

Grace Agunbiade

Year of Call: 2023



Practice Summary

Grace has a busy public law practice which spans a range of Chambers' core areas of expertise.

Grace is regularly instructed by public bodies, individuals, charities and housing providers in Social Housing, Homelessness, Court of Protection and Education Law matters.

She also appears for local authorities and police forces in civil applications relating to anti-social behaviour and sexual violence such as ASB Injunctions, Closure Orders, Stalking Protection Orders and Sexual Risk Orders.

She is particularly interested cases which involve Mental Capacity and Equality Act issues.

Grace is keen to expand her practice to include inquests, investigations and the regulation of medical and public sector professions.

Grace is also trained in civil and commercial, workplace and community mediation. She is also an expert adult facilitator who can design and deliver training sessions across both legal and strategic topics.

Outside of work, Grace enjoys modern art, modernist architecture, Pilates and participating in triathlons. She is on the board of two charities, volunteers at a gallery and is passionate about increasing access to the outdoors.

Civil Remedies for anti-social behaviour and sexual harm

Grace regularly acts for police forces and local authorities in civil applications for:

Closure Orders

Anti-social behaviour Injunctions

Sexual Risk Orders

Sexual Harm Prevention Orders

Stalking Protection Orders

Recent cases include:

Successfully applying for a final stalking protection order against an individual accused of assault and stalking of his ex-partner and their children.

Securing a sexual risk order against an individual accused of raping and sexual abuse of escorts and sex workers.

Securing a five-year sexual risk order against an individual under investigation for offences including the making and distribution of indecent images of children, sexual exploitation of children and sharing and threatening to share intimate photographs.

Securing an extension of a closure order of the communal areas and multiple properties within a block of flats known to be a hotspot for drugs and related anti-social behaviour.

Homelessness, Social Housing and Property Law

Grace has a busy housing and homelessness practice and accepts instructions across a wide range of matters including:

Possession proceedings

Anti-social behaviour/access injunctions

Homelessness decisions including advising on and appearing in s.204 appeals and judicial reviews

She is particularly interested in cases which include discrimination and capacity issues.

Grace has also been instructed to appear in the First Tier Tribunal Property Chamber (Residential) on service charge disputes.

Recent cases include

Education Law

Prior to retraining as a barrister, Grace had a successful 15-year career in the education sector. After qualifying as a science teacher on the prestigious Teach First programme, Grace went on to lead several high-profile teacher training and CPD programmes, building relationships with schools and universities across the country. She has experience in leading teams, policy development and government contract management, having held a number of senior roles.

Beyond work she has been a school governor and is currently a trustee of The Economist Educational Foundation and NASBTT.

Grace brings her experience from the education sector to the Bar and is able to pragmatic advice and provide representation in range of matters including:

SEND challenges

School exclusion appeals

School performance and improvement

She is keen to develop her practice in education related Equality Act claims, teacher regulation, and education employment law matters, having previous supported schools, training providers and trainee teachers in disputes relating to capability, pay, reasonable adjustments and discrimination.

Recent Experience includes:

Grace successfully represented a young person and their parents in an appeal of a Local Authority's decision to name a general FE college in Section I of the young person's EHCP. Grace appeared pro bono instructed by Advocate and working in conjunction with Akin Gump (via Pro Bono Connect), was able to ensure the young person's preferred independent special school was named within her plan.

Grace is currently assisting in providing advice to a local authority on exercising their powers in relation to schools eligible for intervention.

Court of Protection

Grace is regularly instructed to appear in the Court of Protection across a range of matters including:

Challenges to DOLS

Best Interests decisions

Grace's expertise in Housing law is particularly useful in cases which involve decisions about residence.

Professional Discipline and Regulation

Grace accepts instructions in Professional Regulation and Disciplinary Matters. She is particularly keen to build her practice in the regulation of medical and public sector professions.

Grace has been instructed as Case Presenter for the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Recent experience includes securing interim orders in the following cases:

NMC v Limas

NMC v Egbendip

NMC v Hudson

NMC v Margallo

NMC v Miller

Mediation

Grace completed her Civil and Commercial Mediation training with ADR Group in 2023. Since then, she has completed her Workplace Mediation conversion with Essential Mediation Solutions and her Community/Neighbour Mediation conversion with Calm Mediation.

Grace is currently working towards becoming accredited with the Civil Mediation Council and has completed her induction to begin volunteering as a pro bono mediator with Calm.

Prior to coming to the bar in 2024, Grace worked as a senior leader in the education charity sector for over 16 years. During this time, she was regularly involved in contract negotiations and informally mediating between schools, universities, and trainee teachers.

She is also a trained coach and expert adult training facilitator. She draws on these skills within her mediation practice.

Data Protection

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Grace Agunbiade is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association
 - Human Rights Lawyers' Association
 - Education Law Association
 - Housing Law Practitioners' Association
 - Social Housing Law Association
 - Neurodiversity in Law
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Education

- Bar Vocational Studies (Distinction), City University
 - Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), City University
 - MBA Education (Distinction), Keele University
 - Qualified Teacher Status, Canterbury Christ Church University
 - MChem Chemistry, University of Oxford
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Scholarships

- City Law School Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Lord Denning Scholarship, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Areas of Expertise

- Housing
- Homelessness
- Adult Social Care
- Local Government
- Administrative Public Law
- Professional Discipline And Regulatory
- Mediation