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.

> ***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 AND 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

Media & Privacy

Christopher is an experienced practitioner in media and privacy work, with a particular specialism in data protection and data privacy cases, including regulatory investigations. He has experience of misuse of private information claims, breach of confidence cases, breaches of Article 8 ECHR and urgent injunctive relief claims. He is a leading specialist in the Data Protection Acts, working with individuals, private companies and public authorities, and regularly advises on some of the most sensitive and difficult policy areas. He is a regular contributor on the area on 11KBW's leading *Panopticon* blog.

> ***A superstar of the data and privacy world***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2024

Examples of his work in this field include:

- **Farley v Equiniti (t/a Paymaster)** – Court of Appeal judgment clarifying the law on whether a de minimis threshold of non-material damage applies under the UK GDPR
- **RTM v Bonne Terre** – leading case on consent in data protection law, addressing the profiling of customers by Sky Betting and Gaming to encourage gambling
- **R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (No2)** – judicial review challenging the compatibility with EU law of the immigration exemption in Schedule 2 to the Data Protection Act 2018
- **FKJ v RVT** – significant WhatsApp hacking allegations and counterclaims for malicious prosecution
- **Google LLC v Lloyd** – leading Supreme Court decision on representative actions for data protection breaches, and the ability to claim damages for mere contravention under the Data Protection Act 1998
- **R (Elgizouli) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (No.2)** – challenge to the transfer of personal data relating to the ISIS Beatles in response to a US MLA request
- **Case C-623/17 Privacy International** – review of the compatibility of bulk data gathering regimes by national security bodies with the Charter and the e-Privacy Directive
- **Case C-311/18 Schrems II** – intervening for the UK in an important reference about compliance of standard contractual clauses with the EU Charter in the context of international data transfers
- **Case C-687/18 Stunt v Associated Newspapers** – intervening for the UK in a reference challenging the compatibility with Charter rights of the automatic stay mechanism in journalistic processing cases before it was withdrawn

- **BBC v Independent Office for Police Conduct** – first appeal against an Information Notice served by the IOPC, against the BBC, raising Article 10 issues
- **Case C-136/17 GC v CNIL** – intervening for the UK in an important reference about the right to be forgotten
- **R (AK) v Information Commissioner** – judicial review of the Commissioner rejecting a 'right to be forgotten' complaint
- **Ittihadieh v 5-11 Cheyne Gardens RTM Co / Deer v University of Oxford** – leading Court of Appeal judgment on a number of different elements of data protection law, including personal data, search obligations and the grant of relief
- **Holyoake v Candy & CPC** – a significant data protection case on the application of the legal professional privilege exemption in relation to private investigators, and the scope of the iniquity exception to privilege
- **Bangura v Loughborough University Authority** – provision of personal data by a University to the police in the course of a police investigation
- **Lin v Metropolitan Police Commissioner** – high-profile subject access request case concerning individuals accused of murdering British tourists in Thailand and facing the death penalty
- **Kololo v Metropolitan Police Commissioner** – consideration of whether a subject access request was contrary to the purposes of the legislation when made to obtain material used in foreign criminal proceedings

Farley v Equiniti (t/a Paymaster)

Court of Appeal judgment clarifying the law on whether a de minimis threshold of non-material damage applies under the UK GDPR

RTM v Bonne Terre

leading case on consent in data protection law, addressing the profiling of customers by Sky Betting and Gaming to encourage gambling

R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (No2)

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

FKJ v RVT

a misuse of private information claim concerning allegations of unlawful access to a junior employee's WhatsApp account and counterclaims of malicious prosecution

FKJ v RVT

Significant WhatsApp hacking allegations and counterclaims for malicious prosecution

R (Elgizouli) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (No.2)

Challenge to the transfer of personal data relating to the ISIS Beatles in response to a US MLA request

Case C-311/18 Schrems II

Intervening for the UK in an important reference about compliance of standard contractual clauses with the EU Charter in the context of international data transfers

Case C-687/18 Stunt v Associated Newspapers

Intervening for the UK in a reference challenging the compatibility with Charter rights of the automatic stay mechanism in journalistic processing cases before it was withdrawn

BBC v Independent Office for Police Conduct

First appeal against an Information Notice served by the IOPC, against the BBC, raising Article 10 issues

