Clara Zang

Year of Call: 2012



Practice Summary

Clara accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' practice and has particular expertise in the areas of Property, Local Government and Public Law.

Clara read Law at the University of Oxford (Pembroke College) and was awarded the Middle Temple Harmsworth (Major) for the BPTC. After completing the BPTC, Clara worked in the litigation department of a leading international law firm in Toronto through the Middle Temple Harold G Fox Scholarship, where she gained exposure to a range of commercial disputes, arbitrations and large-scale class actions. The scholarship included a one-month placement at the Ontario Court of Appeal as a judicial assistant.

Clara has a particular interest in public law and human rights, having gained a wealth of experience in these areas during her time at the Government Legal Service. At HMRC she conducted Human Rights Act analyses of new Finance Bill measures, provided legal advice on the department's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty, and dealt with discrimination claims made against the government by members of the public.

Clara is frequently instructed in matters involving public law and human rights issues, including judicial review, discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector equality duty.

Clara was instructed as junior counsel for the Claimant in the case of *Birmingham City Council v Afsar and Others [2019] EWHC 3217 (QB)* and obtained injunctions against protesters who opposed the content of equality teaching at a primary school. The case considered the following competing rights under the ECHR: freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, right to respect for private and family life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to an education.

Clara's experience at the Government Legal Service provides her with a strong government background. She has dealt with a range of matters in a government context, including functions and powers, government policy, state aid, the four freedoms of the EU, and judicial review. She has

also advised the government on information disclosure in cases involving government data sharing, trusts, domestic court orders and cross-border enforcement of foreign judgments.

Clara undertook a secondment in the housing department of a large local authority and continues to advise and represent local authorities in matters involving housing, benefits and anti-social behaviour.

Clara acted as junior counsel for the Applicant in the Upper Tribunal (Administrative Appeals Chamber) in the case of *Licensees of Ashley Community Housing v Bristol City Council.*

Clara represents both claimants and defendants in all areas of housing law. She acts for both tenants and public bodies in judicial reviews and statutory appeals in matters concerning homelessness and the allocation of social housing. Clara has also acted in housing benefit appeals and regularly represents clients in matters concerning selective licensing, houses in multiple occupation (HMO), rent repayment orders (RRO), and statutory nuisance.

Clara accepts instructions from both social and private landlord and tenants in all matters relating to commercial and residential property. She is frequently instructed in possession claims involving residential tenancies, forfeiture, orders for sale, deposit claims, trusts and guardianship. She also represents leaseholders and freeholders in service charge disputes, enfranchisement, adverse possession, and party walls and boundary disputes.

Clara has dealt with the transfer of freehold and leasehold properties, easements, and constructive and resulting trusts in the context of relationship breakdowns and probate. Clara has also advised in matters involving suspected property fraud and rectification and indemnity applications to the Land Registry.

Clara accepts instructions in all areas of regulatory law relating to chambers' core practice areas. Clara has represented clients in the General Regulatory Chamber tribunal and appears on behalf of landlords, local authorities, and property management companies in regulatory prosecutions.

Clara's practice covers all aspects of anti-social behaviour under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Clara undertook a secondment at a large local authority where she regularly dealt with anti-social behaviour and gang injunctions, committal applications, public law defences, discrimination, and legal capacity issues. Clara also has experience of dealing with closure orders and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO).

Clara accepts instructions in all areas of education law, including special educational needs (SEN) challenges and school admission and exclusion appeals.

Clara is qualified to accept instructions through the Public Access scheme.

Appointments

- Deputy District Judge (2021)

Areas of Expertise

- Administrative Public Law

- Human Rights Equalities
- Commercial
- Elections
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Local Government
- Planning Environment