

Jane Oldham

Call: 1985

E: Jane.Oldham@11kbw.com

T: +44 (0)20 7632 8500



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.



Another highly thought of junior is Jane Oldham who is praised for her “commercial sense and judgment”

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Expertise

Public Procurement

Jane has advised both public authorities and tenderers on a wide range of procurement problems at all stages of tender processes. She has a strong record of enabling them, respectively, to deter proposed challenges, and to persuade public authorities to recommence tendering procedures.

Examples include:

- Successful challenge to contract decision concerning health care of people in custody.
- Acting for a university challenging claw-back of ERDF funds on grounds of alleged breach of procurement rules.
- Advising on procurement aspects of a proposed transaction between a public body and a private investor to finance installation of electric car charging points.
- Advising local authorities whether proposals engage public procurement rules.

Other cases include: acting in 2015-2016 for the solicitor claimants in four of the High Court procurement challenges seeking to set aside the government's procurement of two-tier criminal legal aid contracting (the procurement, said to be among the largest and most complex tender processes undertaken by central government, was then abandoned by the Lord Chancellor in January 2016); acting for a trade union in its judicial review challenge to NHS PCTs' proposed outsourcing of their family health services.

Has acted successfully for grant recipients resisting government attempts, on procurement grounds, to claw back European Regional Development Fund funding.

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.

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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

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

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

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barrister of choice in commercial matters

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Interviewees praised Jane Oldham for her “genius and sheer hard work”

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immensely sensible, thorough and driven

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Her client care is also highlighted as a particular 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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