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Abla O'Callaghan

Called: 2011

Practice Overview

Abla has a busy mixed practice with a focus on Public Law, Family and Civil Law. Her Public Law practice is rapidly developing particularly in the areas of Education, Court of Protection and Immigration.

In the field of Education Law, Abla has advised and represented both local authorities and parents in the Special Education Needs Tribunal and has experience of attending Court both in Wales and in England. Abla has experience in and is happy to assist in the drafting of Case Statements, Advices, and Appeal Grounds. Her experience also extends to exclusions, admissions, and further/higher education matters. Abla regularly provides presentations and training to organisations and authorities in this field.

As part of her Court of Protection practice, Abla has attended Court both in relation to welfare and financial issues. Abla was seconded with the NHS in 2018 where she advised and attended court on a range of Court of Protection matters. She has also attended Court in relation to Mental Health cases and is happy to accept instructions in this area.

As part of her Immigration practice she has advised and represented clients in both the First Tier and Upper Tier Tribunals across the UK. She accepts instructions in relation to drafting advices and appeal grounds.

Abla also has experience of cases related to the Social Security Tribunal and has attended Court and drafted advices and appeal grounds in this area.

In Civil matters Abla has represented clients in relation to quantum hearings, small claims, fast-track and multi-track cases. She also has experience in the area of debt recovery.

Her family practice mainly comprises of representing clients in relation to residence and contact disputes and she accepts instructions from the first hearing up until the final hearing.

Prior to commencing pupillage at 30 Park Place, Abla gained three years experience in the Public Law sphere in London. This included the areas of Education law, Court of Protection, and Procurement as part of her role as an assistant to a senior Public Law barrister and as an Advocate for a specialist Education Law firm. During this time she also represented clients and drafted appeal grounds and advices in relation to Special Education Needs hearings, University Appeals, and participated in alternative dispute resolution.

Abla is also fluent in Arabic which has assisted in cases which involve interpretation for clients who speak the language.

Notable and Reported cases



Publications and Presentations

- **January 2019:** Individual Development Plans and the Code - Welsh Education Law Conference 5
- **December 2018**
: A Practitioner's Guide: Basic Legal Principles: Ruth Henke QC, Laura Shepherd and Abla O'Callaghan – Publication {Guide in relation to the law relating to safeguarding practice in Wales}
- **November 2018:** Education Law – Case Management and Practical Considerations Presentation for Local Authorities
- **January 2018**
: Issues/Duties for Health Authorities arising from the Act - Welsh Education Law Conference 4
- **October 2017:** Information sharing between Childcare and Immigration Proceedings – Welsh Public Law Conference
- **September 2017:** Capacity – The Legal Test – Court of Protection Conference
- **October 2015:** “An Overview of the Legal Relationship between a Student and a University” Publication, Cardiff & District Law Society
- **February 2015:** “Understanding the New School Admissions and Appeals Processes” Presentation for Local Authorities
- **February 2015:** Exclusions Training Seminar for Individual Review Panel Members
- **July 2014:** “End “unofficial exclusions”” Publication, SEN Magazine
- **February 2014:** “Education law update - when is pursuing a contractual claim an abuse process in higher education” Publication, Solicitors Law Journal
- **February 2014:**
“The Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013: What will it do?” Publication, Hardwicke Chambers
- **November 2013:** “Student Litigation – Choosing the Right Words” Publication, Hardwicke Newsletter

Appointments

- **2021** - Welsh Government Panel of Approved Junior Counsel B
- **2013 – 2015:** Free Representation Unit, Employment Law Representative
- **2013 - 2015:** IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice), Advisor and Tribunal Officer
- **2012/13:** Waging Peace, London, Researcher and Translator
- **2009/10:** Citizens Advice Bureau, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
- **2008:** Arts Alliance Pro Bono Scheme, Vancouver, Canada

Education



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- **2011 – 2012:** University College London – International Commercial Law (LLM)
 - **2010 – 2011:** College of Law London – BPTC
 - **2007 – 2010:** University of Keele/ University of British Columbia – LLB- (1st Class Honours)

Awards

- **2012:** University College London - Winners National Round Telders Mooting Competition
Finalists International Round Hague
Winners of Best Applicant Memorial
- **2010:** University of Keele - Best Performance Awards in Public law, EU Law, Contract Law, and Land Law