

# Laura McNair-Wilson

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**matrix**  
chambers

Registered name on the Bar Standards Board Register: Laura McNair-Wilson  
VAT Number: 925898761

Year of Call: 2007



## Main Areas of Practice

Employment Law

Equality and Discrimination

Tax Law

Media Law

Laura is an employment and discrimination law specialist who also practices in tax, education and media law.

Laura acts for both claimants and respondents/defendants in employment matters. Her clients range from City institutions to charities, trade unions and local government bodies. She has extensive experience of employment tribunal litigation and advisory work and has been instructed in lengthy cases involving all aspects of discrimination law, equal pay, unfair dismissal, whistle-blowing, restrictive covenants, working time, holiday pay, breach of contract, compromise agreement, jurisdictional questions and bonus schemes. She has represented clients in the EAT and also has experience in conducting grievance and disciplinary hearings for large financial institutions.

Laura has a particular interest in equality and discrimination law, and in January 2011 she was appointed to the panel of counsel for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

## Tax

Laura has acted as junior counsel in a number of tax-related matters in the tax tribunal and has advised on employment matters with a tax overlap.

She was instructed for HMRC in the Court of Appeal in R (Prudential Plc.) v Special Commissioner of Income Tax (2010) EWCA Civ. 1094 (led by Tim Brennan QC).

## Education

Laura has a strong interest in all aspects of education law and has acted for parents/children at school admission appeals and SENDIST hearings. She has recently advised an educational trust on a judicial review application against the Department of Education arising out of the rejection of their Free School application (led by Cherie Booth QC).

## Media

Laura is developing a media law practice. Since joining Matrix earlier this year, she has assisted with libel reading at the Telegraph newspaper and contributed to the Inform media law blog.

Prior to joining the Bar, Laura worked for Hillary Clinton when she was in the US Senate and as a journalist for BBC News and Reuters in Washington, New York and London.

## Seminars and Publications

Discrimination Law, Tottel, 2009 - 2011 Contributing author

Compulsory Retirement: going out of fashion? ELA Briefing, March 2011 (with Tom Linden QC)

Laura regularly gives training and lectures to City solicitors, in-house lawyers and HR professionals on all aspects of discrimination and employment law. Recent topics have included:

- Age Discrimination and the abolition of the default retirement age
- Contractual disciplinary procedures
- Restrictive Covenants and Confidentiality Injunctions
- Remedies in discrimination cases

## Education

BPP Law School, London - Bar Vocational Course, Very Competent

City University, London - Graduate Diploma in Law, Distinction

Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University - Politics Philosophy and Economics, BA(Hons) 2:1

## Scholarships and Awards

Grays Inn - Prince of Wales Scholarship

Oxford University Press National Mooting Competition - 2nd prize

## Professional Memberships

ELA

ELAAS

ELBA

Bar Pro Bono Unit