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Year of Call: 2009



Main Areas of Practice

Discrimination and Equality	EU Law	Local Government Law
Education Law	Community Care	Mental Health
Employment Law	Human Rights	Prison Law
Environmental Law	International Law	Public Law

Alasdair has been supervised by David Wolfe, James Laddie, Thomas Linden QC, Sam Grodzinski and Nick Armstrong. In second six he has gained advocacy experience in the magistrates' court and county court, and undertaken a secondment at the Office of Fair Trading.

Public and Administrative Law

Alasdair has gained exposure to the widest possible spectrum of public and administrative law, and has been instructed in his own right in a complex social security case before the Upper Tribunal. During traineeship he has been involved in numerous high-level cases including:

R (E) v. The Governing Body of JFS (race discrimination in a Jewish school);

R (Edwards) v. Environment Agency (Environmental Impact Assessments and costs in environmental litigation);

R (Global Knafaim Leasing Ltd and CGTSN Ltd) v. Civil Aviation Authority and BAA Ltd (aircraft detention powers, fleet liens and Article 1 Protocol 1 of the ECHR);

R (Mencap) v. Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (whether the Ombudsman correctly conducted his investigation into the deaths of people with learning disabilities following sub-standard health care);

R (The Law Society) v. Lord Chancellor (changes to the recovery of criminal costs) and;

R (King) v. Secretary of State for Justice (whether the civil limb of Article 6 ECHR applies to prison disciplinary hearings).

Employment and Equality Law

Alasdair has worked on the full range of employment matters, from contractual disputes in both the High Court and employment tribunals, to transfer of undertakings, information and consultation, restraint of trade and redundancy situations. He has also had experience of equality and discrimination issues in both the employment and public law fields, covering discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability and religion and belief. He has been instructed in his own right in a transfer of undertakings case and a four-day pregnancy discrimination case in the employment tribunal.

He has been involved in several high-profile cases with his supervisors, including:

Alemo-Herron v. Parkwood Leisure Ltd (continuation of contractual rights determined from time to time by third parties, following the transfer of an undertaking);

J v. DLA Piper UK LLP (definition of 'disability' for mental impairments under the DDA 1995); and
YKK Europe Ltd v. Heneghan (extraterritorial jurisdiction of employment tribunals in unfair dismissal claims).

Environmental Law

Alasdair has gained experience of environmental law in various contexts, from planning cases to the implementation of EU Directives. During his traineeship he has also volunteered with an Oxfam and WWF project to provide free legal advice to developing countries and NGOs at the Copenhagen and Bonn Climate Change Conferences.

Police and Prison Law

Alasdair has been involved in judicial review proceedings brought by prisoners and has been instructed in his own right in several cases to advise on prison law issues. He also has some experience of civil actions against the police, including assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and misfeasance in public office.

Mental Health and Community Care Law

Alasdair has been involved in cases concerning mental health in prisons, ordinary residence decisions and disputes over funding of care plans.

Education Law

Alasdair has been exposed to several cases concerning special educational needs. He has also worked on education cases more broadly, including judicial review proceedings raising human rights issues (Article 6, 8 and Article 2 of the First Protocol) and a maintained school's equality duties.

OTHER RECENT LEGAL EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION, Kigali, Rwanda: Legal Fellow, November 2007-May 2008

Assisted investigation and advocacy efforts in cases of land rights violations and sexual violence against children. Researched Rwandan law, managed casework and conducted legal training for local officials.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW, Washington, DC: Research Fellow, July-September 2007

Researched civil society worldwide, collated materials and contributed to a textbook for university courses on international civil society law.

BIICL, London, UK: Research Intern, January-April 2007

Monitored and analysed US print media as part of the British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL) Iran Project, focussing on human rights and democratisation issues in Iran.

TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL CLINIC, Philadelphia, USA: Student Representative, September-December 2006

Worked on a petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concerning the labour rights of undocumented workers in the USA. Represented a juvenile client in immigration proceedings.

Education

BPP LAW SCHOOL, HOLBORN, LONDON

B.V.C., July 2009

Honours/Awards: Princess Royal Scholarship from Inner Temple

Activities: BPP Legal Advice Clinic, Free Representation Unit

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL

LL.M., May 2007

Honours/Awards: Thouron Scholar, Award for Excellence (summa cum laude equivalent)

Focus of Studies: International Law, Human Rights and Comparative Constitutional Law

LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY

B.A. Jurisprudence, June 2006

Honours/Awards: First Class Honours degree, Gluckstein Scholar, Hanbury Scholar, Sweet and Maxwell Prize for Law Moderations

Skills, Activities and Interests

Languages: French (conversational)

Keen interest in international affairs and development.

Enjoys literature, the outdoors, theatre, film and music.

Professional Memberships

Advocates for International Development (A4ID)

The Lawyers Christian Fellowship (LCF)

Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)

Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)