

Isabella Taylor

Year of Call: 2024

Practice Summary

Isabella has a wide-ranging practice, with expertise in public, property, planning and housing law. Alongside her varied public law practice, Isabella is instructed on an array of civil litigation disputes, both in interlocutory hearings and trials. She is regularly instructed beyond her year of call and is direct access qualified.

Property, Housing and Homelessness

Isabella's housing law expertise is underpinned by acting for both Claimants and Defendants, including local authorities, housing associations, private landlords, and tenants. Isabella represents her clients in all stages of possession proceedings (drafting and advocacy) and acts on both a privately and publicly funded basis. Isabella has acted in High Court and County Court proceedings.

Isabella specialises in:

· The Equality Act 2010 and public law defences,

· Social housing succession, concurrent tenancies, and minor succession, and

· Anti-social behaviour, beyond regularly dealing with ASB grounds of possession, she has been instructed on multiple committal applications for contempt arising out of breaches of injunctions and possession proceedings.

Homelessness work forms a key part of Isabella's practice, acting in section 204 appeals and judicial review. Isabella has been instructed to advise and draft multiple judicial review claims concerning alleged breaches of a local authority's homelessness duties. Additionally, Isabella ran a detailed training session for a local authority on the Housing Act 1996.

Isabella's property law practice involves representing her clients at hearings, drafting pleadings, and advising on matters such as:

· Claims pursuant Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996,

· Leasehold disputes in a private context,

· Anti-social behaviour and the interplay between a local authority's leaseholder obligations to their freeholders and concurrent public law duties to vulnerable social housing tenants,

· Relief against forfeiture under section 146 Law of Property Act 1925, and

· Service charge disputes.

Public and Planning Law

Isabella is regularly instructed on a broad range of local government matters, including anti-social behaviour injunctions, closure orders, community protection notices, data protection disputes and planning enforcement breaches. She previously worked as in-house counsel on secondment at a local authority in their civil litigation team.

Isabella has been instructed on a planning inquiry and in multiple planning enforcement trials. Isabella is currently instructed on a High Court judicial review case pertaining to planning law and legislation from the 19th Century, led by Timothy Straker KC (Joint Head of Chambers). She has also advised on the risk of injunctive action in relation to right to light easements and the operation of section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Isabella contributed to the Planning and Environment Bar Association's (PEBA) working group responding to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's latest consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2026.

Equality Law and Human Rights

Isabella specialises in human rights law and the Equality Act 2010 as it intersects with her public law and property practice set out above. Isabella continues to act pro bono for Advocate applicants. Isabella has also volunteered with The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law (where she was awarded volunteer of the year), Rights of Women, St Mungo's and Amicus ALJ. She was the President of the Cambridge University Human Rights Law Society during her legal studies and remains committed to access to justice.

Additionally, Isabella regularly acts in civil applications in the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court which directly engage the European Convention of Human Rights. Isabella has successfully made applications for Stalking Protection Orders, Sexual Risk Orders, and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, as well as acting in appeals against such orders in the Crown Court. She thoroughly enjoys the procedural nuances of civil applications in the criminal courts and is available to advise and provide training on this species of civil order.

Education

- University of Cambridge (Queens' College): Law BA (Hons) 2:1, MA (Cantab)

- City Law School: Master of Laws, Bar Vocational Studies (with specialism in Advanced Civil Practice) Distinction

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Memberships

- The Honourable Society of Gray’s Inn
- ALBA (Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association)
- PEBA (Planning and Environmental Bar Association)
- HRLA (Human Rights Lawyers Association)
- HLPA (Housing Law Practitioner’s Association)
- SHLA (Social Housing Law Association)

Areas of Expertise

- Administrative Public Law
- Human Rights Equalities
- Local Government
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Property
- Planning Environment