial reviews and disciplinary proceedings. Her clients include several university and school students, as well as schools, colleges and universities.

Strengths:

"Harini is an excellent barrister."

Jane Oldham (see p.905) Jane Oldham advises on a range of cases including judicial review challenges, local authority disputes, and matters relating to academies. Clients include a host of schools, as well as higher and further education institutions.

Strengths:

"Jane provides very detailed and helpful advice. She is very approachable and responsive."

Zoe Gannon (see p.839) Zoe Gannon is regularly called upon to act for universities, colleges, schools and local authorities in a wide range of education matters. She is experienced in the handling of discrimination cases and judicial review challenges to school decisions.

Strengths:

"Zoe is my go-to for higher education matters. She is clear, concise, technically strong and an all-round pleasure to work with!"

"Zoe is responsive, reliable and good to work with."

Ben Mitchell (see p.894) Ben Mitchell is sought after for his experience handling politically sensitive claims in the sector. He has appeared in judicial review and tribunal proceedings and advises universities and public bodies on education law issues. He has a PhD in the right to education.

Strengths:

"Ben is talented and able to make very strong arguments in court."

"He is excellent with clients."

Matrix Chambers

THE SET

Matrix Chambers houses a deep bench of experienced barristers who are noted for their extensive expertise in education law matters. The set's enviable client base includes several local authorities, the Department of Education and Ofsted, as well as schools, colleges, universities and individual students and parents. Members are regularly called upon to act for and advise on education judicial review challenges and disputes concerning SEN, discrimination, safeguarding, exclusions and school closures. Matrix Chambers represented 38 respondents in *Dr Heal v Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford and Others*, in which the claimant challenged the university's admissions criteria. Barristers at Matrix also successfully defended an application for judicial review regarding the reorganisation of Somerset County Council's school system. An interviewee remarks: "They are an extremely capable set, very able to handle complex and sophisticated matters." Another adds: "They have great counsel with terrific expertise."

Client service:

"The clerks are very responsive and understanding of the needs of the client."

Elizabeth Bousher is the senior practice manager.

SILKS

Helen Mountfield KC Helen Mountfield KC is a pre-eminent education silk who is frequently called upon to advise universities on free speech and equality matters. She is a seasoned authority when it comes to safeguarding and matters concerning faith schools. She has acted in some of the leading education cases in recent times, and education constitutes a key aspect of her renowned public law practice.

Strengths:

"Helen is a prominent, go-to barrister for education matters."

David Wolfe KC David Wolfe KC is a leading light in this market, who has been acting in significant education matters for over 25 years. He specialises in judicial review and frequently advises individuals, education groups and organisations. He is an SEN expert who is very knowledgeable about legal aid and has been involved in some landmark education decisions over the course of his stellar career. He is also experienced in handling cases involving religious education curricula, school reorganisations and admissions policies.

Strengths:

"David has a wonderful way of making the law accessible to clients. He is able to present very complex issues with real clarity."

"David knows the law inside and out. He is amiable and puts people at ease."

Sarah Hannett KC Sarah Hannett KC is noted for her detailed understanding of equality and human rights law. She is adept at handling safeguarding and discrimination matters for education institutions, regulatory bodies and local government.

Strengths:

"Sarah is outstanding. She handles challenging and complicated cases well."

"Sarah is a real specialist."

"Sarah has a tactical sense allowing her to see matters from all sides."

Mathew Purchase KC Mathew Purchase KC is an erudite education specialist with a deep knowledge of judicial review, contract law and school exclusion matters. He also represents a diverse list of clients in complex equality law claims. He has noted experience of handling cases at the intersection between education and employment law.

Strengths:

"Mathew is very approachable and communicative. He is a skilled negotiator."

"He is a diligent barrister."

"Mathew is a brilliant and kind KC."

Daniel Squires KC Daniel Squires KC is a prominent education silk and a member of the A Panel of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. He is highly commended for his knowledge of community care and employment law and has appeared in several important education cases before the Court of Appeal, High Court and SENDIST. He acts for both claimants and defendants and is often instructed by universities and other educational institutions to handle complex work regarding breach of contract and educational negligence. He is also regularly called upon to advise on undertaking internal and independent investigations.

