Hannah Slarks



Call: 2011

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Hannah Slarks was shortlisted as Legal 500 Junior Barrister of the Year 2026. She practises across public, regulatory, education and employment law. She has a particular specialism in complex discrimination and human rights matters, and is recognised as the *"leading junior at the intersection of discrimination claims and public law"* (Chambers and Partners, 2026).

In the past year, Hannah has been instructed in many of the leading cases exploring the impact of *For Women Scotland* on trans rights and single sex spaces. She appeared in the first case considering the use of isolation rooms in state schools. She acted in one of the first judicial reviews under the Online Safety Act.

Before coming to the Bar, Hannah worked with a number of charities and regulators, including the Public Law Project, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, INQUEST and the Care Quality Commission.

> ***A highly talented junior. Her star shines brightly.***
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> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

Expertise

Public, Human Rights and Regulatory

Hannah is consistently instructed in high profile public law matters. In the past year, she has been instructed in many of the leading cases concerning the fallout of *For Women Scotland*, as well as acting in Strasbourg litigation concerning Russian online interference in UK elections. In recent years, she has appeared in cases on issues ranging from the Rwanda Removal Policy to the NHS response to Lucy Letby's actions; from care homes during the pandemic to antisemitism in the Labour Party.

As well as acting in high level policy matters, Hannah is sought after for sensitive matters concerning the rights of individuals.

Hannah acts for a wide range of private entities and sector representative bodies in judicial reviews protecting commercial interests. Her recent clients have included tech companies, regulated financial entities, health and pharmaceutical businesses, agribusinesses, and companies associated with markets and street trading.

Hannah's broad public law practice encompasses areas such as: constitutional law; unlawful detention; human rights; electoral law; regulation of financial entities; emergency services and environmental law. She acts for claimants and defendants. She has particular experience with the conduct and decision-making of political parties.

Hannah also has expertise in the public law regulation of technology. She is a co-author of a forthcoming book on Online Safety and contributes to the Panopticon blog on cases involving tech and public law issues.

Hannah has strong public law specialisms in education, healthcare and community care. These are dealt with in separate sections.

> ***Hannah is brilliant. She is very practical and very sharp, with a great strategic eye, which is a killer combo.***
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> **CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW**

R (Meta, TikTok and X) v Ofcom

Hannah is acting in one of the first judicial reviews under the new Online Safety Act regime. This judicial review challenges a series of information notices by Ofcom. Hannah acts for Meta, instructed by White and Case.

Led by Christopher Knight KC

R (GLP) v EHRC

[2026] EWHC 279 (ADMIN)

Acting for the Claimants in this challenge to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance following For Women Scotland, now before the Court of Appeal. This case may determine the proper approach to single sex toilets in both public spaces and the workplace. Led by Dan Stilitz KC, Alex Goodman KC and Jane Russell KC, with Crash Wigley.

R (CIT) v FCA (No. 1)

[2025] EWHC 2614 (ADMIN)

Appeared for the Claimant in the first challenge to an application of the provisions of the FCA's new Enforcement Guide on when an entity subject to investigation will be publicly named. Led by Oliver Assersohn KC.

NSK v United Kingdom

Part of the team of counsel acting for one of the Claimants challenging the Rwanda Removal Policy in Strasbourg, alongside colleagues Christopher Knight and Aliya Al-Yassin, along with others out of Chambers, and led by Raza Husain KC and Philippa Kaufmann KC.

Bradshaw v the United Kingdom

2023, APPLICATION NOS 15653/22

Acting for the Government in this claim about the extent to which the State is under an obligation to investigate and take further action in respect of Russian interference in UK elections. Led by James Eadie KC, with Chris Knight.

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

[2022] H.R.L.R. 11 (2022) 185 B.M.L.R. 30 [2022] C.C.L.R. 205 [2022] A.C.D. 93

Defended the Government in this judicial review concerning the handling of the discharge of hospital patients into care homes early in the pandemic. Led by James Eadie KC and Jonathan Auburn KC, with Heather Emmerson, Yaaser Vanderman and Charles Bishop.

Somerset CC v NHS Somerset CCG and others

[2022] EWFC 31 [2022] 4 W.L.R. 51

After a series of administrative errors were identified in adoption processes, the courts were asked to decide whether public law errors in adoption applications rendered subsequent placement and adoption orders void. It was argued that local authorities would have to bring a very large number of historic cases back to court, requiring the notification of adopted families and birth families, sometimes many years after a successful adoption. Hannah acted successfully as sole counsel for the Government, arguing that this was wrong and unnecessary as a matter of constitutional law.

R (Good Law Project & Runnymede Trust) v Prime Minister & Secretary of State for Health

Represented claimant NGOs in discrimination and Public Sector Equality Duty challenge to the appointment of friends and contacts of Ministers to top pandemic-related jobs without open competition. Acted successfully for the Claimants in this challenge to the appointment of Dido Harding and others to key pandemic roles, without open recruitment processes. Led by Jason Coppel KC.

R (Doctors Association UK and others) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

CO/2074/2020

Successfully defended the Government in this judicial review (and other parallel judicial reviews) seeking to force the Government to call a public inquiry into handling of the pandemic, and particularly provision of PPE. Led by Clive Sheldon KC and James Eadie KC.

R (Mitchell) v Secretary of State for Justice

[2021] A.C.D. 112

Acted successfully as sole counsel challenging the Government's failure to consult on changes to the criminal injuries compensation scheme, which would prevent the disproportionate exclusion of victims of child sexual abuse. Instructed by the Centre for Women's Justice.

