

Zoe Gannon

Call: 2014

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Zoe specialises in public, human rights, regulatory, education, data protection and information law.

She is ranked as a leading junior in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 and was shortlisted for the Legal 500 Public Services and Charities Junior of the Year in 2025. She is on both the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Panel of Counsel (B Panel) and the Attorney General's "A" Panel of Counsel.

She is described in the directories as: "a fantastic public law barrister"; "destined to take silk"; "a real expert, especially in education and human rights"; "extremely bright"; "an excellent legal brain"; "a very creative barrister who thinks outside the box"; "clear, concise, technically strong and an all-round pleasure to work with"; "brilliant at making her point"; "pragmatic and fiercely intelligent".

Zoe regularly appears in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court in high profile and test cases. This has recently included some of the most high profile cases in the Supreme Court in: *For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers* [2025] UKSC 16, *R (oao Jwanczuk) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2025] UKSC 42, and *AG Reference* [2026] UKSC 16.



She is excellent on her feet, a great drafter and clients really like her. She is patient and brilliant at making her point.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2025

Expertise

Health, Social Care and Court of Protection

Zoe has particular expertise in the related areas of community care, court of protection and healthcare. Zoe regularly acts for and advises local authorities, and Integrated Care Boards in community care and court of protection cases. She has experience in funding disputes, including complex s.117 and continuing health care disputes.

Her experience includes cases on local authority obligations to children, for example in *R (on the application of TW) v Essex CC* [2024] EWHC 264 (Admin) and *R. (on the application of DF) v Essex CC* [2023] EWHC 3330 (Admin).

Zoe was led by Jonathan Auburn KC in *R (SH) v Norfolk County Council* [2020] EWHC 3436 (Admin); [2021] PTSR 969 and by Clive Sheldon KC in *R. (on the application of YVR) v Birmingham City Council* [2024] P.T.S.R. 866, and by Jo Clement KC in *R (YVR) v Birmingham City Council* [2025] EWCA Civ 393: both cases concerning Article 14 and A1P1 on local authority charging policies.

Zoe has experience in defending challenges to the alleged failure to properly assess care needs, and the amount of funds provided to meet needs (Zoe was led by Jonathan Auburn KC for Oxfordshire in *R. (on the application of Davey) v Oxfordshire CC* [2018] P.T.S.R. 281: leading Court of Appeal authority on decision making under the Care Act 2014 and *Davey, R (on the application of) v Oxfordshire County Council* [2017] EWHC 354 (Admin), (2017) 20 CCLR 303).

Zoe was instructed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, led by Joanne Clement KC, in what will be a leading case on the meaning of deprivation of liberty (under Article 5 of the Convention) in the Supreme Court in AG Reference on Cheshire West. She has experience in the Court of Protection including in end of life and serious medical treatment cases such as in *Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust v MB* [2019] EWCOP 30, [2019] 7 WLUK 320 and *Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust v MB* [2019] EWCOP 29, [2019] 5 WLUK 673.



She has built up a fantastic reputation as a go-to barrister for the more complex social care ... judicial reviews.

LEGAL 500 2024

R (YVR) v Birmingham City Council

[2025] EWCA CIV 393

Significant Court of Appeal decision on Article 14 of the Convention in the context of public authority decision making and the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and delegated decision making. Led by Joanne Clement KC.

R (Bell) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

[2025] (AC-2024-LON-000706)

Challenge to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's failure to ban cross sex hormones by private providers. Zoe appeared as sole Counsel for the Claimants in the Divisional Court permission hearing (coverage)

R. (on the application of DF) v Essex CC

[2023] EWHC 3330 (ADMIN)

Challenge to local authority decision making and obligations under s.20 of the Children Act 1989. Led by Clive Sheldon KC.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust v MB

[2019] EWCOP 30

Court of Protection High Court case involving end of life decision making of a young man with profound disabilities who wanted to leave intensive care and return home to die with his family.

R. (on the application of Davey) v Oxfordshire CC

[2018] P.T.S.R. 281

Leading Court of Appeal case on decision making under the Care Act 2014. Led by Jonathan Auburn KC.

Achievements

Education

Zoe was awarded a First Class Honours Degree from Warwick University in 2007 and was later graded Outstanding in the Bar Professional Training Course ("BPTC"). She achieved the highest grade in her year in opinion writing.

Other

Zoe has won a number of awards and prizes including:

- Phoenica Scholar (Bar European Group)
- The Holt Scholarship for the BPTC from Gray's Inn (Major Scholarship) Norman Tapp Memorial Prize for Mooting from Gray's Inn
- Finalist Gray's Inn Moot Competition 2013

- Finalist Times/Herbert Smith Advocacy Competition 2009

Prior to commencing pupillage Zoe worked for a range of NGOs. Her experience gives her a valuable insight into the political process and the demands that unions, public and third sector organisations face.

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Zoe Gannon offers first-class client service

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2026

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Zoe's drafting and judgement is excellent.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2026

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Zoe is a fantastic public law barrister. She is objective, very smart, fast, reliable, amazingly well organised, and proactive.

LEGAL 500 2026

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Zoe is a real expert, especially in education and human rights. She is excellent on the nuts and bolts of a matter. She's very good at giving balanced and objective perspectives, which is very useful.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2026

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She is excellent on her feet, a great drafter and clients really like her. She is patient and brilliant at making her point.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2025

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She is very good, extremely bright and hard-working.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2025



Zoe is incredibly hardworking and proactive. Her ability to strike the right tone in client communications is second-to-none. You know you will be properly looked after if Zoe is working for you.

LEGAL 500 2024



Hugely knowledgeable and skilled in local government matters. She has built up a fantastic reputation as a go-to barrister for the more complex social care and education judicial reviews.

LEGAL 500 2024



She has an excellent legal brain.

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