Strengths:

"Daniel is client-friendly and able to communicate complex legal issues very clearly. He thinks outside

the box to find ways to deal with issues.”

“Daniel’s judicial experience means he presents material in an accessible, easy to understand way. He is forensic yet down to earth and a pleasure to work with.”

JUNIORS

Nicholas Armstrong Nicholas Armstrong has a strong reputation in the education sector and routinely counsels schools, colleges and universities on a variety of issues. He is well versed in equality law and cases relating to special educational needs. His education offering regularly focuses on complex matters with crossover into other areas of his broad public law practice (including immigration). He represents clients before tribunals and in civil proceedings.

Strengths:

“Nicholas is a fearless advocate.”

“He handles complex cases with ease. He is at the top of his game.”

“Nicholas is always prompt and accessible. His advice cuts to the nub of a case like a knife through butter.”

Claire Darwin Claire Darwin is an expert in education law, human resources and discrimination matters. She was appointed as a member of the Attorney General’s A Panel in 2017 and is often engaged to advise on professional misconduct issues and judicial review proceedings. She regularly acts for and advises Ofsted, several colleges, universities and individual students, among other clients.

Strengths:

“Claire is a fearsome opponent, arguing with vigour and commitment.”

“Claire provides strong advice that instils a lot of confidence, she clearly puts a lot of thought into her work.”

Raj Desai Raj Desai has good experience in the field of education law and is a sound choice for judicial reviews and SEN appeals. He has received instruction in cases concerning innovative issues of education law, right from the First-tier and Upper Tribunals to the Supreme Court.

Strengths:

“Raj does a good job of untangling the complexities in cases.”

“Raj is articulate and analytical.”

“Raj is extremely intelligent, very thorough, and has an incredible eye for detail.”

Mark Greaves (see p.845) Mark Greaves is noted for his expertise in special educational needs, exclusion and discrimination cases. He has experience pertaining to OFSTED procedures and judicial reviews. Greaves regularly acts for both claimants and defendants, institutions and individuals.

Strengths:

“Mark cuts through all of the noise to focus on the key issues in a clear, concise and user-friendly way.”

“Mark is fantastic – super smart, responsive and very client-friendly.”

Band 2

39 Essex Chambers

THE SET

39 Essex Chambers offers extensive expertise covering a wide range of education matters. The set’s barristers are particularly well regarded for their handling of cases concerning the higher education sector, including challenges to grant decisions

and admissions, and claims involving allegations of discrimination and procedural unfairness. Members have additional expertise in claims for judicial reviews concerning SEN funding and employment claims within the education sector. The team acts on behalf of a enviable roster of clients, including the Secretary of State for Education, higher education institutions, local authorities, schools and parents. 39 Essex acted on both sides of *L v Devon County Council*, involving a question of construction of the SEND Regulations 2014, concerning whether there is a fixed time limit for local authorities to complete annual reviews of education, health and care plans. The set also provided counsel for the Secretary of State for Education in defending a judicial review regarding the lawfulness of the Government’s policy of making full-time child care for 3 and 4-year-olds free for working parents. “39 Essex Chambers are extremely competent and they are able to handle complex legal matters to a very high standard,” notes one interviewee.

Client service:

“Andy Poyser goes above and beyond. He is friendly and exceptionally personable.”

Senior clerk Alastair Davidson head the clerking team.

SILKS

Rory Dunlop KC Rory Dunlop KC is a talented silk with a broad practice that encompasses education, public law and immigration. He frequently appears in High Court appeals by teachers, and he is also experienced in acting for the Secretary of State for the Home Department in judicial review proceedings.

Strengths:

“Rory is really strong on public law matters relating to education.”

Fenella Morris KC Fenella Morris KC is a seasoned local government silk with wide-ranging expertise covering social care and procurement, as well as education law. She is particularly well known for her advocacy skills. Her education practice also covers new educational frameworks, and their regulation and funding. She is also adept at handling claims involving allegations of discrimination or breach of human rights. She further advises on cases with crossover between education and social care.

Strengths:

“Fenella is great with clients and very proficient in advising on complex matters.”

