Ronnie Dennis

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Ronnie specialises in two of Chambers' main practice areas – employment and public law.

Clients describe him as "excellent all-round" –

- "great tactical insight",
- "an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law", and
- "phenomenal in front of the judge."

He is ranked as a leading junior in employment law and has extensive experience across all areas of employment litigation, with a particular focus on discrimination, whistleblowing and employee competition. He is regularly instructed in complex, high-profile and high-value claims, and frequently conducts lengthy hearings in the Employment Tribunal. He has also acted in a number of notable appeals to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and Court of Appeal.

> ***Ronnie is excellent; he is calm, authoritative and effective.***
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> CHAMBERS UK

In his public law practice Ronnie has acted in several high-profile judicial review claims on behalf of private companies, local authorities and central government. Notable cases include acting for a private hire app successfully defending its licence to operate in London: *R (United Trade Action Group Ltd) v Transport for London* [2023] 1 WLR 367.

Expertise

Public

Ronnie has a broad public law practice and has acted in a number of high-profile judicial review claims. These have included disputes over the scope of human rights protection, the legality of central government policy and the enforceability of legitimate expectations.

Archibald v East Sussex County Council

[2026] EWHC 732 (KB)

Tipples J dismissed the claimants' appeal against an order striking out their claims for breach of Art. 8 ECHR and misfeasance in public office. The claims were an abuse of process because they could and should have been brought as part of the claimants' earlier application for judicial review. Tipples J also upheld the judge's decision that a school headteacher was not a "public officer" for the law on misfeasance. Ronnie acted for the successful defendant in the County Court and High Court on appeal.

R. (United Trade Action Group Ltd) v Transport for London

[2023] 1 WLR 367

A trade union challenged TfL's decision to grant a licence to operate the FreeNow app in London. They argued drivers using the app were 'plying for hire' and therefore acting unlawfully unless they also held hackney carriage licences. The Court of Appeal upheld the Divisional Court's judgment dismissing the claim. Ronnie acted for the successful operator at first instance and on appeal, led by Philip Kolvin KC. Read more about the case .

R. (City of Wolverhampton Council) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2022] EWHC 1721 (ADMIN)

Seven local authorities in the West Midlands challenged the Home Secretary's policy for the dispersal of asylum seekers in the UK. They argued the policy was irrational and unfair for relying on areas to volunteer but not allowing volunteers to withdraw their consent. Shortly before the hearing the policy was changed, and the claim was withdrawn. In this judgment, Fordham J made no order as to costs. Ronnie acted for the local authorities, led by Peter Oldham KC.

R. (Williams) v Caerphilly County Borough Council

[2020] EWCA CIV 296, [2020] PTSR 1130

The Court of Appeal dismissed a challenge to the Council's decision to adopt a 10-year leisure strategy. The strategy was not a relevant arrangement within the scope of the Welsh improvement duty (akin to best value in England), or contrary to the Council's budget, so the decision could properly be taken by Cabinet. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC. Read more about the case .

R. (Independent Workers Union of Great Britain) v Central Arbitration Committee

[2019] IRLR 530

Supperstone J rejected claims that workers have a right to collective bargaining with a third party who is not their employer under Art. 11 ECHR. Ronnie acted for the University of London, led by Christopher Jeans KC.

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

[2016] EWHC 2338 (ADMIN)

Green J dismissed claims that the Health Secretary's decision to approve a new contract for junior doctors in England was unlawful. The decision was within the scope of his powers, complied with his duty of transparency and was not irrational. Ronnie acted for the Health Secretary, led by Clive Sheldon KC. Read more about the case .

(Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council (No. 1)

[2016] EWCA CIV 453

The owners of Coventry City Football Club challenged the Council's decision to lend £14.4m to a company operating the Ricoh Arena. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision that the loan was not a state aid because it was at a commercial interest rate and safeguarded the Council's 50% share in the company. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC. Read more about the case .

(Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council (No. 2)

[2018] EWCA CIV 2252

The owners of Coventry City Football Club challenged the Council's decision to sell its stake in the Ricoh Arena to Wasps RFC. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision that the claim was unarguable. The Council was entitled to rely on an independent valuation that showed it had complied with the private vendor test and the sale was not a state aid. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC. Read more about the case .

R (Logan) v Havering LBC

[2016] P.T.S.R. 603

Blake J ruled that a Council Tax Reduction Scheme, under which all taxpayers paid some council tax except in cases of exceptional hardship, was not discriminatory on grounds of age or disability. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by Clive Sheldon KC.

Achievements

Education

University of Oxford, Bachelor of Civil Law, Distinction & Law Faculty Prize

University College London, Law LLB, First Class

Ronnie drafted my interim relief claim in an employment dispute that attracted significant media attention. He had the courage and strategic insight to advise me to set aside some of my allegations in order to sharpen the focus on the most compelling elements. The resulting draft was incredibly strong — clear, forceful, and persuasive. My employer chose not to face it in tribunal and settled the matter on exceptional, possibly unprecedented, terms.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Ronnie is the complete all-round package. He is incredibly bright and capable of promptly absorbing complex facts, then applying them to complicated legal situations. His cross examination skills are impeccable.

LEGAL 500

Ronnie is the complete, all-round package; he is incisive, professional, approachable, knowledgeable, personable and inspires confidence every step of the way.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is a safe pair of hands, he pays great attention to detail, he is hard-working and he can cut through the case

CHAMBERS UK

He adopts a collaborative approach and has the ability to get to the crux of a case quickly

LEGAL 500

He is laser-focused, client-friendly and a relentless cross-examiner

LEGAL 500

A tower of strength with incredible capacity for work and someone you would always want on your team

LEGAL 500

He's very bright, very helpful and has a very quick turnaround of work

CHAMBERS UK

Keeps things simple and to the point, effectively manages the litigation, and makes the key points heard

CHAMBERS UK