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Profile: Overview

Francesca Quint, a member of both Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn, is a bencher of Lincoln's. She was called in July 1970 and spent some years as a lawyer at the Charity Commission. She has a busy, mainly advisory practice (with notable exceptions) and writes and lectures on charity law.

Experience and Expertise

Francesca is best known as a specialist in charity law, an area in which she has been working for the whole of her career to date. Her interest in charity law dates from the time when she was reading law as an undergraduate at King's College, London.

Charity law naturally overlaps with distinct areas of law in which Francesca also practises which impinge on the activities of charities. These include education, housing, ecclesiastical law and aspects of public law. It also extends to those areas which affect people who wish to support charities, such as wills, trusts and tax, in which Francesca is often asked to advise regardless of any specific charity involvement.

A good deal of Francesca's work is non-contentious but she often finds herself advising charities in trouble, whether financial, constitutional or regulatory, or acting for one side or another in disputes within, between or involving charities.

Where possible however, Francesca (herself a trained mediator) tries to assist her clients to find a creative solution which avoids litigation. Her advisory and drafting work has taken her into abstruse areas of many different kinds including toll bridges, fisheries, the exhumation of bodies, foreshore rights and private Acts of Parliament as well as mainstream topics such as the technicalities of company law, the law relating to unincorporated associations and local authority governance issues.

She is equally at home advising charities, clubs, commercial bodies and individuals, and has acted for several clients based in Northern Ireland as well as those in England and in Wales. She is also very flexible in accepting instructions informally as well as in more conventional ways, and apart from instructions from solicitors and other professionals on any of her practice areas is glad to receive direct instructions on charity law matters under the Bar's Public Access Scheme.

Cases and Work of Note

Her reported cases cover such topics as the existence of a trust, trustee decision-making, property issues, the closure of voluntary and independent schools, charity membership, the appointment of governors for a voluntary school, the meaning of public benefit under the 2006 Charities Act and which of two competing constitutions was the charity's governing document.

Less high profile disputes in which she has acted include claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act, claims for damages for child abuse in children's homes, ex gratia payments by charities on moral grounds and numerous disagreements within religious charities.

Recommendations

Francesca is recommended by the directories as a leading barrister for Traditional Chancery and Education and as a Star Individual for Charity law. Editorial has included the following comments:

- "Just an absolute star. She does work for us on pure charity law questions and is absolutely brilliant. She's really quick and really clear in her advice. If you want a

definitive answer on charity law, she is the person to go to." "Refreshingly non-academic in her approach, and a calming, reassuring influence." (Charities; Chambers UK 2018)

- "Very commercial, very user-friendly and very responsive, she can adapt her style depending on what is needed." (Chancery; Traditional, Chambers UK 2018)
- "She has wide and deep knowledge of charity law and a genuine interest in the subject." (Charities, The Legal 500, 2017)
- "She is outstanding and enormously experienced – there is no one better to turn to." (Charities, Chambers UK, 2017)
- "She is clear, practical and pragmatic and is willing to take a view on matters." (Chancery: Traditional, Chambers UK, 2017)
- "She has broad experience in charity governance." (Charities, The Legal 500, 2016)
- she is courteous in the extreme, and always incredibly helpful.
- she takes a pragmatic approach and is very personable.
- unquestionably one of the most distinguished juniors specialising in charity law.
- she is sound on legal principles and clear and practical in her advice.
- her experience is unrivalled.
- she knows her stuff and you can have complete confidence in her abilities.
- she pleasantly and professionally points out issues in a case and always comes up with helpful suggestions.
- very responsive and incredibly knowledgeable.
- hugely experienced in charity law matters, particularly involving complex trust issues.
- the excellent and accessible Francesca Quint is a charities expert of national repute.
- her experience has gained her enormous insight and guarantees she is the first port of call on issues involving the Commission immensely knowledgeable.
- clear, concise and very helpful.
- has a reputation for generating erudite, sensible opinions that can be interpreted easily by lay clients.
- the charity law doyenne.
- impressive and practical.
- the toast of instructing solicitors.
- excellent and accessible.
- has knowledge and experience in spades.
- known for her timely responses and impressive speed of thought.
- she displays outstanding skill and experience.
- responsive, succinct and persuasive.
- A current client comments that "Francesca is our "go-to" Counsel on charity matters where we need a combination of detailed in-depth knowledge of charity law and practice, coupled with a healthy dose of pragmatic common sense."

Publications

For many years Francesca has been involved, either alone or with others, in writing and editing charity law texts including Sweet & Maxwell's 'Charities: The Law and Practice' and the Charities volumes of Butterworth's Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents.

Seminars

Francesca is regularly asked to deliver seminars and in-house courses on charity law.

Memberships

Francesca is a long-standing member of the Charity Law Association on whose executive committee she served for a number of years and for whom she has drafted model governing documents, now in their 3rd edition.

Francesca is also a member of the Chancery Bar Association, Clarity, the Statute Law Society and the Ecclesiastical Law Society. She practices in Northern Ireland as well as England and Wales. She has served as a Governor of Dulwich College and as a trustee of Elizabeth Finn Care besides various other trusteeships, and regularly gives legal advice to the Almshouse Association.

Other Details

VAT Registration Number: 524443169

Bar Membership Number: 24519

For More Information

Please click on the links to the left or contact a member of the clerking team

