Catherine Atkinson

Call: 2006

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Catherine is currently not practising law, as she has been elected as a Member of Parliament and is serving as a MP for Derby North.

Catherine Atkinson enjoyed a wide-ranging practice with particular interests in personal injury, employment, fraud and public family cases.

Catherine's broad experience was invaluable in cases which crossed over specialisms including; police work, criminal injury compensation cases, stress claims, inquest work and abuse cases.

Catherine is a strong and confident court advocate while being approachable and pragmatic with clients.

Catherine graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a First Class degree in Divinity before undertaking the law conversion at City University. She was awarded the Lincoln's Inn Gluckstein prize and was a Lord Haldane Scholar.

She stood as the Labour Parliamentary Candidate in Kensington and Chelsea in 2005 and was a Councillor there from 2006-2010. Catherine is the secretary of the Society of Labour Lawyers.

Catherine has been a contributing author to books in; occupational health, employment law and clinical negligence. She has also written articles on a wide range of topics from domestic violence and harassment to pirates.

Areas of Expertise

Civil

Civil:

Deka Chambers
5 Norwich Street
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Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence

Catherine is experienced in all areas of personal injury and clinical negligence litigation. Catherine has a particular interest in employer's liability and is regularly instructed by trade unions to represent claimants who have suffered accidents at work.

Catherine also appears before the Coroner's Courts in relation to industrial disease, clinical negligence and RTAs.

Catherine was a contributing author to 'Clinical Negligence Claims: A Practical Guide' 2nd Edition (2011), and the 'APIL Guide to Occupational Illness Claims' (2012). She has also contributed to Chambers Publications including articles on "Employment Rights for Temporary Workers" (2008) and "Employers' Liability: Pirates of the High Seas" (2008).

Employment

Catherine has a diverse employment law practice. She represents both claimants and respondents and has a broad range of experience including in unfair dismissal, discrimination, whistle blowing, TUPE and breach of contract. Catherine has successfully represented appellants before the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Catherine is a contributing author to 'Remedies in Employment Law'.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Catherine's experience of personal injury and criminal law makes her well placed to undertake appeals against the CICA. She has undertaken a wide range of cases for appellants in relation to both eligibility and quantum.

Police & Criminal

Police Work

Catherine undertakes regular work for a number of police forces. As well as defending in claims against the police, Catherine regularly undertakes disclosure work and her broad practice makes her well placed to act in cases which involve a cross over of criminal, civil and family work. Catherine is also experienced in applications for preventative orders including Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, Violent Offender Orders, Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Closure Orders. Catherine has also acted for the Police and UKBA in applications for cash forfeiture.

Criminal Fraud Work

Catherine prosecutes and defends in the Criminal Courts. Catherine is a Grade 2 Prosecutor and acts for a number of prosecuting authorities. Catherine has a wide range of experience but has particular expertise in fraud, including insider dealing and benefit fraud. Catherine is experienced in both representing and cross examining vulnerable witnesses.

Catherine was led in Operation Tiger (R v Richard Joseph) which involved allegations of £1.5 million worth of insider dealing. Michael Bowes QC was Leading Counsel and Eleanor Mawrey was First Junior. The Defendant was convicted and sentenced to 4 years custody.

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Catherine has successfully appeared in criminal cases before the Court of Appeal.

Family

Catherine undertakes public family work in the FPC, County Courts and High Court. She represents Local Authorities, Parents and Children's Guardians and has extensive experience of care cases. Before joining Chambers, Catherine worked for specialists in harassment, Lawson Cruttenden & Co which gave her invaluable experience of civil harassment.

Catherine has written articles on harassment and domestic violence including: "Ending the Cycle of Violence, Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews" The Guardian: July 2006, "Recent Developments in the Law of Harassment" New Law Journal (December 2006) and "Harassment Law: Raising the Bar" New Law Journal (April 2008).

Education

- Gluckstein Prize & Lord Haldane Scholar (Lincolns Inn); BVC, City University (2006); CPE, City University (2005); MA, University of Edinburgh (2004)

Memberships

- Association Of Personal Injury Lawyers
- Personal Injury Barristers Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Family Law Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit

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