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.

> ***Clients just love him. He works hard for them and understands their concerns and business. Lay clients also appreciate him because he is able to explain complex areas of law in an accessible manner.***
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> CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2017

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Julian's commercial practice has a strong focus on sanctions, advising companies, individuals and governments on potential liabilities as well as challenges to listings and financial restrictions measures. He was instructed for several years in the long running **Bank Mellat** litigation, including the $4bn damages claim in the Commercial Court and multiple appearances in appellate courts.

In its recommendation, Chambers and Partners 2019 cited Julian's work "*in significant PIL cases including challenges against the imposition of financial sanctions*".

Because of Julian's background in public international law he is also regularly called upon to act and advise in matters concerning the taking of evidence for use in foreign proceedings, including under the Hague Convention and the Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions Act) 1975. This includes:

- **Gubarev v Buzzfeed** [2018] EWHC 1201 (QB) – Request by a Florida Court for the examination of Christopher Steele concerning the Trump Dossier
- **Lodestar v Bacardi** – Request by a California Court for documentary evidence and examination of witnesses concerning a trademark
- **Bank Mellat v HM Treasury** – Requests under Council Regulation (EC) 1206 (to a German Bank) and CPR Part 34.13 (to a Malaysian Bank).

Julian also regularly advises on matters concerning disclosure of commercially or legally sensitive material and has managed large disclosure exercises on behalf of corporate and government clients.

Julian is also experienced in sensitive corporate investigations. This includes being instructed for over 12 months by a multinational media company in relation to an internal investigation into allegations of interception of communications, corruption and misuse of private information. Julian's criminal practice makes him well placed to advise on issues where both commercial and potential criminal liabilities overlap.

Gubarev v Buzzfeed

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

letter of request in US defamation proceedings concerning publication of Christopher Steele's "Trump dossier".

Lodestar v Bacardi

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Request by a California Court for documentary evidence and examination of witnesses concerning a trademark

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.

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