Julian Milford KC

Silk: 2020 Call: 2000

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Julian Milford was called to the bar in 2000. His main areas of practice are public law, information law, and employment law. Julian undertakes advisory and judicial review work in the field of public and constitutional law for central and local government, other public authorities, and individuals, and has been instructed for and against government on issues of major public importance. He advises on and acts in cases concerning information rights in the civil courts and statutory tribunals, and has been instructed in significant data protection and freedom of information cases, having a particular specialism in national security cases and proceedings in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. He acts in employment cases in the civil courts and Employment Tribunal, and has experience across the Tribunal's statutory jurisdiction, including extensive experience of acting in large-scale discrimination/equal pay claims and industrial action cases. His experience in discrimination law and the breadth of his expertise makes him well placed to undertake investigations and inquiries in the employment or regulatory context. He also practices in the field of education law, particularly in cases involving higher education institutions.

> ***He is excellent on his feet" and "he is a formidable and dogged opponent***
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Expertise

Public Law & Human Rights

Julian undertakes public and constitutional law work for local authorities, central government, NHS authorities, individuals, public interest groups and others. That work includes general public law judicial review claims at all levels of Court up to the Supreme Court, including high- value commercial judicial review claims, and claims connected in particular with discrimination issues of all kinds; information rights; surveillance; and education. He has appeared on a number of occasions before the European Court of Human Rights. He has extensive experience in cases with a national security element, including cases in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. He also undertakes investigations and inquiries (for example, acting as an independent investigator or legal adviser in recent cases concerning pensions and allegations of bullying and harassment). He has been shortlisted by Legal 500 for public law barrister of the year for 2024. His recent and current work includes:

- Acting for HMG in judicial review proceedings by Unite the Union, challenging the means testing of Winter Fuel payments on human rights and domestic public law grounds.
- Acting for HMG in a judicial review challenge by Women Against State Pension Inequality to the Secretary of State for Work and Pension's refusal to set up a compensation scheme for women claiming maladministration in connection with changes to State Pension age.
- Acting successfully for HMG in a high-profile challenge to the Secretary of State for Health's emergency ban on the supply/sale of puberty blockers to under 18s: R(TransActual CIC and YY) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care [2025] PTSR 1.
- Acting for HMG in current major judicial review proceedings challenging the compatibility of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 and the legal framework for governmental surveillance powers generally with human rights and EU law (R(Liberty) v (1) SSHD (2) SSFCO [2023] EMLR 22, [2022] 1 WLR 4929, [2020] 1 WLR 243, and [2019] QB 481).
- Acting in Higher Court proceedings involving pension rights, including Robins v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [2023] EWCA Civ 890 (rights of guaranteed minimum pension recipients); R(Delve) v SSWP [2021] ICR 236 (challenge by the campaign group BackTo60 to changes in the state pension age for women); R(Harvey) v Haringey LBC [2019] ICR 1059 (challenge to the rules in the Local Government Pension Scheme for cohabitees).

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- Acting in proceedings concerning human rights/discrimination challenges to welfare provision: see for example R(Kelly) v SSWP [2024] EWCA Civ 613 (compatibility of bereavement benefit legislation with human rights); R(Motherhood Plan) v HMT [2022] 3 All ER 727 (Covid support payments and human rights); R(TP) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [2022] PTSR 1092 (Universal Credit challenge); R(Adiatu) v SSWP [2021] 2 All ER 484 (Covid support); R(Jackson) v SSWP [2020] 1 WLR 1441 (bereavement benefit and cohabitees).
- Acting in a challenge to a major school reorganization, which was the first case in which the CoA considered the proper interpretation of bilingual Welsh/English legislation: R(Driver) v Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC [2021] ELR.
- Acting before the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber concerning alleged breaches of the ECHR and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, arising from disclosures made by Edward Snowden (Big Brother Watch and ors v United Kingdom, 10 Human Rights Organisations v UK, Bureau of Investigative Journalism v UK (2022) 74 EHRR 17. Julian has acted in a number of other recent ECtHR cases concerning alleged state surveillance, including Lucas and Jones v United Kingdom (a claim that the UK's legal regime concerning state surveillance of parliamentarians breaches the ECHR) and Wieder and Guanieri v United Kingdom (2024) 78 EHRR 8 (a claim that the UK has breached human rights by surveillance of persons overseas).

Achievements

Publications and Appointments

Contributor to Tolley's Employment Handbook and Butterworth's Employment Service.

Julian sits as a Recorder (Crime) on the Western Circuit.

Education

Julian read English at St. John's College, Oxford, and studied piano and piano accompaniment at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Guildhall School of Music. He spent a number of years as a full-time professional pianist and chamber musician.

He's highly responsive and a pleasure to deal with; he has an exceptional ability to distil highly complex issues and is extremely practical

THE LEGAL 500

He is intellectually rigorous and works very well with clients, commanding their complete confidence.

THE LEGAL 500

He is effective and charming.

THE LEGAL 500

He has an exceptional mind as well as being extraordinarily good with all kinds of different clients.

THE LEGAL 500

Julian is a very considered advocate. He strongly advocates for his client but he is not unnecessarily aggressive or combative, which is a real strength in my view in a public law barrister.

THE LEGAL 500

Extremely knowledgeable and a good communicator who cuts to the chase and puts people at ease.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS

An exceptional barrister, who is very bright and has excellent technical knowledge. He has a razor-sharp mind, and is able to unravel the most complex of factual and legal cases into concise and convincing submissions.

THE LEGAL 500

Expert, client-friendly, phenomenally clever and hard working. A perfect combination in a data barrister.

THE LEGAL 500

He is a star of the public law Bar

THE LEGAL 500