



# Alice Richardson

Year of Call: 2013

Telephone: 020 7242 4244

Email Address: [alice.richardson@ardenchambers.com](mailto:alice.richardson@ardenchambers.com)

## Introduction

Alice accepts instructions in all of Chambers' core practice areas. She has a particular interest in cases involving discrimination, human rights, capacity issues and public law/judicial review.

She acts for local authorities, social landlords and private landlords as well as for tenants and other individuals. She is qualified to accept instructions directly from the members of the public through the Public Access scheme.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Alice worked as a housing advisor in an Advice Centre for three years specialising in homelessness and community care.

She is a regular contributor to the Arden Chambers/Legal Action Group Housing Law Blog (available [here](#)).

## Practice Areas

### Housing

Alice's practice covers all aspects of housing law including possession, homelessness, allocations, anti-social behaviour, unlawful eviction, disrepair, succession and assignment.

She has a particular interest in homelessness cases and has been instructed in both s.204 appeals and applications for judicial review. In the recent case of *R (Sambotin) v Brent LBC* [2017] EWHC 1190 (Admin) she successfully represented the claimant in a judicial review of a local authority's decision to revoke a favourable decision made under Part 7, Housing Act 1996.

During pupillage, Alice assisted on a number of homelessness matters in the High Court and Court of Appeal including *Firoozmand v Lambeth LBC* [2015] EWCA Civ 952; [2016] PTSR 65; [2015] HLR 45.

She has participated in secondment schemes to two local authorities and to a large housing association. As part of those secondments she has managed an active caseload covering a broad spectrum of housing matters including homelessness, allocations, anti-social behaviour, succession/assignment and possession claims with discrimination and public law defences.

She has advised local authorities and housing associations on social housing fraud, the right to buy and various aspects of housing policy and procedure.

### Property

Alice accepts instructions from both landlords and tenants. She has experience of possession claims and related disputes

including breach of covenant, forfeiture and relief.

She was junior counsel for the Residential Landlord's Association ("RLA") in the recent Supreme Court case of *McDonald (by her litigation friend Duncan J McDonald) v McDonald & Ors* [2016] UKSC 28; [2016] 3 WLR 45; [2016] HLR 28. The RLA intervened by way of written submissions on the applicability of an Article 8 defence in possession proceedings brought by a private landlord.

Alice appears in the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) and has successfully obtained Rent Repayment Orders on behalf of local authorities. She accepts instructions in leasehold disputes including service charges, property management and enfranchisement.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Alice has particular experience in matters concerning anti-social behaviour having undertaken two three-month secondments to a large local authority in the West Midlands specialising in all aspects of community safety.

She regularly appears in contested possession, injunction and committal trials in the County Court.

Alice was led by Jonathan Manning, acting on behalf of the local authority, in *Christie v Birmingham City Council* [2016] EWCA Civ 1339 in which the Court of Appeal held that an order of imprisonment for contempt of court, suspended as long as the contemnor complied with another order of indefinite duration, was not unlawful.

She has obtained Closure Orders on behalf of Local Authorities in the Magistrates' Court and has advised on Public Space Protection Orders and Community Protection Notices under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

## Community Care / Court of Protection

Alice accepts instructions in matters concerning both Community Care issues and Mental Capacity.

Whilst working as a housing advisor she worked on many cases concerning the provision of social care to those facing homelessness or living in unsuitable accommodation. She has recently been instructed in Judicial Review proceedings concerning the provision of accommodation under the Children Act 1989.

Alice has appeared in the Court of Protection in cases concerning property and affairs. She was recently instructed by a deputy seeking authority to litigate following defective works undertaken to the patient's property.

## Local Government

Alice has been involved in claims for judicial review in matters concerning homelessness, allocations and community care. She acts for both individuals and local authorities. She has successfully obtained interim relief including out of hours application and has successfully opposed permission on behalf of local authorities.

During pupillage she assisted in various judicial review cases including *R (Regas) v Enfield LBC* [2014] EWHC 4173 (Admin); [2015] HLR 14, a successful judicial review challenging a local authority's additional and selective licensing schemes under the Housing Act 2004.

## Public Law, Equality & Human Rights

Alice is very interested in cases involving public law, human rights and the Equality Act 2010, particularly where those issues arise in a housing law context.

She has recently been instructed in a complex multi-track trial with an Equality Act defence and is currently involved in a s.204 homelessness appeal which, in part, concerns the Public Sector Equality Duty.

As set out above, she was junior counsel for the RLA in the Supreme Court case of *McDonald (By her litigation friend Duncan J*

*McDonald v McDonald & Ors* [2016] UKSC 28; [2016] 3 WLR 45; [2016] HLR 28 on the applicability of an Article 8 defence in possession proceedings brought by a private landlord.

## Regulatory

Alice undertakes regulatory work and has advised and represented clients in matters such as:

- Tenancy deposit protection
- Social housing fraud
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Rent Repayment Orders
- Closure Orders
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Licensing schemes under the Housing Act 2004
- Council Tax and Business Rates.

## Public Access

Alice is qualified to accept instructions directly from the members of the public through the Public Access scheme.

# Legal Publications

Proportionality and Private Landlords, *Solicitor's Journal* 2016, 160(36) Supp (Bar Focus), 24-27.

*Ali v United Kingdom*: Homelessness Appeals and the Right to a Fair Trial, *Journal of Housing Law* 2016, Vol.19(2), 38-42.

Alice is a regular contributor to the Arden Chambers / Legal Action Group Housing Law Blog (available [here](#)). Blog posts include:

[Bedroom Tax: Round 2](#), 7 May 2017

[Joined up thinking](#), 13 April 2017

[Showing your workings](#), 2 February 2017

[A long and winding road, yet there is still further to go...](#), 7 December 2016

[Forgiveness or permission? \(Cardiff v. Lee \(Flowers\) and the argument that never was\)](#), 6 November 2016

[The Right to Buy – Where are we now?](#), 7 October 2016

[The Equality Act – What next?](#), 12 September 2016

[Allocation, Allocation, Allocation \(Part 2\)](#), 15 August 2016

[Allocation, Allocation, Allocation \(Part 1\)](#), 1 August 2016

[Anti-Social Behaviour & Sentencing for Contempt: A Recap](#), 13 July 2016.

[Step children and succession after divorce](#), 4 June 2016, with [Annette Cafferkey](#).

[The Right to Rent and the Immigration Act 2016](#), 21 June 2016.

She also summarises judgments for Lime Legal's weekly Housing Law Newsletter "Housing Law Week" (available [here](#)).

# Noteworthy Cases

*R (Sambotin) v Brent LBC* [2017] EWHC 1190 (Admin)

*Christie v Birmingham CC* [2016] EWCA Civ 1339, unreported, 14 December 2016, CA.

*McDonald v McDonald* [2016] UKSC 28; [2016] 3 WLR 45; [2016] HLR 28

# Memberships

Social Housing Law Association

Property Bar Association

Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association

Housing Law Practitioners' Association

# Other

Alice accepts instructions from the Bar Pro Bono Unit and has delivered training to solicitors and advisors through organisations such as LawWorks.

She was awarded a Sir Joseph Priestly Scholarship and Internship Award by the Inner Temple in 2013 and spent four months working *pro bono* on death penalty cases at a Texas law office before returning to London to begin pupillage.

Alice was awarded a Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship and an Exhibition Award for the Bar Professional Training Course by the Inner Temple in 2012.