

Orlagh O'Neill
Partner



Areas of Law: Employment, Education and Statutory Inquiries

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Background

Orlagh graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1995 with an Honours Degree in Law. She completed her professional training as a solicitor with Carson McDowell in 1998. Since qualification, Orlagh has specialised in Employment Law and has advised some of Northern Ireland's largest and best known employers.

Orlagh is a Committee Member and Treasurer of the Employment Lawyers Group of Northern Ireland and a member of both the UK and Irish Employment Law Groups (ELA and ELAI).

Orlagh is recognised by Chambers & Partners UK and the Legal 500 as a leader in her field. In the Legal 500 2103 clients say that Orlagh is '*simply outstanding*', and '*fights claims to the highest standard*'. Chambers and Partners 2014 reports that Orlagh "*comes highly recommended by sources and is renowned for her work advising employers on the full range of employment issues.*"

Experience

As Head of the Employment Department Orlagh has over 15 years experience advising and representing a wide range of employer clients, including many household names on all aspects of Employment Law.

Orlagh's experience includes:

- Advising some of Northern Ireland's largest and best known companies on employment matters in Northern Ireland including all industrial and fair employment tribunal claims;
- Providing strategic advice to employers in relation to complex work place investigations involving bullying, harassment, suspension, discipline and whistle blowing.
- Devising strategies for the early resolution of sensitive work place issues including the use of external mediation;

- Advising in relation to executive/team departures particularly where injunctions may be necessary to protect the goodwill and business interests of her clients;
- Orlagh has particular expertise in relation to education and the teaching profession of Northern Ireland. She advises schools, colleges and universities in relation to employment issues. She also provides strategic advice to a number of schools in relation to the implications of Area Based Planning in Northern Ireland;
- Orlagh regularly speaks publicly on employment related issues and conducts training for managers at all levels in her client organisations.