Christopher Knight KC



Silk: 2026 Call: 2008 England & Wales

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Christopher was appointed King's Counsel in 2026. He has a broad public law practice and a particular specialism in media and privacy law, the devolution settlement and in Brexit-related matters. He has appeared in the most significant constitutional law cases of the last few years, including the Article 50 Brexit case, the Scottish independence referendum reference and the challenge to the prorogation of Parliament. He has acted as sole advocate before the High Court, Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Court of Justice of the EU. He is a leading expert in information and data protection law. Christopher is also a highly regarded academic writer, publishing widely in journals and is the co-author of the leading textbook Bradley, Ewing & Knight on *Constitutional and Administrative Law* (2022, Pearson). He is an editor of the *White Book* and a member of the Editorial Committee of *Public Law*.

In 2025, Christopher achieved the unusual distinction of being named Public Law junior of the year in both the Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 Bar Awards. He previously won the Legal 500 award in the same category in 2022, and has been nominated for both awards on various other occasions. He is ranked as the sole Star Individual for Administrative and Public Law, and a Star Individual for Data Protection by Chambers & Partners.

> ***He knows data protection inside and out. He has a lot of experience with drafting; he is to the point and his technical knowledge is excellent***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2024**

Christopher is a member of the Attorney General's Panel of Counsel. The directories have recently described him as: the "*king of data rights*" (Legal 500, 2021), "*utterly first class*" (Legal 500, 2020), "*a superstar of the data and privacy world*" (Legal 500, 2024) and having "*a brain the size of a planet, and is very impressive and calm and collected in court*" (Chambers & Partners, 2021). Clients have commented that: "*Chris is an extraordinarily brilliant lawyer. He is steeped in public law, his drafting is so precise and beautifully written and his judgement is absolutely spot on*" (Chambers & Partners, 2024), that "*His contributions to a case are transformative*" (Chambers & Partners, 2025) and that "*Christopher is probably the best barrister I have ever instructed*" (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

Expertise

Public

Christopher is a specialist public lawyer who regularly advises and appears on behalf of claimants, private companies and public authorities of different kinds. He has appeared in the most significant constitutional law cases of recent times, as well as many other high-profile matters. He has published widely on the area in the leading journals and co-authors one of the leading textbooks.

> ***Chris is commercially astute and has an unrivalled understanding of the manner in which the Government approaches public law cases***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

R (Sex Matters) v DPP

challenge to consistency of 'Deception as to Sex' CPS guidance with the criminal law because of conflation of sex and gender

R (ARC Time Freehold Investment Fund) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

major A1P1 challenge to Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024

R (GB News) v Ofcom

first successful challenge to a finding of breach of Broadcasting Code, relating to use of politicians as TV presenters

Hora v UK

first successful defence of UK prisoner voting ban

Bradshaw v UK

successful defence of A3P1 challenge in reliance on 'Russia Report' of the Intelligence and Security Committee re Russian electoral interference

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

Important judgment of the Court of Appeal clarifying that the duty of candour does not permit the general redaction of the names of junior civil servants disclosed in judicial review proceedings

Reference by the Lord Advocate

Devolution reference concerning the competence of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for a second independence referendum

R (Good Law Project) v Prime Minister & ors

Challenge to the legality of use by Ministers and officials of private email accounts and messaging services on Government business

R (Duke of Sussex) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (No.s 1 & 2)

Challenge brought by Prince Harry to the level of protective security provided to him following his withdrawal from acting as a working member of the Royal Family; and a second challenge to a decision not to support the use of private funding to pay for the provision of protective security by the police

R (Kellogg) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Challenge to the inclusion of breakfast cereals within food placement and promotion restrictions

R (FDA) v Prime Minister

Challenge to Prime Minister's decision that the Home Secretary had not breached the Ministerial Code

Re the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

Devolution reference to the Supreme Court raising issues of the limits of the Scottish Parliament to afford the Scottish Courts powers to strike down provisions of Acts of Parliament

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

Leading judgment on the approach to judicial reviews of policies

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

[2021] UKSC 37, [2021] 1 WLR 3931 (SUPREME COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented the Home Office at all levels on this challenge to "Sarah's Law", the scheme for the disclosure of information about convicted child sex offenders, which alleged that the scheme was incompatible with Article 8 of the Convention.

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

[2021] UKSC 37, [2021] 1 WLR 3931 (SUPREME COURT)

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

[2021] UKSC 37, [2021] 1 WLR 3931 (SUPREME COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented the Home Office at all levels on this challenge to "Sarah's Law", the scheme for the disclosure of information about convicted child sex offenders. He persuaded the Supreme Court to overturn 20 years of Court of Appeal and High Court case law on the test to be applied when challenging the lawfulness of a policy.

