Oliver Jackson



Call: 2019

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Oliver specialises in public law and human rights, employment, education, competition and EU relations, data protection, procurement, commercial, and public international law.

He is ranked as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners for administrative and public law and data protection; and by Legal 500 for administrative law and human rights, employment, data protection, and public procurement.

He has appeared in courts from Port Talbot and Great Yarmouth to the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. His clients range from individuals, journalists and NGOs to multinational businesses, government departments and foreign states.

> ***He is a good advocate, who makes sensible points.***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026**

Oliver is regularly instructed in the most high-profile disputes. Recent cases include:

- The challenge to the Government's private school fees VAT policy.
- The challenge to the Michaela School's ban on prayer rituals.
- The constitutional law 'Volvo limitation' appeal on the status of CJEU judgments post-Brexit.

- The challenge to the registration of the first private provider of cross-sex hormones for 16-17 year old children.
- Whether employment claims by diplomatic staff are barred by state immunity.
- The leading Supreme Court appeal on mental health after-care services.

From 2020 to 2021 Oliver was a judicial assistant at the UK Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, working on the most complex cases in the UK and from the Commonwealth. In 2024 he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

He received a first-class degree in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University, where he graduated second in the year in his subject and won several scholarships and prizes. He has taught maths, physics and chemistry and enjoys cases that arise in a technical context.

Expertise

Public Law & Human Rights

Oliver is recognised as a leading junior for Administrative Law and Human Rights in the Legal 500 and for Administrative and Public Law in Chambers & Partners. He is described as *"an excellent barrister to work with"*, *"incredibly approachable and hard-working"* and *"very responsive, always on top of his game, incisive and collaborative"*.

Oliver has been instructed on public law and human rights cases before the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. He has also recently drafted chapters for a leading practitioner's textbook on judicial review and the operation of the Human Rights Act 1998, to be published shortly.

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> LEGAL 500

R (Evans) v Care Quality Commission

[2025] EWHC 2015 (ADMIN)

challenge to the first registration of a private provider of cross-sex hormones to 16-17 year old children (led by Tom Cross KC).

R (ALR) v Chancellor of the Exchequer

[2025] EWHC 1467 (ADMIN)

human rights challenge to the Government's private school fees VAT policy on behalf of parents of special needs children (led by Tom Cross KC).

R (EBB) v Gorse Academies Trust

[2025] EWHC 1983 (ADMIN)

wide-ranging challenge to use of isolation rooms at a high-performing Academy Trust (led by Jason Coppel KC and Hannah Slarks).

R (United Medical Associates Professionals) v NHS England (ongoing)

whether NHS England can make changes to the roles of Physicians Associates (led by Jonathan Auburn KC). Oliver successfully represented NHS England as sole counsel defending the application for an interim injunction.

R (Emeraldshaw Ltd) v Sheffield Magistrates' Court

[2025] EWCA CIV 1601

whether a commercial landlord was liable to pay non-domestic business rates despite granting a tenancy to a charity. Oliver made submissions on the public law issues to the Court of Appeal.

R (AB) v Bristol City Council

[2025] EWHC 893 (ADMIN)

challenge to a £90 million 'safety value agreement' between the Department of Education and a local authority to cover SEND overspends (led by James Goudie KC, leading Rita Dias).

R (Worcestershire County Council) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

[2023] UKSC 31

Successful Supreme Court appeal concerning which local authority is required to provide mental health aftercare services where a person moves areas (led by Andrew Sharland KC).

Crowter v United Kingdom

APP NO. 32192/23

ECtHR challenge on behalf of disability rights campaigners against s.1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967 (led by Jason Coppel KC).

R (Gould) v Devon County Council

[2025] EWHC 96 (ADMIN)

on appeal to the Court of Appeal – whether a local authority had had regard to mandatory considerations in a service closure decision (led by Jonathan Auburn KC).

R (NN) v Michaela Community School

[2024] EWHC 843 (ADMIN)

Whether the Michaela Community School's ban on prayer rituals is compatible with pupils' right to freedom of religion (led by Jason Coppel KC and Tom Cross).

