



Siân McGibbon

Year of call: 2017

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Practice Summary

Siân joined 4-5 Gray's Inn in October 2018 and is building a practice in all of Chambers' core specialisms, with a particular focus on public and administrative law. She is direct access qualified and welcomes instructions on this basis across all her practice areas in appropriate cases.

Prior to coming to the Bar Siân worked with consultancy Metro Dynamics on a wide range of local and national governance issues, with a particular interest in the restructuring of local government and devolution of power. She also worked for the Ministry of Justice as judicial assistant to Lord Justice Hamblen (as he then was) in the Court of Appeal, where she was exposed to a judicial perspective on the Court's day to day work and proceedings.

Public & Administrative

Siân has a growing specialism in public and administrative law; she is regularly involved in judicial review challenges brought against both central and local government, and in private law claims with a public law element. She acts for authorities as well as for a wide array private parties including charities, businesses, and individuals. As a pupil she worked with supervisors Toby Vanhegan and Annette Cafferkey on several of the leading cases on the application of the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (*Forward v Aldwyck Housing Group Ltd* [2019] EWHC 24 (QB), *London and Quadrant v Patrick* [2019] EWHC Civ 1263 (QB), and *Powell v Dacorum BC* [2019] EWCA Civ 29). She was also involved in the high profile judicial review challenge to the 'right to rent' scheme (*R (Goloshvili) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2019] EWHC 1263).

Siân is a member of the Attorney General's Junior Panel and has been seconded in house at a major local authority, so has experience of the practical pressures and issues which face local government and the solicitors who act for them.

Siân also has a strong interest in the academic aspects of public law and regularly publishes articles commenting on current issues; most recently she has been awarded the Michael Beloff Essay Prize for her contribution on the subject interplay between Parliamentary sovereignty and the Human Rights Act 1998. She is an active member of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association and the of the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

Planning & Environment

Siân has a growing practice in planning and environmental law, and acts in a range of planning matters from the advisory stages through to final hearing. She has experience of acting for both planning authorities and for individuals. She is a member of the UK Environmental Law Association and the Planning and Environmental Bar Association.

Property & Housing

Siân accepts instructions in all areas of property and housing law, and has had the benefit of training with leading practitioners in this field including Toby Vanhegan, Annette Cafferkey, and Jonathan Manning.

Siân has particular expertise in cases involving discrimination, mental capacity, and human rights issues. She is a member of both the HLPAs and the SHLA, and regularly offers training on the latest developments in homelessness law.

Commercial & Chancery

Siân has experience of a broad range of commercial work, from bankruptcy matters to contractual disputes. She has been praised for her ability to offer pragmatic advice and for her understanding of the priorities of commercial parties. Amongst her most recent cases, she successfully defended a large London-based charity against a contract claim, favourably bringing to an end a dispute which had been ongoing for several years.

Prizes

- Michael Beloff Essay Prize (Gray's Inn, 2017)
 - Sir Dingle Foot BPTC Scholarship (Gray's Inn, 2015)
 - Alan Urbach Memorial Prize (University College Oxford, 2015 - Awarded for ranking first in class for Jurisprudence final exams).
 - Loughman Scholarship (University College Oxford, 2015 - Awarded for outstanding academic performance and contribution to college life).
 - Scholarships for academic excellence/performance in public examinations (Oxford University, 2013, 2014, 2015)
 - Hogan Lovells Prize (University College Oxford, 2013 – Awarded for ranking first in class in constitutional, Roman, and criminal law).
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Education

- City of London Law School (2015-2016)
 - University of Oxford (2012-2015)
 - Winstanley Sixth Form College (2010-2012)
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