JUNIORS

Steve Broach Star junior Steve Broach is a highly regarded public law barrister who acts for a number of prominent clients in the education sector. Much of his work is concerned with the special educational needs of disabled children, as well as young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. He regularly acts in judicial reviews challenging funding cuts and local authority policies. Broach has expert knowledge of the Children and Families Act 2014, as well as particular expertise regarding the law on school transport and higher education Disabled Student Allowances.

Strengths:

“Steve is smart, excellent in court and a creative advocate.”

“I instruct him on cases I would usually need a KC for. He is exceptional.”

“Steve approaches problems from a fresh perspective.”

“Steve is an extremely capable barrister with a

remarkable grasp of education law.”

Jack Anderson Jack Anderson handles complex and high-value SEN appeals and educational judicial reviews for both claimants and defendants. He often represents the Department for Education, Ofsted and schools, and has extensive experience before the Administrative Court and Upper Tribunal. He also receives instruction regarding private law contractual claims against further education colleges and universities. Anderson’s practice also includes advising local authorities on strategy relevant to the provision of education.

Strengths:

“Jack is a very good public lawyer with a long-standing, deep knowledge of education.”

“He is a pragmatic barrister.”

Anna Bicarregui Anna Bicarregui has an impressive public law practice and specialises in education law. She is instructed on SEN cases, often acting for local authorities.

Strengths:

“Anna always gives clear, well thought-out advice and her drafting is excellent.”

“Anna is excellent. She is extremely clever, drafts beautifully and gives practical advice.”

“Anna is incredibly professional, calm and efficient. She is able to see through the bluff and bluster and focus on the key issues at hand.”

Katherine Apps Katherine Apps possesses significant expertise in cases involving equality issues and university governance. She acts for a broad range of clients including several schools, universities and colleges and the Department for Education. She also sits on the Attorney General’s A Panel of counsel.

Strengths:

“Katherine is an excellent junior.”

Katherine Barnes Katherine Barnes is a public law barrister with a substantial practice in education law. She regularly appears before the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal in SEN appeals and claims for judicial review.

Strengths:

“She was alert to the issues, provided advice timely and was proactive in doing so.”

“Katherine is very sound in her judgement.”

“Katherine has developed a strong practice with a real specialism in children’s rights.”

Jennifer Thelen Jennifer Thelen is considered a solid option for those seeking counsel on SEN proceedings, discrimination claims, or school exclusion disputes. She is also sought out for higher education matters involving contract law. She regularly appears before the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal. She is regularly instructed by both central and local government, and is a member of the Attorney General’s B Panel of counsel.

Strengths:

“Jennifer provides excellent advice on complex matters. She is approachable and very practical in her advice which is always appreciated by clients.”

“Jennifer is very pragmatic.”

Band 3

Landmark Chambers

THE SET

The barristers at Landmark Chambers are regularly called upon to act for and advise on a wide range of education matters. Areas of strength for the team include discrimination claims, school closures and safeguarding issues. Members are also well regarded

for their expertise in advisory work concerning children with special educational needs, and have significant experience of appearing in SEN hearings. The set's client base includes several further education institutions, academies and universities, as well as local authorities, government organisations and individual parents. Members at Landmark acted for the Secretary of State in defending a challenge to the decision to refuse student finance to two students who had pending indefinite leave to remain applications at the time at which applications were assessed. An interviewee remarked: "Barristers at Landmark are clear and concise. They are also knowledgeable and personable."

Client service:

"The clerks are prompt, responsive and very helpful." Ben Connor is the practice director for the public law team.

SILKS

Fiona Scolding KC Fiona Scolding KC maintains an excellent standing at the Education Bar and has over two decades of experience in education and public law. She is particularly adept at cases involving discrimination, and is also an expert at community care and Court of Protection work. She is regularly instructed in cases involving children with special educational needs.

Strengths:

"Fiona has a huge amount of experience and can provide reliable and practical advice to clients. She is a good problem solver."

"Fiona has good knowledge of intersecting areas of law around education."

Galina Ward KC Galina Ward KC is an expert in SEN matters with 20 years' experience at the Bar. She routinely acts for individuals, schools and local authorities in complex education cases and judicial reviews.

Strengths:

"She is an impressive barrister. Galina offers a very thorough analysis of the legal principles."

"Galina is good on the detail and clearly knowledgeable in the area of education."

