



Chambers of Lawrence Power



Helen McAteer

Call (2008), Gray's Inn

BA (Hons) in Jurisprudence (2:1), the University of Oxford

LLM in Public Law (Merit), UCL

Profile

Helen joined 4KBW in June 2013 after completing pupillage at Crown Office Chambers. She has gained experience in a broad range of commercial and common law disputes and accepts instructions in the following areas:

- Commercial and Chancery
- Employment
- Negligence and Personal Injury
- Property
- Public Law

Prior to commencing pupillage Helen gained eighteen months' experience as a County Court Advocate. She appears regularly in the Employment Tribunal and County Courts in and out of London.

Commercial and Chancery

Helen appears in a range of hearings including bankruptcy hearings and those for the return of hired goods. She has experience of drafting and advising in a variety of commercial and chancery matters. She has dealt with issues including insolvency procedure; the restoration of a company to the register; and the compliance of a purchaser with the vendor's conditions for sale in a contract of sale. She is particularly interested in insurance law, including issues arising in relation to construction, coverage, and material non-disclosure.

Employment

Helen has experience appearing in employment tribunals for interim and final hearings. She has dealt with a range of legal, practical, and procedural issues including an insolvent respondent; the participation of a respondent at a remedies hearing in a case where an application to review a default judgment had failed; and the determination of a list of issues in a complex case involving allegations of harassment, discrimination and victimisation. She accepts instructions from both claimants and respondents.

Negligence and Personal Injury

Helen is very familiar with personal injury matters and is regularly instructed by the Treasury Solicitor's Department as a 'baby barrister' to advise on the merits and conduct of claims made against the Ministry of Justice. She regularly appears in trials and interlocutory hearings for both claimants and defendants in matters arising from road traffic accidents and other alleged negligence. She has gained experience in a range of cases including a complicated and high value infant settlement; an application of a claimant's former solicitors to set aside a costs order; and applications for relief from sanctions and pre-action specific disclosure.

Property

Helen is experienced in appearing at hearings of residential mortgage and rental possession claims and charging order applications, and has provided pro-bono advice in relation to Leasehold Valuation Tribunal matters. She has also dealt

with planning and commercial property issues including the rights and reliefs available to sub-tenants where a head lease has been surrendered or forfeited; the differentiation between a licence and a commercial tenancy; and unreasonableness in the context of a planning enforcement notice.

Public

Helen has an interest in public law, having gained a specialist LLM in that subject. She volunteered for a summer at the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in Accra, Ghana, where she advised victims of civil rights abuse; investigated and produced a report on corruption; and represented a victim at the Police Intelligence and Professional Standards Bureau. She has been instructed by several public bodies and government departments including HMRC, HM Prisons Service, and the Department of Health.

Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

Wilfred Getz Scholarship from Gray's Inn

Distinction in Moderations from the University of Oxford

Exhibitioner of Brasenose College

College Prize for Moderations and Lovells Prize from Brasenose College