

Joanne Cecil

Garden Court Chambers (previously 1 Pump Court)

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I have a serious crime and public law practice and have successfully challenged the Government on a number of occasions in relation to various aspects of criminal practice (e.g. appropriate adults for 17 year olds and the failure of the MoJ to provide registered intermediaries to defendants). Damn those pesky left wing lawyers ...

Prior to coming to the bar I worked in the US for several years on Guantanamo Bay and death penalty litigation and I continue to work in this area both publishing and training on juvenile justice, fair trial and rule of law.

The reason I came to the bar was to promote and secure access to justice for the most vulnerable. At present there is a sustained attack on the independent bar, rule of law and UK justice system.

My position on the CBA ballot is, I hope, widely known. Being referred to as 'the dark side with cookies(!)' for my vocal opposition to the deal but we must move on together to the next fight.

The recent MoJ consultation (forced upon them by the JR brought by LCCSA & CSLA) and response are an insult to the professions. Dual contracts spell the end of the independent

bar. Predictably the Government have announced the need for further cuts. It would be naive to assume that the MoJ will not come back for more.

We must unite together, support the LCCSA, CSLA and the Justice Alliance to ensure a properly functioning and remunerated justice system.

I stood on the picket lines, I attended every demo and am prepared to do so again. No returns was a resounding success. As a member of MTQC's chambers I hope to continue the fight he began.