



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

Marina Sergides

YEAR OF CALL: 2000



Marina Sergides specialises in housing, social security, prison law and inquests. She joined Garden Court Chambers as a housing and immigration pupil in 2002 and became a tenant in the same year.

"Uncanny ability to empathise with her clients, while maintaining fierce advocacy."

LEGAL 500 2019

"A very passionate advocate" who "offers clear and concise advice that is excellent."

CHAMBERS UK 2019

"In court she's just a great advocate, she really fights the client's corner." "She will take on unusual and challenging cases, and I like her approach with clients."

CHAMBERS UK 2017

"She's brilliant when you need a fighter - and you often do in housing!"

CHAMBERS UK 2016

"She's very good when dealing with vulnerable clients and a very thorough practitioner."

CHAMBERS UK 2016

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

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You can also contact Marina directly:

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SOCIAL HOUSING LAW

Marina specialises in all aspects of social housing law. She has extensive experience in nuisance possession proceedings, s204 homelessness appeals, unlawful eviction and harassment claims, disrepair claims, judicial reviews, human rights, public law defences, disability discrimination and crossover ASBO proceedings in the magistrates and county courts. In particular, Marina works in cases involving tenants with mental health problems, where capacity has been in issue, and where the Official Solicitor has been instructed. Marina has represented tenants before the Social Security Tribunal and before the Social Security Commissioner.

Marina sits on the Housing Law Practitioners Association conference steering group.

Marina is a founder member and Trustee of The Vicky Sergides Foundation, a stomach cancer charity.

NOTABLE CASES

***Aslam v Ali*, 10 June 2009, LAG December 2009**

Mr Aslam lived with his wife and eight children in a four bedroom house that suffered from substantial disrepair. The Court awarded damages at 50% of the rental value for the period 2003 to 2006 and at 33.3% of the rental value for the period 2006 to 2009.

***Gargett, R (on the application of) v London Borough of Lambeth* [2008] EWHC 663 (Admin)**

The Court considered whether a claimant can be entitled to a discretionary housing payment if they are in receipt of maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit.

[Gargett, R \(on the application of\) v London Borough of Lambeth \[2008\] EWCA Civ](#)

[1450 \(18 December 2008\)](#)

[Gargett, R \(on the application of\) v London Borough of Lambeth \[2008\] EWHC 663](#)

[\(Admin\) \(08 April 2008\)](#)

Ferguson v Jones, Birmingham County Court, Legal Action December 2008

Damages for disrepair were awarded at £2700 p.a. pursuant to s.11 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

[UKSSCSC CH_318_2005](#)

Successful in arguing that a narrow boat with no permanent mooring was held to be within the meaning of "dwelling".

[\[2005\] UKSSCSC CH_318_2005 \(10 June 2005\)](#)

R v London Borough of Southwark

Ogunlowo, Camberwell Magistrate Court, Legal Action December 2004

[2004] UKSSCSC CH_4574_2003

The case considered whether there was a breach of Article 14 when read in conjunction with either article 8 or Article 1 of Protocol 1 in the provision of housing benefit for those residing in bail hostels. The Commissioner held that there was.

INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

Marina has also represented bereaved families in inquests arising from deaths at work, whilst in the care of the state and where health and safety regulations have been breached.

In 2010, Marina acted on behalf of the family of Darwin Kealey at the inquest into his death at HMP Wormwood Scrubs. There were eight interested parties at the inquest, which heard evidence about a catalogue of systemic failures by the police, Serco and the Prison Service. The jury returned a narrative verdict, identifying a range of missed opportunities and failures that occurred during his detention.

NOTABLE CASES

Inquest touching upon the death of Billy Coulson, 15 April 2011

HMP Chelmsford were criticised over the death of a teenager remand prisoner. Eighteen-year-old Billy Coulson hanged himself in his cell at the prison in September 2008. The prison failed to recognise his suicide risk.

Inquest touching upon the death of James Connolly, 25 January 2011

Death of a vulnerable 23-year-old man with mental health problems and who was being treated in the healthcare wing.

Inquest touching upon the death of Kirpal Rahel, 22 July 2010

Death in a secure mental health institution as a result of inappropriate administration of Olanzapine.

Inquest into the death of Stewart Klincke, June 2008

Stewart Klincke, 55, died after being overcome by carbon dioxide fumes in a room at the Scottish Courage brewery, on January 22, 2006. The Jury gave a narrative verdict, finding that Mr Klincke would not have died if the valve was in its original state.

MEDIATION

Marina is an accredited mediator. Praised for her ability to address issues with clear and calm approach, Marina is an effective mediator. Further details can be found on the [Garden Court Chambers Mediation website](#).

BACKGROUND

In December 2010 Marina was part of an Advocats San Frontier and Haldane delegation that visited Palestine and the Occupied Territories on a fact-finding mission.

Marina has also been a visiting Law lecturer at London Southbank University, to post grad students.

Marina is a Mentor for students who are considering a career at the Bar, organized through [Access to the Bar for All](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Marina contributed to the *Law Society Handbook on Housing*, 2009. She contributed to the annual *Legal Action Disrepair Roundups* in December 2004, 2005 and 2006. Marina is also a regular contributor to *Socialist Lawyer*, the magazine of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers.

In December 2006 Marina was co-editor of the *Prison Booklet* produced for the post Mubarak Inquiry Conference. It was provided for the 500 prison officials, Prison Governors and MPs that were amongst the attendees.

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Marina has provided training to the Housing Law Practitioners Association and regularly provides training at the Garden Court Seminars on a wide range of housing and civil law topics. She recently spoke at the Garden Court Judicial Review Conference and currently provides training for Community Legal Advice Centers.

EDUCATION

- LLB (Hons) London

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- The Housing Law Practitioners Association
- Administrative Law Bar Association: ALBA
- Inquest Lawyers Group
- Lobby for Cyprus
- Palestine Solidarity Campaign
- The Haldane Society
- Marina was also a member of Pupillage and Training Committee from 2002 until 2008 and was convenor from 2007-2008.

LANGUAGES

- Greek (bilingual)

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