



# Sarah Bourke

1996

## Qualifications

LL.B. with Advanced Studies, University College London, 1994

## Areas of Practice

Employment & Equality Law  
Housing & Social Entitlement Law  
Prison Law  
Inquests  
Public Law

## Experience

Sarah spent 8 years as an employed barrister at Brent Community Law Centre. Whilst at the Law Centre, Sarah gained a wide range of experience in employment, housing and social welfare law.

Since joining Tooks Chambers in August 2006, Sarah has expanded her practice to include Prison Law and Inquests.

### Employment & Equality Law

- Sarah acts for applicants in a range of employment related proceedings, including unfair dismissal and discrimination claims.
  - Sarah is developing a particular expertise in Equal Pay claims. She currently acts for public sector workers in a number of large multiple claims across England and Scotland. She particularly deals with lengthy pre-hearing reviews and Stage 2 hearings.
  - Sarah was recently led by Robin Allen QC in Abbott v South Tyneside MBC which relates to the status of contingent male claimants and the effective date of the equality clause. The Respondents' appeal of the decision is due to be heard by the EAT later in 2008.
  - Sarah is also instructed on behalf of Social Services staff in Barnes v Durham CC where the Respondents have appealed the Tribunal's decision that variations to contracts of employment did not amount to termination and re-engagement.
- ### Discrimination outside of the Employment field
- Sarah has acted for claimants bringing discrimination law claims in the fields of education, housing, goods and services and claims against public authorities.

## tooks chambers

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clerks@tooks.co.uk

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Sarah takes a particular interest in claims raising sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

### **Housing and Social Entitlement Law**

Sarah acts for tenants and homeless people in a range of housing litigation including possession proceedings (especially involving complex housing benefit problems), harassment and anti-social behaviour, homelessness appeals, unlawful eviction, transfers and allocations.

Sarah has particular expertise in disability and community care related housing matters.

Sarah has acted for Irish Travellers facing eviction from Local Authority sites and takes a special interest in housing, health and education issues affecting the Gipsy and Traveller communities.

Sarah advises and represents Claimants in Social Security appeals. She is also willing to advise on welfare benefit issues pertinent to other proceedings.

Sarah has a longstanding interest in Council Tax recovery actions and the law of bailiffs.

Sarah was appointed as a Deputy District Chairman of the Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal in 2008.

### **Prison Law**

Sarah represents prisoners in disciplinary proceedings before the Independent Adjudicator. She also represents prisoners before the Parole Board.

Sarah has advised a number of prisoners regarding discrimination claims and judicial review proceedings against the Prison Service.

### **Inquests**

Sarah has recently started to develop an Inquest Law practice. She has acted for families of the deceased in a number of Inquests raising issues concerning the standard of healthcare provided in Prisons and Psychiatric institutions.

Sarah represented Kerry Sparrow at the Inquest into the death of Judge Andrew Chubb.

### **Public Access Work**

Sarah is authorised to undertake work under the public access scheme. This allows members of the public and campaign groups to instruct barristers directly without the need to engage a solicitor. Not all cases are suitable to be carried out under the public access scheme.

### **Pro-Bono Work**

Sarah will consider requests to undertake pro-bono work in inquests and discrimination law matters.

### **Training**

Sarah has provided training on a range of employment and equality law issues to solicitors, trade unions and public authorities. She especially enjoys training activists and campaigners who are not lawyers!

Sarah has recently given seminars on the following issues:

- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- Sexual Orientation Discrimination
- Goods and Services discrimination in Housing Law
- Discrimination in school admissions and exclusions (forthcoming)
- Discrimination on grounds of gender identity (forthcoming)

### **Advisory work**

Sarah has advised a range of organisations including the Law Centres Federation and the Pre-School Learning Alliance and regarding the content of their publications on discrimination law issues.

## **Societies**

Administrative Law Bar Association  
Discrimination Law Association  
Employment Law Bar Association  
Employment Lawyers Association  
Housing Law Practitioners Association  
Inquest Lawyers Group,  
Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association

## **Background**

Sarah is a trustee of the Camden LGBT Forum which is an organisation that works with victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crime.

Sarah also has close links with Stonewall Housing Association which manages accommodation for single people.