Julian Blake



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Julian reached national attention as Counsel to the Inquiry in the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, with The Times praising his "*firm but polite cross-examination*". In recognition of this work, as well as his representation of the Chief Medical Officer in the Covid-19 Inquiry and other prominent inquests and inquiries, he was awarded the Junior of the Year award by Chambers and Partners.

He has been consistently recommended in all the leading directories, with the most recent edition of Chambers and Partners commenting: *"His advocacy is phenomenal, and he has perfect judgement. Julian really is the real deal".*

Julian acts in a wide range of public law, information, media and technology (IMT) law, healthcare law and commercial law fields. As an experienced member of the Attorney General's 'A' Panel of Counsel, Julian has been involved in some of the Government's most complex and sensitive cases, including in several challenges before the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. As set out in the Expertise section below, he has appeared in cases as varied as challenges to detention by UK forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, the resettlement of the Chagos Islanders, the leading financial sanctions challenge and a data breach involving one of the world's largest tech companies.

> ***He is someone who is really going places. He is very sure-footed.***
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> **CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023**

Expertise

Recent cases

HB v Secretary of State for Business and Trade & Ors

[2025] EWHC 3205 (KB)

Instructed by Lord Kim Darroch, the former Ambassador to the United States, in a case concerning an allegation of misfeasance in public office and various breaches of ECHR and data protection rights. The claimant was a former civil servant who had been arrested in connection with allegations concerning the leaking of diplomatic cables. The claim was successfully struck out.

Attorney General v Hartley

[2021] EWHC 1876 (FAM), [2021] 1 WLR 6013

Instructed by the Attorney General in contempt of court proceedings in the Family Division. This judgment is a Practice Note in the making of contempt applications after the conclusion of proceedings. The contempt involved the publication on social media of information relating to proceedings that were heard in private.

R (on the application of Good Law Project Ltd) v Prime Minister

[2022] EWHC 298 (ADMIN)

Instructed by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Prime Minister in this challenge to the appointments of Dame Kate Bingham, Baroness Harding and Mr Mike Coupe to healthcare roles during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is a key case concerning standing in judicial review proceedings as well as matters of discrimination and the PSED.

Gubarev & Others v Buzzfeed

[2018] EWHC 512 (QB)

Instructed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to intervene in the application made by Christopher Steele to set aside an order requesting that he give oral evidence pursuant to a letter of request from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The case concerns defamation proceedings arising from the publication of the “Trump Dossier”.

R (on the application of AZ) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2017] EWCA CIV 35

Instructed in a challenge to the refusal of a refugee travel document following an assessment that the claimant would travel to Syria. The Court of Appeal recently handed down judgment supporting the Secretary of State's decision not to disclose further information for reasons of national security.

Al Waheed v Ministry of Defence, Mohammed v Ministry of Defence

[2017] UKSC 2, [2017] 2 WLR 327

Instructed in the Supreme Court challenge concerning allegations that persons in Iraq and Afghanistan were unlawfully detained in breach of article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights by HM armed forces acting under mandates from the United Nations Security Council.

R (on the application of Miranda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

[2016] EWCA CIV 6, CA, JANUARY 19 2016, TIMES, FEBRUARY 19 2016

Instructed in this well known challenge to the use of Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. The case concerns David Miranda, partner of Glen Greenwald who was detained in connection with the material taken by Edward Snowden.

Rahmatullah (No 2) v Ministry of Defence, Mohamed v Ministry of Defence

[2017] UKSC 1, [2017] 2 WLR 287

Instructed in the Supreme Court challenge concerned the nature and content of the doctrine of Crown act of state in the context of claims relating to detention in Iraq and Afghanistan. The appeal successfully upheld this defence, which had last been applied in the 19th Century.

R (on the application of Bancoult) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (No 4)

[2016] UKSC 35, SC, JUNE 29 2016, [2016] 3 WLR 157

Instructed in the Supreme Court challenge. This case considered whether, and in what circumstances, the Supreme Court may set aside a previous decision of the House of Lords. The application concerned alleged material non-disclosure concerning the resettlement of the Chagossians.

Bank Mellat v HM Treasury

[2015] EWHC 1258 (COMM), [2015] EWCA CIV 1052, [2016] EWCA CIV 452

Instructed in both the application to set aside financial restriction decisions and the $4bn civil damages claim resulting from the earlier proceedings.

Roberts v United Kingdom

APPLICATION NO. 59703/13, JANUARY 2016

Instructed as sole counsel in this challenge before the European Court of Human Rights concerning the farness of the domestic jury trial / selection system and compatibility with Article 6 ECHR.

Achievements

News, Articles & Publications

Author, *EU Law in Criminal Practice*, OUP (2013)

Practitioner Editor, *Blackstone's Criminal Practice*, OUP (2015)

Contributor, *Miller on Contempt*, OUP (2017)

Contributor, *National Security Law,* OUP (2021)

Education

University of Cambridge, MA (Cantab)

Yale University, Fox International Fellowship

Other

Astbury Scholarship, Middle Temple

Lloyd Jacob Memorial Prize, Middle Temple

Former Editor of *Varsity* and President of the Junior Combination Room (JCR)

Prior to joining the Bar, Julian worked for the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in Uganda, assisting offenders facing capital punishment. He is currently a Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Julian is a truly outstanding advocate with compelling written work. He has an ability to block out the noise and laser in on the nub of the issue.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

His advocacy is phenomenal, and he has perfect judgement. Julian really is the real deal.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

Julian is an impressive and forceful advocate with a commanding presence.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

He is an exceptional advocate, who is highly persuasive and articulate. He presents complex legal arguments clearly and precisely.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

Attention to detail, very user friendly. Strong intellect.

LEGAL 500 2021

Extremely personable and great to work with

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2019

The most user-friendly barrister I've ever instructed. He completely understands clients' concerns. He's always one step ahead and can predict things that'll come up.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2019

He has an enormous breadth of experience and understanding of a rapidly developing field and is very switched on.

LEGAL 500 2019

Very unassuming but massively hard-working, reliable and tough when required.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2020