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.

> ***Gets straight to the heart of an issue and gives clear, concise advice***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2017**

Expertise

Education

Jane acts in matters concerning all levels of educational bodies. Recent education work includes:

- JR challenge to closure of nurseries
- Information dispute about a school's extra-curricular diversity and inclusion club.
- JR challenge to use of isolation booths in a school.
- Complex reference before the Office for Students concerning a university's research funding.
- Acting for university resisting claw-back of European Regional Development Funding for research project with commercial sector.
- Advising university on scope of duties in respect of a data breach (student personal data). Advising on a university's proposal to sub-contract its duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advising whether a university can give financial assistance, for the payment of a statutory penalty, to its indebted student union.

Examples of other work include:

- JR challenge to a school's haircut policy prohibiting wearing hair in dreadlocks (2018).
- Acting for the council in a Supreme Court hearing in 2015 in a matter originating from an Education Act 1996 challenge to funding cuts in youth services.
- Advising in disputes about liabilities for school deficits and transfers of property (including special needs facilities used by several schools) on conversion to academy status.
- Issues arising from regulatory reports about further and higher education bodies. The judicial review of the 2012 English GCSEs.
- Academies' admissions arrangements and admissions appeals.
- Funding disputes between universities and affiliated bodies.
- A challenge to a decision to fund closure of a college and transfer its courses to a different institution.
- Appropriate remedy for use of incorrect assessment criteria in student examination.
- Freedom of information in the education context.

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

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***
>
> 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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