

## Sara Ibrahim

Call Date: 2006

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Sara's practice encompasses a mix of employment and discrimination law alongside professional negligence and commercial litigation.

She is well equipped to deal with cases that raise a number of issues that span these areas such as employment claims in an educational context.

She has been listed as a leading junior for professional negligence in Legal 500 since 2017.

## Legal Services

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### Commercial and Insolvency Law

Sara's practice incorporates cases with an international element. She is instructed in appeals to the Privy Council and has worked with lawyers in the Caribbean and the US.

Sara has appeared in a number of commercial and insolvency disputes in the High Court. Her insolvency practice encompasses claims dealing with transactions at undervalue, wrongful trading and unlawful dividends. She is regularly instructed on fully contested hearings as well as applications including appeals.

### Education & Public Law

Sara's public law practice is predominately focused on the area of education. She acts for a wide variety of clients in front of appeal panels as well as in the First Tier and Upper Tribunal for SEND.

Examples of her work include:

- Acting in Judicial Review proceedings on behalf of a child who was not receiving adequate educational provision;
- Advising a University student (on a vocational course) in the course of fitness to practice proceedings;
- Advising a University student on a claim of disability discrimination (including direct discrimination and harassment complaints);
- Acting on behalf of a child at a FT (SEND) tribunal who had been wrongly excluded as a result of his disability. Obtained an apology from the school and removal of the record of expulsion.

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Her education law practice is informed by her previous experience as a school governor for a primary school in London, a role she undertook for 6 years. She is well placed to advise on areas that intersect with her other practice areas including employment matters as well as contractual claims.

She has also had experience in advising on the application of the Equality Act (2010) to associations including national volunteer bodies and political parties. She assisted the EHRC to review their policies and guidance in 2019 and helped contribute to their review of civil legal aid.

## Employment

Sara appears regularly in the Employment Tribunal (acting for both Claimants and Respondents) as well as the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Discrimination forms a major part of Sara's employment practice and she has a particular specialism in disability claims and regularly deals with parties who are vulnerable.

In 2019, Sara was re-appointed to the panel of counsel serving the Commission for Equality and Human Rights for a term of 4 years.

Examples of her work include:

- Instructed by a Claimant in a claim against his former employer (major bank) and the pension trustees on a complex claim of indirect disability discrimination and failure to make reasonable adjustments;
- Instructed by a Claimant who was a Director and former employee in relation to a claim of disability discrimination involving issues of Directors' duties;
- Instructed by a Respondent in response to a claim of disability discrimination involving allegations of direct discrimination and exacerbation of a mental health condition;
- Advising a professional regulator on a complex complaint of race and sex discrimination that spanned a period of over 5 years;
- Instructed on a claim of race discrimination for the Claimant where issues of jurisdiction were raised as the Claimant was working abroad.

She also appears in the High Court in matters including restrictive covenants and associated claims such as misuse of confidential information. Examples of her work include:

- Applying for injunctive relief on behalf of a company where a former employee had indicated he wished to work for a competitor and there was evidence of misuse of confidential information with a commercial value in excess of £1million;
- Replying to an application for injunctive relief where the terms sought would have resulted in new company ceasing to trade;
- Advising a partner on exit from their firm and scope of restrictive covenants in their employment contract.

## Professional Negligence

Sara regularly undertakes professional negligence claims including cases pursued against a range of legal professionals. She has a specific interest in work involving underlying litigation in the employment and commercial spheres.

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Examples of her work include:

- Successfully negotiating a settlement at a mediation on behalf of Claimants in a claim against their former architect and surveyors where they suffered significant loss from the structurally unsafe works carried out;
- Instructed on behalf of the Claimants for losses arising from misconduct of litigation in civil proceedings occurring over a period in excess of 5 years;
- Advised on an appropriate award when proceedings had been struck out in the employment tribunal and the compensation had not been properly pleaded;
- Instructed by the Claimant where his serious personal injury claim was struck out including giving advice on appropriate medical evidence required for his claim.

Sara is ranked in the Legal 500 for her work in the Professional Negligence field.

## Public Access

Sara is able to accept instructions directly from members of the public, companies and other entities through the public access scheme (also known as direct access). She has acted, advised and drafted pleadings and documents for a number of individuals and small and medium sized businesses on a direct access basis. She is happy to accept instructions on a direct basis in appropriate cases. If you wish to instruct Sara on a direct basis, please speak to the clerks.

For more information on public access, please see the Bar Council [website](#).

## Memberships

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- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)
- ELBA (Employment Law Barristers Association)
- ELA (Employment Lawyers Association)
- ELAS (Education Lawyers Association)
- Industrial Law Society
- PNBA (Professional Negligence Bar Association)

## Qualifications

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- BA (History) Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University

## Awards

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- Lord Denning Scholar (Lincoln's Inn)

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- Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn)
- Haldane Scholarship