R (Lister) v Secretary of State for Education

AC-2024-LON-001359

Challenge to the Department for Education's high-profile draft guidance to schools on gender questioning children (led by Jo Clement KC and Tom Cross).

R (Fire Brigades Union and British Medical Association) v HM Treasury

[2023] EWHC 527 (ADMIN)

Judicial review by trade unions under article 6 ECHR and on domestic public law grounds to the operation of the cost control mechanism in public sector pension schemes (led by Nigel Giffin KC).

R (Ingold) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

[2023] EWHC 3207 (ADMIN)

Challenge to the operation of the Child Maintenance Service (led by Sir James Eadie KC, First Treasury Counsel).

Attorney General for Bermuda v Ferguson

[2022] UKPC 5

Whether the constitutions of Bermuda and the Cayman Islands provide a right to same-sex marriage.

Re McQuillan

[2021] UKSC 55

Judicial review challenge to the lack of an article 2 ECHR compliant investigation into deaths and ill-treatment occurring during the Troubles.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill & European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

[2021] UKSC 42

Devolution references concerning certain provisions of two Scottish Bills are outside the competence of the Scottish Parliament.

R (SC) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

[2021] UKSC 26

Article 14 ECHR challenge to the two-child benefit cap.

Barking and Dagenham LBC v Persons Unknown

[2022] EWCA CIV 13

Whether final injunctions can be granted against gypsies and travellers who are unknown and unidentified at the time of the injunction (assisting Nigel Giffin KC).

R (Elan-Cane) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2021] UKSC 56

Judicial review challenge to the lack of a non-binary 'X' gender option on UK passports.

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

[2021] UKSC 46

Whether the Home Secretary was permitted to override a defective court order.

R (AB) v Secretary of State for Justice

[2021] UKSC 28

Challenge to the placement of children in solitary confinement at a Young Offenders Institution.

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

[2021] UKSC 7

Challenge to the decision to deprive Shamima Begum of her UK citizenship.

R (Friends of the Earth) v Heathrow Airport Ltd

[2020] UKSC 52

Challenge to the third runway at Heathrow Airport.

Achievements

Articles and Publications

'Public law in the Supreme Court 2020-2021' [2023] 28 JR 129 (with Isabella Buono)

'Limiting an employer's right to dismiss on notice: *Aspden v Webbs Poultry* and *USDAW v Tesco*', UK Labour Law Blog, 22 February 2023 (freely available here)

'Unconscionability, uncertainty and lawful act duress' [2021] 8 JBL 701 (available here)

Education

- BA Natural Sciences, Cambridge University (First)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, City University (Distinction)
- Bar Professional Training Course, City University (Outstanding)

Awards

- Phoenicia Scholar (Bar European Group)
- Postgraduate Scholar (City Law School)
- Certificate of Honour (Middle Temple)
- JJ Powell Prize (Middle Temple)
- Queen Mother Scholarship (Middle Temple)
- Astbury Scholarship (Middle Temple)
- Simon Walker Prize in Natural Sciences (Christ's College, Cambridge)
- Graduate Scholar (Christ's College, Cambridge)
- Levy Plumb Bursary and Newton Trust Bursary (Christ's College, Cambridge)

Other

Before joining the Bar Oliver worked on the civil service fast-stream. He also advised on human rights issues at Liberty, advocated for the abolition of the death penalty at Reprieve, and volunteered as a caseworker at the Bar Pro Bono Unit. He has taken university courses on economic history and policy alongside his legal practice.

He is a trustee of Brass for Africa, an international development charity building resilience and life skills in refugee camps in Uganda, Liberia and Rwanda.

> ***Oliver is an extremely good advocate. He is very thorough and helpful throughout.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2026

> ***Very responsive, always on top of his game, incisive and collaborative.***
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> LEGAL 500, 2026

> ***Oliver communicates very easily.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2025

> ***Oliver has very good written advocacy.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2025

> ***He provides very clear strategic objectives and tailors his advice to that.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2025

> ***Oliver is really easy to deal with.***
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> LEGAL 500, 2025

> ***His written work is always very good.***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2025

> ***An excellent advocate. He is diligent and able to robustly defend a case.***
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> LEGAL 500, 2024