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

[2022] EWHC 360 (ADMIN), ADMIN CT, FEBRUARY 18 2022, [2022] ACD 65

Acted for the Secretary of State in a challenge to the consultation leading up to the Nationality and Borders Bill, raising important issues about Parliamentary privilege and non-justiciability

R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Judicial review challenging the compatibility with EU law of the immigration exemption in Schedule 2 to the Data Protection Act 2018

R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Judicial review challenging the compatibility with EU law of the immigration exemption in Schedule 2 to the Data Protection Act 2018

R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Court of Appeal judgment considering the approach to relief where primary legislation has been found incompatible with retained EU law

R (Counsel General for Wales) v Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

[2022] EWCA CIV 118

On the legislative competence of the Senedd

R (Counsel General for Wales) v Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Challenge by the Welsh Government to the terms of the UK Internal Market Act 2020 and its relationship with the devolution settlement

R (Good Law Project & others) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Challenge to failures to comply with legal and policy procurement transparency obligations, with important observations on standing and relief

R (MP) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Consultation and legitimate expectation by past practice challenge to NHS charging regulations

R (Francis) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Challenge to the Coronavirus Self-Isolation Regulations on vires grounds

R (Hussain) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Challenge to coronavirus restrictions closing mosques on Article 9 ECHR grounds

R (R) v National Police Chiefs' Council & Secretary of State for Justice

Judicial review of the exception to the protections of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act when applying to become a police constable

R (QSA & others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Challenge to the criminalisation of street prostitution as indirectly gender discriminatory, and subsequently to the retention of convictions until the offender is aged 100

R (Liberty) v Prime Minister

Litigation concerning the meaning of and compliance with the European Union (Withdrawal) (No.2) Act 2019 ('the Benn Act')

R (Miller) (No.2) v Prime Minister

Unprecedented challenge to the prorogation of Parliament, heard by 11 Justices of the Supreme Court

R (ASK) v Secretary of State for the Home Department & NHS England

The provision of mental health care in immigration removal centres

R (P, G & W) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Supreme Court appeal concerning the compatibility of the criminal record disclosure scheme with Article 8 ECHR

Re the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill

First reference to the Supreme Court made under section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998, concerning legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for the retention of EU law after Brexit

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R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Article 56 TFEU challenge to regulations prohibiting betting on the Euromillions lottery draw

R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Article 56 TFEU challenge to regulations prohibiting betting on the Euromillions lottery draw

R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Digital, Media and Sport

[2019] EWHC 3111 (ADMIN, [2019] 1 CMLR 41 (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Andrew successfully represented the Secretary of State in this judicial review of the ban on off shore gambling companies offering bets on the outcome of the EuroMillions draws.

R (MP) v Secretary of State for Health

Judicial review of regulations imposing upfront charging for use of the NHS

R (MP) v Secretary of State for Health

[2021] PTSR 1122

Represented claimant challenging regulations extending charging of fees for NHS treatment to “overseas visitors”.

R (Aire Centre) v Secretary of State for the Home Department & Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Challenge to Operation Nexus as contrary to the Citizens Directive and in breach of police powers

R (Aire Centre) v Secretary of State for the Home Department & Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Challenge to Operation Nexus as contrary to the Citizens Directive and in breach of police powers

Hudson Contract Services Ltd v Construction Industry Training Board

Industrial levy appeal raising various points of statutory construction and worth £8 million

R (AR) v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police & Secretary of State for the Home Department

Supreme Court appeal concerning disclosures of acquittal information in enhanced criminal records certificate

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

Challenge to the disclosure of historic convictions for prostitution offences as contrary to Article 8, a breach of trafficking obligations and as gender discrimination

R (LG) v Independent Monitor

An Article 8 challenge to the disclosure of a nurse's acquittal for theft from a patient on an enhanced criminal records check

R (Bucpapa) v Secretary of State for Justice

A challenge to a refusal to repatriate a prisoner back to Albania

R (Crompton) v South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

A challenge to the dismissal of the chief constable by the PCC following the Hillsborough Inquests

R (Miller & Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

The Article 50 Brexit litigation about the power to withdraw from the EU before 11 Justices of the Supreme Court

R (Miller & Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

The Article 50 Brexit litigation about the power to withdraw from the EU

R (National Aids Trust) v NHS England

Court of Appeal decision on the powers of NHS England to fund HIV drugs and the boundary of public health

R (Justice for Health Ltd) v Secretary of State for Health

Judicial review by junior doctors of a purported imposition of the new contract following strike action

Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v Hungary

Grand Chamber decision finding, for the first time, a partial right of access to information within Article 10 ECHR

Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v Hungary

[2016] ECHR 975

Represented the UK Government intervening before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights on the issue of whether Article 10 ECHR confers a right to freedom of information.

