

Selena Jones

Year of Call: 2011

Practice Summary

Selena accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' practice and has a particular interest in Property, Local Government and Public Law. Selena previously practised at a leading set of chambers which specialises in Criminal Law, where she gained significant experience of conducting trials both defending and prosecuting in the Youth Court, Magistrates' Court and Crown Court. This experience compliments Selena's Housing and Property practice and makes her the perfect choice for cases involving criminal offences which relate to social housing properties. She is highly valued by lay and professional clients and is renowned for her "*fearless approach to defence*" and has been commended for her written and oral advocacy by those who instruct her. Selena has been commended by judges as an advocate with "*ability, knowledge, principled confidence and strong ethics together with a thoroughly pleasant and highly persuasive manner*". She is recognised for her skilful handling of cases involving vulnerable defendants and is described as having a "*wonderful aura which makes clients feel at ease*". Selena has appeared in contested confiscation hearings some of which have included the consideration of Unlawful Profit Orders. Notable cases are listed below.

Prior to pupillage, Selena was an accomplished Senior Fraud Investigator. Selena successfully led a project which was funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in respect of offences relating to Social Housing properties committed by Serious Organised Criminal Networks. A notable case was selected by the BBC; Selena worked as the lead investigator on behalf of two local authorities and the Department for Work and Pensions concerning an individual who used multiple identities to perpetuate a large-scale fraud which was valued at £314,126.77. The individual unlawfully sublet two local authority properties and dishonestly claimed Single Persons discounts and Housing Benefit. The BBC re-enacted the case and featured it in a documentary. Selena received commendation and praise from the BBC on leading "an excellent investigation.". Selena gained a wealth of experience in diverse, complex and serious fraud cases, during which she developed expertise in the prosecution of offences relating to Housing Law; an insight which has proved invaluable in her practice.

Selena also worked for 8 years as a Housing Officer where she gained extensive experience in all aspects of landlord and tenant law; homelessness, allocations, nuisance, leasehold management, disrepair, unlawful eviction, possession proceedings, family home rights and succession. She has worked as a Housing Paralegal where she undertook legal research, drafted pleadings, assisted in the preparation of defences, prepared bundles for trial and attended court; an Appropriate Adult, which provided her with frequent experience of interacting with youths and vulnerable adults; an Advisor with a Law Centre, a FRU Representative and a McKenzie Friend with the National Centre of Domestic Violence where she represented sufferers of domestic violence in the County Courts. Selena has also worked on the disclosure review relating to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Employment Law

Selena Jones is a barrister at 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square with a broad litigation and advocacy practice, bringing substantial experience in investigations, public law, regulatory matters, fraud and complex disputes. She is particularly well suited to employment matters where employment issues intersect with disciplinary proceedings, workplace investigations, professional regulation, public bodies, fraud or allegations of misconduct.

Called to the Bar in 2011, Selena has developed extensive experience representing individuals, organisations and public bodies in contentious matters. Her background as a Senior Fraud Investigator, together with her experience in criminal litigation and public-sector housing, gives her a distinctive perspective when dealing with complex factual disputes, investigations and allegations of wrongdoing.

Employment Law Experience

Selena can assist with a range of employment-related disputes and advisory matters, particularly those involving complex factual or regulatory issues.

Her experience is relevant to matters including:

- Disciplinary and grievance proceedings
- Workplace investigations and allegations of misconduct
- Whistleblowing and protected disclosures
- Discrimination and equality issues
- Unfair and wrongful dismissal
- Employment contractual disputes
- Restrictive covenants and confidentiality issues
- Workplace fraud and dishonesty allegations
- Professional discipline and regulatory proceedings
- Employment issues involving public authorities and local government

- Investigations involving senior employees and professionals
- Disputes involving vulnerable individuals or sensitive circumstances

Selena's wider practice includes Administrative & Public Law, Business Crime, Civil Liberties & Human Rights, Investigations & Resolutions, Professional Discipline & Regulatory and Property. This breadth can be particularly valuable where an employment dispute overlaps with regulatory, criminal, public-law or governance issues.

Investigations & Workplace Disputes

Selena's previous career as a Senior Fraud Investigator provides her with considerable experience of investigating complex allegations and analysing substantial factual evidence. She successfully led a major investigation concerning fraud involving social housing properties and serious organised criminal networks, working on behalf of local authorities and the Department for Work and Pensions.