JUNIORS

Leon Glenister Leon Glenister is a reputable practitioner with notable expertise in education as part of a broad public law offering. He represents students, parents, universities and the authorities with equal regularity, as part of a practice that takes in significant SENDIST work, policy advice and a number of prominent judicial reviews.

Strengths:

"Leon is extremely knowledgeable and achieves fantastic results."

"Leon is fantastic to work with. He is really clear and to the point with a lovely manner with clients and experts."

3PB Barristers

THE SET

3PB Barristers is a well-regarded set with an impressive offering 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. 3PB acted for the claimant in Raquel Rosario Sanchez v Bristol University in which negligence and discrimination claims were brought against the university for failure to protect against bullying. One interviewee remarked that "the set exhibits very strong knowledge and experience in education work."

Client service:

"Chris Mitchell and Gemma Faulkner are very responsive and will always assist with queries."

"The clerks are phenomenal and provide a fantastic level of service and support."

Chris Mitchell directs practice management at the set and is ably assisted by Tom Cox and Gemma Faulkner for education work.

JUNIORS

Charlotte Hadfield (see p.847) Charlotte Hadfield is head of the education team and 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.

Strengths:

"The support Charlotte provides is invaluable. Her responsiveness in time-pressured situations is vital."

"Charlotte has a remarkable ability to speedily get to the heart of the issue with confidence."

"Charlotte achieves excellent results whilst maintaining a reassuring presence for clients."

Alice de Coverley (see p.825) 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.

Strengths:

"Alice is a highly astute and competent advocate with a razor-sharp legal mind."

"Alice is excellent at identifying the key issues and presenting the evidence in the most persuasive way."

John Friel (see p.839) John Friel is an experienced and impressive barrister 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.

Strengths:

"You want John in your corner on complex cases."

"John is an expert in education law."

"John's quality of work, insight and advocacy will come as no surprise to anyone who has worked with or against him."

Jennifer Agyekum (see p.782) Jennifer Agyekum is noted for her SEN and discrimination expertise. She acts for individuals as well as schools, universities and local authorities in tribunal proceedings.

Strengths:

"Jennifer is a rising star and a force to be reckoned with."

Emma Waldron (see p.946) 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.

Strengths:

"Emma is an extremely kind, caring and compassionate barrister, providing very thorough and detailed counsel."

"Emma is a gifted and persuasive advocate who is able to get to the heart of the matter."

"Emma is extremely calm and able to work on very complex, emotive work. She is incredibly bright and collaborative."

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.

Strengths:

"Lachlan is a charming and persuasive advocate."

"Lachlan is extremely likable with expert advocacy and good judgement."

"Lachlan brings a calm and level-headed approach."

Matthew Wyard (see p.957) 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.

Strengths:

"Matthew works tirelessly for his clients and puts up quite a performance within the special needs tribunals."

"Matthew is capable of dealing with complex matters at a rapid pace."

"He is an outstanding advocate with a fantastic grasp of complex, factual cases and a thorough and detailed knowledge of the legal framework. His client care is exemplary."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Shazia Akhtar (Gatehouse Chambers) Shazia Akhtar has a wide-ranging education practice, fielding particular strength in SEN and school governance matters, as well as academy conversions and challenges to Ofsted inspections. She is also regularly called upon to advise universities on their responsibilities under the Equality Act. Her diverse client base also includes students, schools, NGOs and charitable organisations.

Strengths:

"Shazia is a very persuasive advocate."

"Shazia is well prepared and very personable."

"Shazia's advocacy skills are outstanding. She always manages to get to the heart of the case."

Nicholas Bowen KC (Doughty Street Chambers) Nicholas Bowen KC represents a range of clients, including parents with disabled children, in fraught education disputes with local authorities. He also has significant expertise in community care and Court of Protection work. He is the head of the education law team at the chambers.

Strengths:

"Nicholas is a brilliant lawyer with tremendous intellect."

"He is a very impressive barrister."

Laith Dilaimi (see p.827) (Old Square Chambers) Laith Dilaimi is a specialist in cases involving SEN and disability discrimination. He is regularly instructed to act on behalf of parents and young people in a variety of proceedings, and has experience appearing in cases before the Upper Tribunal.

Strengths:

"Laith has a lovely, measured advocacy style that is highly effective."