R (London Criminal Courts Solicitors Association) v Lord Chancellor

Judicial review challenge to the new criminal legal aid tender process

Kennedy v Charity Commission

Supreme Court decision finding a common law right of access to information, but rejecting a right under Article 10 ECHR

Noon v Matthews

Appeal by way of case stated by the Conservators of the River Cam concerning the power of delegation of prosecutorial decision-making

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Achievements

Appointments

Editorial Committee member, and Deputy Editor, of *Public Law*

Judicial Assistant to the Justices of the Supreme Court, 2009-2010.

He has previously worked as a College Lecturer in Law at Christ Church, Oxford teaching Administrative Law, and a Constitutional Law supervisor at St Edmund's College, Cambridge.

Articles & Publications

Books:

A.W. Bradley, K.D. Ewing & C.J.S. Knight, Constitutional and Administrative Law (19th ed., 2026, Pearson, forthcoming)
R. Blakeley, C. Knight & S. Love, The New Tribunals Handbook (2011, Bloomsbury Professional)
'Procedural Rules and Consultation' in H. Fenwick (ed.), Supperstone, Goudie & Walker, Judicial Review (6th ed., 2017) (and since 5th ed.)
'Pre-Empting Problems – Choice of Court and Choice of Law' in D. Oudkerk KC & A. Rogers (ed.s), International Employment Law (2019, LexisNexis)
Contributor to C. Lewis, Judicial Remedies in Public Law (6th ed., 2021)
Contributor to Civil Practice ('the White Book') since 2014 edition
Contributor to Tolley's Employment Handbook since 25th edition (2011)

Articles:

‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2018-2019’ [2020] 25 J.R. 241 (with T. Cross)
‘Automated Decision-Making and Judicial Review’ [2020] 25 J.R. 21
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2017-2018’ [2019] 24 J.R. 40 (with T. Cross)
‘Clarifying the Opacity of the Duty of Transparency’ [2018] P.L. 201
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2015-2016’ [2017] 22 J.R. 215 (with T. Cross)
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2014-2015’ [2016] 21 J.R. 1 (with T. Cross)
‘The Rule of Law, Parliamentary Sovereignty and the Veto’ (2015) 131 L.Q.R. 548
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2013-2014’ [2015] 20 J.R. 1 (with T. Cross)
‘The Veto in the Court of Appeal’ (2014) 130 L.Q.R. 552
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2012-2013’ [2014] 19 J.R. 9 (with T. Cross)
‘The Prince of Wales and a Constitutional Aberration’ (2014) 130 L.Q.R. 37
‘Article 10 and a Right of Access to Information’ [2013] P.L. 648
‘The Discretion Afforded to Statutory Regulators in Public Law’ [2013] 18 J.R. 116
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2011-2012’ [2012] 17 J.R.330 (with T. Cross)
‘The Supreme Court Gives Its Reasons’ (2012) 128 L.Q.R. 481
‘Doing (Linguistic) Violence to Prevent (Domestic) Violence? Yemshaw v Hounslow LBC in the Supreme Court’ [2012] C.F.L.Q. 1
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2010-2011’ [2011] 16 J.R. 348 (with T. Cross)
‘Exporting Lethal Injections: Zagorski and Blaze’ [2011] 16 J.R. 170
‘Second Appeals and the Requirement of Certification’ (2011) 127 L.Q.R. 188
‘Constitutionality and Misfeasance in Public Office: Contorting the Tort?’ [2011] 16 J.R. 49
‘Striking Down Legislation under Bi-Polar Sovereignty’ [2011] P.L. 89
‘Public Law in the Supreme Court 2009-2010’ [2010] 15 J.R. 299 (with T. Cross)
‘Renvoi and Moveable Property: Another Nail in the Coffin?’ [2010] 74 Conv. 62
‘Taking an AXA to Acts of the Scottish Parliament’ [2010] 15 J.R. 163
‘Towards a Codified Constitution’ (2010) Justice Journal 74 (co-author)
‘Procuring the End of the Promptness Requirement’ [2010] 29 C.J.Q. 297
‘Practice and Procedure in the New Supreme Court’ [2010] 15 J.R. 1
‘Anti-Suit Injunctions and Non-Exclusive Jurisdiction Clauses’ [2010] 69 C.L.J. 25
‘Contracting Out of Homelessness Functions’ [2009] 14 J.R. 333
‘The Permission Stage and Subsequent Use of Disclosed Material’ [2009] 14 J.R. 249
‘Arbitration and Litigation after West Tankers’ [2009] L.M.C.L.Q. 285
‘Bi-Polar Sovereignty Restated’ [2009] 68 C.L.J. 361
‘Promptness and Judicial Review’ [2009] 14 J.R. 113
‘A Framework for Fettering’ [2009] 14 J.R. 73
‘The Continued Rise (and Future Fall?) of the Anti-Suit Injunction: Masri v CCIC’ [2009] 20 King’s L.J. 137
‘Expectations in Transition: Recent Developments in Legitimate Expectations’ [2009] P.L. 15
‘I Can See Clearly Now: Transparency and the ECJ’ (2009) 125 L.Q.R. 54
‘The Damage of Damages: Agreements on Jurisdiction and Choice of Law’ [2008] 4 J.Pr.I.L. 501
‘Reasonableness Transformed (in Canada)’ [2008] 13 J.R. 214
‘Complicating Simplicity: the “Court First Seised” and “Related Actions” in Article 28’ [2008] 27 C.J.Q. 454