This investigative background enables Selena to approach contentious employment matters with a strong understanding of evidence, credibility, documentation and the practical challenges involved in establishing what actually occurred.

She is experienced in cases involving allegations of fraud, dishonesty and other misconduct, making her well placed to advise employers and individuals where employment proceedings may have significant professional, regulatory or reputational consequences.

Advocacy

Selena is an experienced advocate who has appeared in the Youth Court, Magistrates' Court and Crown Court, as well as handling contested hearings and complex litigation.

She has been commended for her written and oral advocacy and has been described by judges as demonstrating “ability, knowledge, principled confidence and strong ethics” together with a persuasive manner. She is also recognised for her ability to handle cases involving vulnerable individuals with sensitivity and confidence.

Her advocacy experience can be particularly valuable where an employment dispute proceeds to a contested hearing or involves difficult factual evidence, competing accounts or allegations of misconduct.

A Practical and Strategic Approach

Selena combines legal analysis with substantial practical experience gained before becoming a barrister. Prior to pupillage, she worked as a Senior Fraud Investigator and spent eight years as a Housing Officer. She has also worked as a Housing Paralegal, Law Centre Adviser and FRU Representative.

This breadth of experience gives Selena an unusually practical understanding of how disputes develop and how organisations, employees, investigators and decision-makers operate in real-world situations.

She is known for her fearless approach to advocacy while maintaining a calm and approachable manner with clients.

Why Instruct Selena?

Selena offers:

- Strong advocacy and litigation experience
- Extensive experience of investigations and evidence-heavy disputes
- A background in fraud investigation and complex misconduct matters
- Experience in public-sector and local-government environments
- Expertise in regulatory and professional disciplinary proceedings
- Experience representing vulnerable clients
- A practical understanding of complex factual disputes
- A confident, principled and persuasive approach to advocacy

Selena is particularly well suited to employment disputes where the issues extend beyond a conventional workplace claim and involve investigations, misconduct, fraud, professional regulation, public law or other complex legal issues.

Instruct Selena Jones

To discuss instructing Selena Jones in an employment, investigation, disciplinary, regulatory or related dispute, please contact the clerks at 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square.

Notable Cases

- R v JB – Kingston Crown CourtSuccessfully secured an acquittal on all counts for a client who was charged with four Counts of fraud and one Count of Possession of Articles for use in Fraud.
- R v OD – Bromley Magistrates’ CourtSuccessfully represented a client who was accused of making false representations to the Department of Work and Pensions. The case was dismissed.
- R v DA – Harrow Crown CourtRepresented DA for a committal to the Crown Court for sentence. DA was charged with dishonestly failing to disclose information, which she was under a legal duty to disclose, namely subletting a social housing property and failing to reside at the property as her only or principal home for over 6 years. DA was sentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order.
- R v GE – Guildford Crown Court Represented GE who was accused of failing to notify a change in circumstances to obtain Housing Benefit by failing to disclose an increase in his income.

R v VT - Kingston Crown CourtSuccessfully prosecuted a case concerning VT's failure to disclose a change in circumstances, namely spending long periods of time abroad.

R v DM and AM - Croydon Crown CourtSuccessfully prosecuted two Defendants who were jointly charged on a 13 Count indictment with Frauds which were perpetrated against Her Majesty's Passport Office, the Department of Work and Pensions and the DVLA

Proceeds of Crime Act offences

R v MA – Confiscation Hearing– Harrow Crown Court 2018Defended MA of confiscation order sought by local Authority to recover benefit gained from MA subletting her social housing property.

R v AD – Confiscation Hearing – Inner London Crown CourtProsecuted confiscation proceedings relating to benefit fraud resulting from AD’s failure to disclose a change in her circumstances.

R v RG others – Confiscation Hearing - Swindon Crown CourtSecured a nominal amount in a confiscation order made in respect of a case relating to being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.

Appointments

- • Attorney General’s Junior Juniors scheme
- • CPS Advocates Panel General Crime (Level 2)
- • Appointed as a Justice of the Peace (2010)
- •Serious Fraud Office's Prosecution C Panel.
- •Serious Fraud Office's Proceeds of Crime International Assistance C Panel.

Areas of Expertise

- Administrative Public Law
- Business Crime
- Human Rights Equalities
- Employment
- Inquiries And Inquests
- Investigations And Resolutions
- Professional Discipline And Regulatory