"Laith is a delight to work with. He is extremely erudite, unflappable and very responsive. He is brilliant with clients and instils a sense of confidence and trust."

"Laith has a lovely manner with clients. He is very reasonable, fully engaged and fights hard for his clients."

Deborah Hay (Deborah Hay) Deborah Hay is a sole practitioner who continues to impress with her outstanding knowledge of education law, and who has represented an array of clients in highly contentious court and tribunal matters.

Strengths:

"Deborah is very experienced in SEN tribunals."

Alice Irving (Doughty Street Chambers) Up-and-coming junior Alice Irving is noted for her specialism in education law. She appears in the First-tier and Upper Tribunal in education, health and care plan appeals and disability discrimination cases. Irving often acts for parents bringing challenges against local authorities.

Strengths:

"Alice is turbo-powered. She is doing cases above her call year."

"She is an exceptionally strong advocate. When you instruct Alice you know you are in safe hands."

"Alice is pretty phenomenal. She has a lovely manner with clients."

David Lawson (Serjeants' Inn Chambers) David Lawson undertakes a great deal of judicial review work involving schools, higher education institutions and local authorities. He has significant expertise in cases concerning SEN provision. His varied client list includes individual parents and students, national regulators and local authorities.

Strengths:

"David is outstanding. He is careful in his approach, thinks very deeply about his cases and finds novel legal points."

"David has an outstanding critical mind with an excellent eye for detail in education and public law."

Alex Line (Outer Temple Chambers) Alex Line has

great experience across the spectrum of education work, including SEN matters, internal hearings in schools and universities, admissions and exclusions, and civil claims involving academic institutions. His clients include parents, local authorities, students and educational institutions.

Strengths:

"Alex is a very safe pair of hands. His knowledge of education law is excellent and he provides inventive solutions to difficult situations."

"Alex provides pragmatic and clear advice."

Shu Shin Luh (Doughty Street Chambers) Shu Shin Luh is a highly regarded education and community care junior with a strong background in advising vulnerable clients and in counselling parents in relation to complex equality claims. She is active in testing the limits of local authorities' education funding duties towards children and young adults under their care. Her clients also include several non-governmental organisations.

Strengths:

"Shu Shin is devastatingly effective."

"She works collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes which lead to real change."

"Shu Shun is extremely hard-working and creative. She is brilliant."

Gráinne Mellon (Garden Court Chambers) Gráinne Mellon has established an excellent education and community care law practice. She has experience appearing in the SEND Tribunal, Court of Appeal and High Court, where she has brought claims under the Human Rights Act and worked on cases relating to access to student finance. She is regularly instructed by parents and students in cases against local authorities and central government.

Strengths:

"Gráinne is very diligent and tenacious, with broad expertise in relation to education, immigration and community care."

"She resolves matters efficiently with a very conciliatory approach."

Clive Rawlings (Doughty Street Chambers) Clive Rawlings represents a range of clients in complex education cases including those concerning pri-

vate individuals, educational institutions and local authorities. He frequently appears in cases before the Court of Appeal, Administrative Court and First-tier Tribunal. He has played a crucial role in cases relating to education, health and care Plans for pupils and young persons.

Strengths:

"Clive is good on his feet and very client-friendly."

Anna Tkaczynska (Serjeants' Inn Chambers) Anna Tkaczynska has strong skills in education law and also extensive expertise in housing, the Court of Protection and local government law. She predominantly acts for individuals and schools. She also regularly provides training to both schools and local authorities on exclusions, SEN provision and discrimination.

Strengths:

"Anna is always prepared."

"She is a fantastic advocate."

Amelia Walker (1 Crown Office Row) Amelia Walker maintains an excellent reputation in the market for her work across the fields of education, local government and regulatory law. She acts in a broad range of school-related matters, appearing in public expenditure and SEN cases.

Strengths:

"Amelia provides incredibly helpful viewpoints on complex cases."

Ian Wise KC (Monckton Chambers) Ian Wise KC has an active appellate practice and handles a wide range of important education, public law and human rights matters. He is routinely instructed by national charities and has strong knowledge of equality law. His advice is regularly sought in connection with the Children and Families Act 2014, and he has been instructed on a number of cases relating to its provisions.

Strengths:

"Ian is known for the human rights challenges he brings."

"Ian has a strong reputation."