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.***
>
> **CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023**

Expertise

Independent Investigations

In addition to Julian's expertise in public inquiries, he is regularly instructed to conduct private and highly sensitive investigations. Examples of his work in this area include:

Investigation into the provision of false evidence to the High Court and Investigatory Powers Tribunal in relation to Agent X
Lead Counsel in this investigation into the circumstances resulting in the provision of false evidence to the High Court and the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in proceedings connected to 'Agent X'. This investigation was ordered by the Prime Minister.

Investigation into the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme by Building Digital UK
Instructed by Building Digital UK, an executive agency of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to carry out an investigation into the obtaining of circa £1m grants paid to a provider of Gigabit Broadband services.

Investigation into the provision of false evidence to the High Court and Investigatory Powers Tribunal in relation to Agent X

Lead Counsel in this investigation into the circumstances resulting in the provision of false evidence to the High Court and the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in proceedings connected to 'Agent X'. This investigation was ordered by the Prime Minister.

Investigation into the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme by Building Digital UK

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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