



Profile

Liz specialises in all aspects of housing law, with a particular specialism in homelessness and allocation of social housing. She also practises in areas of community care, particularly where community care intersects with homelessness. Liz is committed to acting for the homeless, and for tenants, and has a tenacious and practical approach to conducting her cases. She is on the panel for the Bar Pro Bono Unit. She has been recommended in social housing in Chambers and Partners since 2007 and has been ranked in Band 1 since 2009.

Legal 500 2012 describes her as: "everyone's first for homeless issues".

"Liz Davies is "superb, polite and decent" and "very committed to assisting vulnerable clients." She is praised for her "comprehensive legal knowledge, particularly in relation to homelessness" and also for her strong advocacy skills." Chambers and Partners 2012

Liz Davies receives outstanding praise for her expertise on homelessness and housing allocation work. Instructing solicitors turn to her for particularly tricky legal points, safe in the knowledge that *"she will always spot what has never been noticed before."* Davies is noted for her *"clarity of expression and probing cross-examination"* in the courtroom" **Chambers and Partners 2011**

"Former solicitor Liz Davies is renowned as *"one of the most able juniors around."* She co-authored the main textbook on homelessness and allocation law and is seen as an "absolute authority" in that area of law. She is also able to maintain particularly good relationships with clients." **Chambers and Partners 2010**

"Liz Davies has been promoted to the top tier of the rankings this year following a glut of positive feedback. *"A good fighter in court,"* she is a leading thinker on homelessness and allocation law, an area she *"knows inside-out."* **Chambers and Partners 2009**

She regularly speaks at conferences and training events, principally on aspects of homelessness or allocation of social housing law, but also on other areas of housing law.

Liz is also a qualified mediator. Further details can be found on the Garden Court Chambers Mediation website

Publications

Legal

Contributor to **Housing Law Handbook** (Cottle et al, Law Society, 2009)

Housing Allocation and Homelessness: Law and Practice (Jordans, 2nd edition, March 2010) co-author with Jan Luba QC

The Homelessness Act 2002: Special Bulletin(Jordans, 2002) co-author with Jan

Year of Call

1994

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Education

LL.B University College London (1985), former solicitor, qualified 1989

Practice Areas:

Liz Davies is a member of the following Practice Areas:

- Community Care
- Court of Protection
- Gypsy & Traveller Rights
- Housing
- Mediation
- Mental Health
- Property Law
- Public & Administrative Law

Garden Court Chambers

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Luba QC

Regular contributor to housing law journals and to the **Socialist Lawyer** (Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers)

Non-legal

Through the Looking Glass: a dissenter inside New Labour (Verso, 2001)

Monthly columnist for the **Morning Star newspaper**

Notable Cases

Ali v Birmingham City Council, Moran v Manchester City Council [2009] UKHL 36, [2009] 1 WLR 1506, HL Women's refuges are not reasonable to continue to occupy and therefore women occupying refuge accommodation are homeless.

Ahad v Tower Hamlets LBC [2008] EWCA Civ 606, CA,

R (Kilby) v Basildon DC; [2007] EWCA Civ 479, [2007] H.L.R. 39, CA (variation of terms of secure tenancies).

R (Conville) v Richmond upon Thames LBC [2006] EWCA Civ 718 (local housing authorities may not take into account their own resources when deciding what period would give intentionally homeless families a "reasonable opportunity" of finding their own accommodation);

Al-Ameri v Kensington & Chelsea RLBC [2004] 4UKHL 4, [2004] 2 AC 159, [2004] HLR 20 (accommodation provided by NASS does not constitute residence of own choice for purposes of local connection);

Sheffield City Council v Smart [2002] EWCA Civ 04 [2002] HLR 34 (human rights defences in possession actions for non-secure tenancies)

Ingle v Scarborough Borough Council [2002] EWCA Civ 290 [2002] HLR 36 (home loss payments for secure tenants);

Kacar v London Borough of Enfield [2001] 33 HLR 64 CA (scope of inquiries in homeless applications);

Warsame v London Borough of Hounslow [1999] 32 HLR 335 CA (jurisdiction of County Court to hear appeals against decisions discharging homelessness duties)

First Instance Cases

Tvrkovic v Tomas (1999) August Legal Action 29, Brentford County Court: liability and quantum on unlawful eviction claim;

Ahmed v Bains (2001) September Legal Action 25, Brentford County Court: liability and quantum on unlawful eviction claim;

Dorival v Simmons (2003) August Legal Action 30, Lambeth County Court: liability and quantum on unlawful eviction claim;

Samad v Okello (2004) November Legal Action 27, Shoreditch County Court: quantum of disrepair claim, including rat infestation and lack of heating and hot



water;

Garcia v Khan (2005) March Legal Action 21, Bow County Court: liability and quantum on unlawful eviction claim;

Daley & others v Mahmood & Rahman [2006] 1 P&CR D29, Central London County Court : significant award of damages unlawful eviction;

Khadija Ali v Bristol City Council (2007) October Legal Action 26, Bristol County Court: homelessness appeal on issue of whether accommodation that has been classified as Category One hazard can be reasonable to continue to occupy;

Bristol City Council v McCalla (2009) June Legal Action, Bristol County Court: permission to Defendant to defend claim for possession by way of public law defence;

Harlow District Council v Snellgrove (2010) October Legal Action, 30, Harlow County Court: claim for possession under Ground 16, Schedule 2, Housing Act 1985 (succession to secure tenancy more extensive than reasonably required) successfully defended as not reasonable to make an order for possession given Defendant's personal circumstances.

Shazad v Khan (2010) January 2011 Legal Action, 20, Birmingham County Court: merits and quantum on action for disrepair: 40% of rental value for disrepair to bedrooms and front entrance door, £2,000 per annum for intermittent heating and hot water.

GMAC RFAC Ltd v Jones (Elegushi as Second Defendant) (2010) January 2011 Legal Action 34, Lambeth County Court: Elegushi applying to be joined as Second Defendant and for execution of the warrant to be postponed for a two month period, pursuant to s.1(4) Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants etc) Act 2010.

Nazokkar v Barnet LBC (2010) February 2011 Legal Action, Central London County Court: homelessness appeal on suitability of accommodation, decision quashed as local authority had not ascertained confirmation of epilepsy, the type, the number and rate of seizures, the medication and the amount of control the medication might have had. The officer did not obtain any information as to the risk or further risk that might be expected in small accommodation of this sort.

London Borough of Southwark v Barrett (2011) Legal Action June, Bromley County Court: relevance of Art 8 proportionality defence.

Background

Liz started her professional life as a solicitor at TV Edwards, working in Tower Hamlets and Hackney. She developed a specialism in housing law as a solicitor. She came to the Bar in 1994.

Liz is a well-known labour movement and peace activist. She was a councillor in Islington between 1990 and 1998 and chaired the council's women's committee. She regularly writes and speaks on issues involving civil liberties, social justice, anti-war and anti-racism campaigns.

Since 2006, she has been the Chair of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers.



Barrister profile

Liz Davies



Societies

Liz is Chair of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers. She is a member of Liberty, Justice, Housing Law Practitioners Association, LAG and the Administrative Law Bar Association.

Last updated October 2011