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 combines an exceptional intelligence with brilliant client skills.***
>
> CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2022

Expertise

Public and Public International

Julian has a broad public law and public international law practice spanning the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He advises governments, corporations and individuals on judicial review challenges, draft and final legislation and challenges to the decisions of ombudsmen, regulators and other public authorities.

Examples of Julian's work in this field includes the following:

- **R (Good Law Project Ltd) v Prime Minister**. Julian appeared for the Prime Minister and Department for Health and Social Care in this challenge to the appointments of Dame Kate Bingham, Baroness Harding and Mr Mike Coupe to healthcare roles during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- **British Airways, easyJet and Ryanair v Secretary of State for Health** . Julian appeared for the Secretary of State in this challenge to the COVID-19 'quarantine' provisions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations 2020.
- **Serdar Mohammed v Ministry of Defence** . Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in this case concerning the detention of a suspected Taliban commander in Afghanistan.
- **Rahmatullah v Ministry of Defence** . Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in in this case concerning the transfer of a Pakistani national captured by British forces in Iraq.
- **Bancoult v Foreign and Commonwealth Office (No.4).** Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a case concerning the resettlement of the Chagos Islanders.
- **Bank Mellat v HM Treasury**. Julian acted for the Treasury for six years in this long running litigation concerning financial restrictions on a bank and measures against the Iranian financial system.
- **AZ (Syria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department.** Julian represented the Secretary of State as sole counsel in a challenge to the refusal of a refugee travel document following an assessment that the claimant would travel to Syria and was a risk to UK national security.
- **MAB v Secretary of State for the Home Department.** Julian represented the Secretary of State as sole counsel in a challenge to the refusal of refugee status on the basis that the applicant had been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

> ***Julian is an impressive and forceful advocate with a commanding presence.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

- **Gubarev v Buzzfeed.** Julian represented the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as sole counsel in the application made by Christopher Steele to set aside an order requesting his evidence in connection with the 'Trump dossier'.
- **R (David Miranda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department.** Julian represented the Secretary of State in this challenge to the use of Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. The case concerned the partner of Glen Greenwald who was detained in connection with the material taken by Edward Snowden.

In addition to Julian's general public law practice, he also regularly appears in public inquiries (see the 'Inquests and Inquiries' section below).

Julian also regularly acts in challenges against regulators and ombudsmen. He has acted in matters concerning the Financial Ombudsman Service, the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, the Information Commissioner and MedCo.

R (Good Law Project Ltd) v Prime Minister

Julian appeared for the Prime Minister and Department for Health and Social Care in this challenge to the appointments of Dame Kate Bingham, Baroness Harding and Mr Mike Coupe to healthcare roles during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

British Airways, easyJet and Ryanair v Secretary of State for Health

Julian appeared for the Secretary of State in this challenge to the COVID-19 'quarantine' provisions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations 2020.

Mohammed v Ministry of Defence

Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in this case concerning the detention of a suspected Taliban commander in Afghanistan.

Rahmatullah v Ministry of Defence

Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in in this case concerning the transfer of a Pakistani national captured by British forces in Iraq.

Bancoult v Foreign and Commonwealth Office (No.4)

Julian appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a case concerning the resettlement of the Chagos Islanders.

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.

Bank Mellat v HM Treasury

Julian acted for the Treasury for six years in this long running litigation concerning financial restrictions on a bank and measures against the Iranian financial system.

AZ (Syria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Julian represented the Secretary of State as sole counsel in a challenge to the refusal of a refugee travel document following an assessment that the claimant would travel to Syria and was a risk to UK national security.

MAB v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Julian represented the Secretary of State as sole counsel in a challenge to the refusal of refugee status on the basis that the applicant had been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Gubarev v Buzzfeed

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

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

Gubarev v Buzzfeed

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Request by a Florida Court for the examination of Christopher Steele concerning the Trump Dossier

R (Miranda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Julian represented the Secretary of State in this challenge to the use of Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. The case concerned the partner of Glen Greenwald who was detained in connection with the material taken by Edward Snowden.

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