


Alison Paines


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Alison is a partner in the charities team.

She has over 25 years of experience in advising charities and other non-profit bodies, and those who contract with or donate to them.

Her clients include an eclectic mix of service providers, grant-makers, educational bodies, aid agencies and research institutes, as well as individual and corporate philanthropists.

She advises on all aspects of charities' activities but specialises in strategic and governance advice. She is particularly well known for her expertise on medical charities (especially those linked with the National Health Service), educational charities, charities associated with government and international charity issues.

Alison is well used to negotiating for clients with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

She is the past Chairman of the Charity Law Association and the current Chair of Governors at a leading school.

Track record

Governance reviews

Governance reviews for Cancer Research UK, Girls' Day School Trust and Orders of St John Care Trust.

Interim General Counsel role

Undertaking the role of interim General Counsel for the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Establishment of Education Endowment Fund

On behalf of Sutton Trust, establishment of Education Endowment Fund, and related negotiation with Department for Education relating to £120 million funding.

Grant and operational procedures

Advice to Local Trust on the development of its 'Big Local' grant and operational procedures, following its receipt of £200 million from the Big Lottery Fund.

NHS charities

Advice for NHS charities on the impact of the Government's proposals to establish Academic Health Science Centres with leading universities; and the structuring of relevant corporate and charitable entities.

Association of NHS Charities

Advice to Association of NHS Charities on Department of Health's deregulation proposals.

University College London Hospitals

Charity law advice on property development structuring for University College London Hospitals Charity, and related dealings with Charity Commission.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Merger advice to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (involving employment and property transfers, as well as future fundraising issues).

Talks

- Lectured with the Department of Health and the Charity Commission at roadshows in Manchester and London on the Department's deregulation proposals affecting NHS charities

- Spoke at a variety of events in Hong Kong and Singapore on fundraising and governance structures for international charities - November 2013

External publications

Charities chapter to Chambers & Partners publication '*Legal Brexit*' - August 2016

Edits and contributes to Oxford University Press' '*International Charitable Giving*' - published - November 2012

She writes the Department of Health's Guidance on '*NHS charities' conversion to independence*' - December 2012, updated March 2015

Comparative legal structures for charities and other non-profits across the European Union

'*Revenue Law - Principles and Practice*', 'Charities' chapter of Tolley's

Admissions

England and Wales, 1981

Education

University of Cambridge (Girton College), M.A.

Languages

English

Memberships

Charity Law Association

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners

Law Society of England and Wales

Key dates

Year joined: 1988

Year became partner: 1991

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