

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

Education

Zoe is ranked in both Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 as a leading junior in Education Law.

Zoe represents and advises both claimants and defendants (local authorities, academies, universities and independent schools) in the full range of education matters.

She has extensive experience in the High Court, County Court, SENDIST and Upper Tribunal as sole counsel and being led in the Court of Appeal. Her cases frequently involve complex issues of Convention rights and discrimination law.

Zoe is a contributor to the Education Law Handbook (LexisNexis, 2021)



Zoe is my go-to for higher education matters. She is clear, concise, technically strong and an all-round pleasure to work with!

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023

The University of Sussex, R (On the Application Of) v The Office for Students

[2026] EWHC 984 (ADMIN)

Landmark case on university free speech duties, and the regulatory decisions of the Office for Students.

R(CKT and DGT) v Twyford Church of England Academies Trust, and the Office of the Schools Adjudicator

[2025] EWHC 2396 (ADMIN)

Leading indirect discrimination case brought under the Equality Act 2010 where claimants sought to challenge a faith school's admissions policy claiming race discrimination. Led by Joanne Clement KC for the Secretary of State for Education Intervening.

R (on the application of) UK Curriculum and Accreditation Body (t/a Scholars School System) v Pearson Education Ltd

[2025] EWHC 2161 (ADMIN)

Sole Counsel for the Claimant in this judicial review of regulatory decision making by Pearson Education Limited acting as a regulator of a private education provider.

Free Speech Union v Secretary of State for Education

2025

Significant challenge to the *vires* of the Secretary of State's decision to revoke regulations bringing the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 into force (see). Led by Tom Cross KC.

DM v Cornwall Council

[2023] P.T.S.R. 795

Leading Upper Tribunal decision on specificity for Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision in Education Health and Care Plans. Sole counsel to the local authority.

R (on the application of D) v Hampshire CC

[2020] EWHC 2916 (ADMIN)

High Court judicial review challenge regarding school's obligations. Sole counsel to the County Council.

The Proprietor of Ashdown House School v JKL

[2019] HS/1322/2019 (20 AUGUST 2019)

Leading case in the Upper Tribunal on the First Tier Tribunal's power to order independent schools to reinstate pupils, order apologies and enforcement of decisions of the First Tier Tribunal. Sole counsel to the private school.

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

R (Drexler) v Leicestershire City Council

[2020] EWCA 502

Court of Appeal Article 14/A2P1 Convention case involving complex school transport statutory obligations. Led by Peter Oldham KC.

R (on the application of London School of Science and Technology) v Pearson Education Ltd

[2019] EWHC 3129 (ADMIN)

Judicial review regulatory challenge to withdrawal from a college of accreditation on the basis of malpractice. Sole counsel to the Claimant.

- 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.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2024