Jane Oldham



Call: 1985

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Jane Oldham specialises in public, local government, information and education law. She has appeared at all appellate levels. The directories have for many years ranked Jane consistently as a leading junior in public and administrative, local government and education law, saying that “she has a fine track record of handling sophisticated public, information and education law matters”. Jane is Chambers UK 2026’s top-ranked local government junior at the London Bar.

> ***An extremely knowledgeable and persuasive advocate***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2022

Expertise

Public

Jane practises principally in public and administrative law and has wide experience of judicial review litigation.

She has practised also in commercial law and has particular experience in cases at the intersection of these areas, such as the Interest Rate Swap litigation between banks and local authorities, information law disputes concerning commercial matters, public procurement, European Regional Development Fund disputes, restitution claims arising from ultra vires activity, and litigation about wrongful trading through companies in which local authorities have interests.

She acts for national, local and private bodies. Subject matter includes utilities, civil aviation, higher and further education (including funding), national parks, broadcasting, health service (health authorities' proposed financial arrangements, hospital closures, pharmacies, dentists' and GPs' contracts with health bodies), museums galleries and film bodies, bodies regulating professions including the legal profession, police bodies.

Recent work includes:

- Tribunal dispute about disclosure of information on VIP Fast Lane procurement of PPE during Covid
- Advising on legality of proposed pilot scheme for third party use of housing benefit personal data to identify families who may be vulnerable to defaulting on rent and experiencing vulnerabilities and isolation.
- Successfully challenging a decision concerning health care of people in police custody.
- Advising on public law aspects of a transport app.
- Advising a national public body on participation in a nine-figure bond.
- Acting in a JR challenge to the use of isolation booths in a school.
- Resisting a JR challenge to an urban healthy streets project.
- Advising on vires, procurement and state aid aspects of a proposed transaction between a public body and a private investor to finance installation of electric car charging points.

> ***A fine track record of handling sophisticated public, information and education law matters***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

Other public law litigation includes acting in a 2018 JR challenge to a school's haircut policy (prohibition of dreadlocks), representing solicitor claimants in four of the many procurement challenges in 2016 to the Lord Chancellor's procurement of two-tier criminal legal aid contracting (the challenge resulted in the government withdrawing the entire procurement); a 2015 Supreme Court decision about declaratory relief and costs in judicial review where an error of law has been found but no relief given by the lower court; a 2015 decision about delegation of power and the scope of *DPP v Haw* and the *Carltona* principle; and judicial reviews of some of the earliest Council Tax Support Schemes and of the 2012 English GCSE Awards.

Achievements

Education

MA (Cantab). (Law, Trinity College, Cambridge.)

Other

Languages, scholarships, memberships:

Jane was called to the Bar in 1985 and was awarded prizes and scholarships by Trinity College, Cambridge, where she read law, and Middle Temple. She is a member of the Administrative Law Bar Association, the Commercial Bar Association, the Procurement Lawyers' Association and (in relation to her local government practice) the Planning and Environmental Law Bar Association. Jane practised part-time between 1992 and 2010, plus various periods of family leave during that time, and returned to full-time practice at the end of 2010.

> ***Jane Oldham also covers a wide canvas but is particularly known for the work she does relating to local authorities and their business relations with the private sector***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***barrister of choice in commercial matters***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***immensely sensible, thorough and driven***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

With bucket loads of experience and calm approach to advocacy that never fails to impress

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Interviewees praised Jane Oldham for her "genius and sheer hard work"

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Her client care is also highlighted as a particular strength

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jane Oldham is perceived as "a feisty lawyer who goes from strength to strength"

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Jane Oldham is "on the ball straight away" and handles complex cases well. She is further considered an advocate who "understands the law, works well with clients, and possesses intellectual weight"

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She handles everything from pre-dispute advisory work to judicial review, and has experience of the Supreme Court disputes.

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