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 manages to explain very complex areas of law in a very straightforward manner. He manages to make even the most complex subjects sound straightforward. His advocacy is excellent. His biggest selling point is his manner and client care. He is very friendly, approachable and always goes over and beyond what you would expect.***

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2018

Expertise

Technology and Computer Misuse

Julian has a wide-ranging background in matters relating to Information Technology. In line with Chambers' leading ranking in proceedings under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) Julian regularly acts in data law disputes involving the technology sector. He also advises tech companies on issues concerning surveillance, the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and other issues concerning bulk data collection.

In respect of computer misuse, Julian has advised AI, data analytics and crypto companies as well as others in respect of issues relating to criminal liability. He is one of a small number of barristers practicing in this field.

In recognition of his expertise in matters relating to technology Julian was instructed as Counsel to the Inquiry in the Horizon Post Office IT Inquiry, a statutory inquiry into matters relating to bugs, errors and defects in the Horizon system.

> ***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. He has a clear understanding of commercial reality.***
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Rights Watch UK v Attorney General and Cabinet Office

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

FOIA appeal about the deaths of two British nationals in a Syria drone strike.

Savic v Attorney General and Cabinet Office

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

FOIA appeal about the Attorney General's advice on military action in Kosovo.

All Party Parliamentary Group of Extraordinary Rendition v FCO

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

FOIA appeal about rendition and detention in Guantanamo Bay.

Re: A Subject Access Request

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Advising a leading private client law firm on a complex DPA subject access request made by a longstanding client.

Re: A FTSE 100 Executive

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Advising a prominent executive in relation to a claim under the DPA and the right to be forgotten in relation to Google search results.

Various Claimants v Newham

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Representing a local authority in a claim brought by a large number of individuals affected by the inadvertent disclosure of the 'Gangs Matrix'.

Re: A global technology company

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Advising and making submissions to the ICO in respect of a Monetary Penalty Notice issued to a social media platform.

ICO v Woodgate & Clark Ltd

N/A

ICO prosecution for offences of unlawfully obtaining personal data.

Media, Privacy and Contempt

Julian has substantial experience in matters relating to the media, including contempt of court, data protection, privacy and information law. He regularly advises and appears on behalf of individuals, the government and corporations before the High Court, County Court and Tribunals.

Examples of his work in this field include:

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

David Miranda v Home Secretary – judicial review of the use of terrorism powers to seize journalistic material.

Attorney General v Hartley – acting for the Attorney General in this contempt of court case concerning the publication on YouTube of information relating to family court proceedings. The case defined the procedure by which such proceedings should be brought.

Rivers v Chief Constable of Surrey and Others – acting for a barrister who faced proceedings for contempt of court brought by a claimant to judicial review proceedings.

Operations Weeting, Elveden and Tuleta – acting for a defendant media company in matters concerning the criminal investigation into phone hacking, corruption and misuse of private information.

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See below for further information on Julian's work in Information Law (covering the Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act 2018, and Freedom of Information Act 2000).

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

Miranda v Home Secretary

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

judicial review of the use of terrorism powers to seize journalistic material.

Attorney General v Hartley

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

acting for the Attorney General in this contempt of court case concerning the publication on YouTube of information relating to family court proceedings. The case defined the procedure by which such proceedings should be brought.

Attorney General v Hartley

[2021] EWHC 1876 (FAM), [2021] 1 WLR 6013

Instructed by the Attorney General in contempt of court proceedings in the Family Division. This judgment is a Practice Note in the making of contempt applications after the conclusion of proceedings. The contempt involved the publication on social media of information relating to proceedings that were heard in private.

Rivers v Chief Constable of Surrey and Others

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

acting for a barrister who faced proceedings for contempt of court brought by a claimant to judicial review proceedings.

Operations Weeting, Elveden and Tuleta

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acting for a defendant media company in matters concerning the criminal investigation into phone hacking, corruption and misuse of private information.

Information and Data Law

Julian is an experienced practitioner in proceedings under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). He has appeared in several of the leading appeals before the Upper Tribunal and advises individuals, corporations and governments on information rights issues and disputes.

The Legal 500 recommends Julian as a Leading Junior and describes his practice as follows: "*He has an enormous breadth of experience and understanding of a rapidly developing field and is very switched on.*"

Examples of his work in this field include:

- ***Re: A global technology company*** – Advising and making submissions to the ICO in respect of a Monetary Penalty Notice issued to a social media platform.
- ***Various Claimants v Newham***– Representing a local authority in a claim brought by a large number of individuals affected by the inadvertent disclosure of the 'Gangs Matrix'.
- ***Re: A FTSE 100 Executive*** – Advising a prominent executive in relation to a claim under the DPA and the right to be forgotten in relation to Google search results.
- ***Re: A Subject Access Request*** – Advising a leading private client law firm on a complex DPA subject access request made by a longstanding client.
- ***ICO v Woodgate & Clark Ltd*** – ICO prosecution for offences of unlawfully obtaining personal data.
- ***All Party Parliamentary Group of Extraordinary Rendition v FCO*** – FOIA appeal about rendition and detention in Guantanamo Bay.
- ***Savic v Attorney General and Cabinet Office*** – FOIA appeal about the Attorney General's advice on military action in Kosovo.
- ***Rights Watch UK v Attorney General* and Cabinet Office** – FOIA appeal about the deaths of two British nationals in a Syria drone strike.

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Re: A global technology company

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2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

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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.

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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

> ***His advocacy is phenomenal, and he has perfect judgement. Julian really is the real deal.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2025

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