Tom Cross KC



Silk: 2025 Call: 2007

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Tom Cross KC is recognised in the legal directories as one of the country's leading Silks in seven areas: Administrative & Public Law, Civil Liberties & Human Rights, Education, Professional Discipline, Local Government, Employment, and Data Protection.

The latest edition of Chambers & Partners describes him as "*an extraordinary talent*", "*at the very top of his game*", and *"a phenomenal lawyer doing exceptional work".*

He is principally known for his work at the top of the fields of public law, human rights and discrimination, across a wide-range of subject-matter and for all types of client. Before Silk, he was described in the Legal 500 as: *"the best junior at the public law bar, without question",* and served for many years on the Attorney-General's most senior panel of junior Counsel in civil cases.

His industry awards include UK Public Law Junior of the Year 2018 and UK Employment Law Junior of the Year 2019, and his nominations include UK Public Law Junior of the Year 2022 and Public Services and Charities Junior of the Year 2023.

> ***both brilliant and brilliant to work with***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500**

Some of his recent instructions include: the challenge to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Interim Update on single-sex spaces (GLP); Sussex University's challenge to its fine by the Office for Students for breaching free speech duties; the judicial review of the admission arrangements for the Hampstead Heath ponds; the claim against the Care Quality Commission's registration of the country's first private gender hormone clinic (Evans); the leading case on whether faith-based school admissions criteria may be race discriminatory (CKT); the challenge to the Police's participation in Pride (Smith),the judicial review of VAT on private school fees (*ALX*); Tommy Robinson's challenge to his prison conditions; the leading case on considering equalities impacts in school exclusions (*TZA*); the leading case on the application of freedom of expression in the workplace (*Higgs*); defending Katharine Birbalsingh's ban on prayer rituals at Michaela School; the "Hogwarts Express" judicial review (*West Coast Railway Company*); the Supreme Court claim by Deliveroo Riders to worker rights (*IWGB*); the British Generic Manufacturers Association's challenge to the negotiation of a new scheme for the supply of medicines to the NHS; the Part 8 claim on whether mentally unwell patients could be sectioned following "remote" assessments (*Derbyshire NHS Trust*); Lucy Letby's Article 6 claim to an additional legally aided advocate for her defence at her criminal trial; the lockdown judicial review (*Dolan*); advising on what constitutes non-discriminatory pornography in prisons; the dispute about Manchester United's away supporter allowance at Stamford Bridge; the challenge to the Census 2021 guidance (*Fair Play for Women*); Charlie Hughes' battle for medicinal cannabis on the NHS; the challenge to Bermuda's prohibition of same-sex marriage (*Ferguson*); the claim by Sir Philip Rutnam against the then Home Secretary Rt Hon Priti Patel; the dispute between Christ Church, Oxford, and its Dean; the Article 50 / Gina Miller litigation; the challenge to the Parole Board's decision to release the "Black Cab Rapist" (*DSD*); the school sex segregation case (*Al-Hijrah*), representing Strictly Come Dancing Professional Kristina Rihanoff in pregnancy discrimination proceedings, and acting in claims concerning abortion rights, the crime of female genital mutilation, and the recovery of silver from a shipwreck which was sunk during World War Two in the Indian Ocean.

Expertise

Publications & Media

He is the creator and host of the Cross Examination Podcast, in which he examines what the law has to say on the social, cultural, and ethical issues of the day. You can listen here. For press and radio interviews with Tom, see here.

Co-author:

- *Education Law Handbook* (LexisNexis: 2021)
- *Judicial Review* (Supperstone, Goudie and Walker) (6th Edn: 2019)
- *Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings* (10th Edn: 2019)
- *The Protections for Religious Rights: Law and Practice* (OUP: 2013)
- *The Law of Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions* (OUP: 2011)

He has written on numerous topics for a wide range of publications including The Times, the European Advocate, the Solicitors Journal, the Education Law Journal, the New Law Journal, Licensing Review, Professional Negligence, the Journal of Planning and Environmental Law, and the Local Government Lawyer. His yearly review of "Public Law in the Supreme Court", authored jointly with Christopher Knight, has been published for nine years running in the journal Judicial Review.

He speaks widely on issues relating to his areas of practice.

Earlier in his career, he was a Visiting Lecturer at the City University, where he taught the law of torts (2008-9). From 2009-2010 he served as a Judicial Assistant at the UK Supreme Court, where he worked for Lord Collins of Mapesbury, with whom he subsequently wrote *The law on international custom in the case law of the UK Supreme Court*, published by the Council of Europe.

Education

Tom read Modern Languages at The Queen's College, University of Oxford and was awarded Double First Class Honours. He did the CPE at City University, London, obtaining a Distinction.

He is worth his weight in gold.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

As an advocate he is always poised, polished and well prepared

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

A slick performer.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

Clear, commanding, convincing, and calming

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

He is very easy to work with

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

He is very personable

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

He finds creative solutions to problems

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

He has the great skill of delivering a complex idea in a straightforward way

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, LEGAL 500

Decisive, deft and devastating in drafting

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