'Monkeying Around with Free Speech' (2008) 124 L.Q.R. 560
'Judicial Review – Ten Years On' [2008] 13 J.R. 214
'Clarifying Immateriality' [2008] 13 J.R. 111
'Of Coups and Compensation Claims: Mbasogo Reassessed' [2008] 19 King's L.J. 176
'Independent and Impartial Tribunals: Another One Bites the Dust' [2008] 13 J.R. 46
'Proportionality, the Decision-Maker and the House of Lords' [2007] 12 J.R. 221
'Au Revoir to Renvoi?' [2007] 71 Conv. 564
'Proportionality and Public Authority Liability: Spanner in the Works or Cog in the Machine?' [2007] 12 J.R. 165
'Owusu and Turner: The Shark in the Water?' [2007] 66 C.L.J. 288
'The Test That Dare Not Speak its Name: Proportionality Comes Out of the Closet?' [2007] 12 J.R. 117
'The Constitution of the UK as of 1 January 2007' in C. Bryant M.P. (ed.), Towards a New Constitutional Settlement (Smith Institute, London; 2007), p.152 (co-author)
'Bi-Polar Sovereignty Restated' [2007] 3 C.S.L.R. 44 (Cambridge Student Law Review)
'A Plea for (Re)Consideration' [2006] 2 C.S.L.R. 17
'Why the ECJ is the EU's own Worst Enemy' [2006] 9 T.C.L.R. 91 (Trinity College Law Review)

Book reviews have been published in Public Law, the Law Quarterly Review, the Cambridge Law Journal, Judicial Review, the Civil Justice Quarterly and the Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly.

Education

University of Cambridge, MA (Hons), Law (Queens' College)

University of Oxford, BCL (St John's College)

Inns of Court School of Law, BVC

Other

Memberships

ALBA, ELBA, ELA, Liberty

Scholarships

ALBA Scholar – ALBA/BEG Conference, Athens, 2011

Phoenicia Scholar – BEG Conference, Toledo, 2009

Princess Royal Scholar – Inner Temple, 2007-2008

Arts and Humanities Research Council Scholar – AHRC, 2006-2007

Bachelor Scholar – Queens' College, Cambridge, 2006

Foundation Scholar – Queens' College, Cambridge, 2005

Hughes Prize – Queens' College, Cambridge, 2005

Lucas-Smith Memorial Prize – Queens' College, Cambridge, 2005

Chris Knight is a cut above everyone else

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

Fantastic intellect and strategist. Great work ethic and user friendly. Very impressive on his feet in court

LEGAL 500, 2025

Methodical, strategic and encyclopaedic. The perfect counsel for any case when he is on your side. Always makes a case harder when he is against you.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is an oracle of knowledge. Christopher is strategically sharp and a brilliant advocate. He inspires confidence when he is on our cases.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Christopher is a superb advocate. He outshines the opponents and makes himself available at short notice to support our team.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Chris is head and shoulders above the rest. He is incisive and authoritative, with strategic focus. He truly inspires trust and confidence and treats every matter before him as the most important.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

I like his modern way of not bothering with the fluff but getting straight to the heart of the matter. Whatever the opposite of pompous is, that's what he is. He uses plain language and makes everything very clear

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2021

Clients adore him: he's responsive, smart and good at managing their expectations

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2022

He is astonishingly calm in the face of an unpredictable, challenging and high-pressure environment. He's never too busy to take the time to explain concepts that seem simple to him, and is so adept at dealing with them

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2024