Equality and Human Rights Commission investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party

Acted successfully as sole counsel on behalf of the Jewish Labour Movement, the lead complainants to the Commission's statutory investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party. Instructed by Mishcon de Reya.

R (Inclusion Housing) v the Regulator for Social Housing

[2020] EWHC 346 (ADMIN)

Acted for a leading provider of specialist social housing in a judicial review of a regulatory judgment based on the provider's novel economic model. Led by Daniel Stilitz KC.

Sally Gimson's challenge to selection decision of the Labour Party's NEC

Acted as sole counsel on behalf of Sally Gimson, whom members of the Constituency Labour Party of Bassetlaw selected as their candidate for the 2019 election, after the NEC refused to endorse her candidacy. Instructed by Mishcon de Reya.

Vote Leave v Electoral Commission and Grassroots Out/Murphy v Electoral Commission

[2019] EWHC 2762 (QB)

Acted on behalf of the Electoral Commission, resisting parallel claims brought by Brexiteer participants in the 2016 referendum. The groups sought to prevent the Commission from continuing to retain and publish their financial information. The Vote Leave claim was withdrawn. The Grassroots Out claim was defeated in the High Court. Led by Tim Pitt-Payne KC.

R (Juttla) v Hertfordshire Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group

[2018] EWHC 267, (2018) 21 CCL REP 325, QBD (ADMIN CT), FEBRUARY 21 2018

A respite care service for children with complex medical needs was a 'health service' and the local authority should have been consulted before funding was withdrawn from it. Led by Clive Sheldon KC.

DSD & NBV v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

[2018] UKSC 11

Intervened on behalf of Liberty in this Supreme Court appeal, arising from the case of the Black Cab Rapist. The case redefined the scope of an Article 3 obligation on the police when investigating crimes involving torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.

R (Gulf Centre for Human Rights) v Prime Minister

[2016] EWHC 1323 (ADMIN)

Represented the claimant challenging amendments to the Ministerial Code, which removed the obligation upon ministers to comply with international law and uphold the administration of justice. Led by Jason Coppel KC.

R (Moore) v Secretary of State for Local Government

[2015] ACD 44

Successfully represented the Save Farm Terrace Association in a judicial review challenging the Secretary of State's grant of permission for the sale of allotments, instructed by Deighton Pierce Glynn. Led by Jason Coppel KC.

R (Mohammadi) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

CO/10119/2013.

Successfully represented an unlawfully detained Iranian prisoner, instructed by Leigh Day.

R (Islington LBC) v Mayor of London

[2013] EWHC 4142 (ADMIN)

Acted for a group of London Boroughs in a complex judicial review challenging a decision to close 10 Inner London fire stations, led by Dan Stilitz KC.

Achievements

Appointments

Attorney General's A panel

News, Articles & Publications

The Claimant's Pre-permission Checklist, co-authored with Clive Sheldon KC (Judicial Review, Vol. 21, 2016 – issue 2).

Tolley's Employment Handbook (2013-16 editions, Tolley).

Public Law and Judicial Review and Representing yourself in court: on the day in A guide to representing yourself in Court, co-authored (2013, guidance published by the Bar Council).

Positive obligations to provide access to information under the European Convention on Human Rights, co-authored with Karen Steyn (2012, journal article published in Judicial Review).

The Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody: UK experiences with cross-sector cooperation in Police involved deaths – the Need for Reform (MacAlister Ed.) (2011, book published by the British Canadian Civil Liberties Association).

Service User Experience of the First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health) (2011, report published jointly by the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council and the Care Quality Commission).

Where Human Rights and Development Meet (or fail to do so): The Constitutional Right to Housing in South Africa (2010, journal article published in the UCL Human Rights Review).

Analytical Overview of the 4th Session the Human Rights Council (2007, report published in the Council Monitor by the International Service for Human Rights).

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – India 70th Session (2007, report published in the Treaty Body Monitor, by the International Service for Human Rights).

Education

Hannah has two Double First Class degrees. She was rated 'outstanding' on the Bar Professional Training Course.

Other

Conversational French.

While studying, Hannah won a number of high profile advocacy competitions, including the National Debating Championships and the Times Advocacy Competition.

Lord Megarry Scholarship – Lincolns Inn 2011

Lord Mansfield Scholarship – Lincolns Inn 2010

Advocacy Scholarship – Kaplan Law School 2010

Burnett Award – Hughes Hall, Cambridge 2009 and 2010

Lord Bowen Scholarship – Lincolns Inn 2008

Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship – Lincolns Inn 2008

Mary Morrison Prize – Bristol University French Department 2008

Convocation Award – Bristol University 2007

Hannah punches above her weight; it is difficult for a judge to disagree with her. Polished submissions. Strategic advice She thinks about the bigger picture at all times.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

A highly talented junior. Her star shines brightly.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

She is a first-class barrister. Clear, pragmatic and commercial. She inspires confidence in both clients and solicitors.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS

Hannah is very clear to define the issues and see a path through to success. Approachable and great client care too.

LEGAL 500

Hannah is excellent. She is very experienced in discrimination matters, with excellent technical skills. She is incredibly responsive and brilliant with clients – she is clearly operating beyond her year of call.

LEGAL 500

Brilliant in her advocacy.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Hannah's advice is very thorough and to the point. Her performance in court is exceptional; she is a very astute advocate and tactically very aware.

LEGAL 500

Her advocacy is sharply focused and compelling, and she is excellent at addressing difficult points raised by the judge.

LEGAL 500

Great at advocacy and she has emotional intelligence –all-round brilliant.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS