



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

# Rachel Schon

YEAR OF CALL: 2018



Rachel joined Garden Court as a tenant in November 2020. During her training under the supervision of Mai-Ling Savage, Rebecca Chapman and Peter Rowlands, Rachel gained valuable experience across the areas of family, immigration, crime and civil liberties.

Rachel has a background in psychological research and is a particularly good choice in cases involving complex mental health issues or learning disabilities.

If you would like to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerking team:

[familyclerks@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:familyclerks@gclaw.co.uk) | +44 (0)20 7993 7600

You can also contact Rachel directly:

[rachels@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:rachels@gclaw.co.uk)

**FAMILY LAW**

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Rachel has a busy practice representing clients in public and private law matters. She has extensive experience in child arrangement order proceedings and injunctions, including final hearings and fact-finding hearings. Rachel finds that her background in psychological research is frequently of assistance when evaluating expert evidence. Rachel's experience in immigration and criminal law helps her to give the best advice in complex cases, including those where jurisdiction is disputed or where there are parallel proceedings in other courts. Rachel is experienced in working with vulnerable clients and is particularly skilled at explaining complex legal principles in simple terms.

## **EDUCATION LAW**

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Rachel welcomes instructions in education cases and is particularly interested in cases concerning Special Educational Needs provision. During her legal training Rachel volunteered with the School Exclusion Project, acting on behalf of parents seeking to challenge decisions to permanently exclude their child.

## **CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

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Rachel has successfully represented claimants in civil damages claims for false imprisonment against the Ministry of Justice. She has also succeeded in arguing that such claims should be allocated to the fast track rather than the small claims track due to their nature and importance.

During her pupillage, Rachel appeared in the Crown, Magistrates and Youth courts for trials, bail hearings, sentencing and extradition hearings.

## **BACKGROUND**

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Prior to being called to the Bar Rachel worked in social research. Her first job was as a researcher at The Young Foundation, a think tank that supports innovation in the public and charity sector. While at The Young Foundation Rachel worked on projects spanning healthcare, education, social isolation, physical activity and homelessness.

Rachel then took up a role at the Helen Bamber Foundation, a charity that provides integrated care to victims of human rights violations, and which works closely with lawyers in the provision of medico-legal reports. As Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Rachel assisted the executive team to review the charity's model and

strategy and helped coordinate and deliver psychological research into the impact of government policies on the charity's refugee and asylum-seeking clients. She also co-authored a [systematic review published in BMC Psychiatry looking at the impact of immigration detention on mental health.](#)

Rachel is qualified as a civil and commercial mediator with ADR-ODR International.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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[The impact of immigration detention on mental health: a systematic review \(M. von Werthern, K. Robjant, Z. Chui, R. Schon, L. Ottisova, C. Mason and C. Katona\), BMC Psychiatry 2018 18:382](#)

## **AWARDS**

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Mellon Fellowship for study at Yale University (2009-2012)

Astbury Scholar, Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Middle Temple Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition

BPP Excellence Award

## **EDUCATION**

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University of Cambridge, MA in Theology and Religious Studies (1st Class)

Yale Divinity School, M.A.R in Religion and Literature

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, fellowship year in Psychology, Politics and Law

GDL, City University

BPTC, BPP Law School

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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Family Law Bar Association

Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

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