Hannah Slarks



Call: 2011

E: Hannah.Slarks@11kbw.com
T: +44 (0)20 7632 8500

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 truly persuasive advocate with a gift for eloquence. Her intelligence sparkles in court.***
>
> **LEGAL 500**

Expertise

Education

Hannah is one of the leading education juniors at the Bar. She is instructed in some of the most important judicial reviews and appellate cases regarding how educational institutions should be run. In recent years, this has involved the first case on the use of isolation rooms in schools, a landmark judicial review on the use of top-up fees in nurseries, an important decision on the functioning of independent review panels, ongoing litigation regarding Palestinian flags in a primary school, and multiple ongoing challenges to the rules surrounding Disabled Students' Allowance.

She appears in the High Court and County Court on disputes between students and universities. She regularly acts in the Administrative Court and First-tier Tribunals on matters arising from EHC plans and exclusions.

She frequently conducts independent investigations concerning complaints made by parents and by teachers. She also chairs and advises disciplinary and appeals panels.

Hannah has particular expertise in the handling of allegations of sexual misconduct against students and teachers. She conducts sensitive investigations on behalf of institutions, and acts for institutions and families in internal and court proceedings arising from these allegations. She has also appeared in litigation on this issue at an appellate level.

Hannah also regularly acts in cases concerning freedom of speech and single sex spaces in educational settings.

> ***Super impressive. Terrific mastery of large amounts of detail. Very good bedside manner with clients.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

R (Ortega) v Secretary of State for Education

AC-2026-LDS-000032

Acting as sole counsel in this challenge to the Student Loans Company's policy of paying Disabled Students' Allowance only on a reimbursement basis.

R (EBB) v The Gorse Academies Trust

[2025] EWHC 1983 (ADMIN)

Acted in the first challenge to use of isolation rooms in schools, also dealing with the statutory duties on schools to consider the proportionality of a sanction falling short of exclusion. Led by Jason Coppel KC, with Oliver Jackson.

R (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) v Local Government Ombudsman

[2025] EWHC 224 (ADMIN)

Acted as sole counsel in this important judicial review regarding how childcare providers work around the early years free entitlement funding rules.

R (XYZ) v City University

CA - 2023 - 000634

In the Court of Appeal, acted as sole counsel for the University in this sensitive case in which a male student was found guilty by the University of having nonconsensual sex with a drunk female student.

R (LM) v An Academy Trust

[2024] EWHC 2267 (ADMIN)

Acted as sole counsel in this case about the procedural requirements for governing bodies reviewing permanent exclusions, in a case about serious sexual misconduct in a secondary school.

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