Case C-136/17 GC v CNIL

Intervening for the UK in an important reference about the right to be forgotten in data protection law

Google LLC v Lloyd

Leading Supreme Court decision on representative actions for data protection breaches, and the ability to claim damages for mere contravention under the Data Protection Act 1998

Case C-623/17 Privacy International

Review of the compatibility of bulk data gathering regimes by national security bodies with the Charter and the e-Privacy Directive

Case C-311/18 Schrems II

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R (AK) v Information Commissioner

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Ittihadieh v 5-11 Cheyne Gardens RTM Co / Deer v University of Oxford

Leading Court of Appeal judgment on a number of different elements of data protection law, including personal data, search obligations and the grant of relief

Holyoake v Candy & CPC

A significant data protection case on the application of the legal professional privilege exemption in relation to private investigators, and the scope of the iniquity exception to privilege

Bangura v Loughborough University Authority

Provision of personal data by a University to the police in the course of a police investigation

Lin v Metropolitan Police Commissioner

High-profile subject access request case concerning individuals accused of murdering British tourists in Thailand and facing the death penalty

Lin v Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Construction of the Data Protection Act against EU law principles and the underlying Directive

Kololo v Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Consideration of whether a subject access request was contrary to the purposes of the legislation when made to obtain material used in foreign criminal proceedings

Information, Technology & Media

Christopher is a leading specialist in all aspects of information law. He regularly appears in the Information Rights Tribunal in appeals under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations. He has extensive litigation and advisory experience of the Data Protection Act as well as other information governance regimes. In information law alone, Christopher has appeared at every level of the judicial system. He is a regular contributor on the area on 11KBW's leading *Panopticon* blog.

Christopher's data protection experience is set out under Media and Privacy.

> ***Unparalleled junior barrister in data protection and FOIA. His advocacy is advocacy that judges and tribunals trust***
>
> LEGAL 500, 2023

Clearview AI Inc v Information Commissioner

Appeal against Enforcement and Penalty Notices issued against a US facial recognition database provider

Montague v Information Commissioner & Department for International Trade

Court of Appeal judgment concerning the aggregation of public interests under FOIA

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office v Information Commissioner & Williams, Wickham-Jones & Lownie

Upper Tribunal appeal concerning whether a public authority can cite sections 23(1) and 24(1) FOIA in the alternative, to mask the applicable exemption

Experian v Information Commissioner

Major Tribunal appeal against a significant GDPR Enforcement Notice

Experian v Information Commissioner

[2024] UKUT 105 (AAC)

regulatory action against marketing business

EU & Eldon Insurance Service v Information Commissioner

Upper Tribunal appeal against penalty notices, enforcement notices and assessment notices issued for breach of PECR, and procedural complaints against the ICO

Case C-619/19 Land Baden-Wurttemberg

CJEU reference concerning the internal communications exemption in the Environmental Information Directive

Case C-619/19 Land Baden-Wurttemberg

Reference concerning the internal communications exemption in the Environmental Information Directive

Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis v Information Commissioner & Rosenbaum

Upper Tribunal decision setting out authoritative principles on the national security exemptions in FOIA, adopting counsel's submissions

Moss v Information Commissioner & Cabinet Office

Upper Tribunal case reconsidering the role of Article 10 in FOIA cases following Magyar Helsinki

Maharaj v Petroleum Company of Trinidad & Tobago

First Privy Council appeal on the Trinidad & Tobago Freedom of Information Act

UKIP v Information Commissioner

First appeal to the Upper Tribunal concerning an Information Notice issued under the DPA 1998, arising in the context of the high-profile data analytics investigation

Department for Education v Information Commissioner & Whitmey

Appeal concerning the scope and weight of the convention of collective Ministerial responsibility under FOIA

Oxford Phoenix Innovation Ltd v Information Commissioner & MHRA

Appeal concerning the scope of the Tribunal to remit, vexatious requests and personal data

R (Good Law Project) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

Judicial review seeking access to information at common law rather than via FOIA

Ahmed & Corderoy v Information Commissioner & Attorney General & Cabinet Office

Transferred appeal heard by the Upper Tribunal concerning the legal advice provided by the AG on lethal drone strikes against ISIL in Syria

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.

Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v Hungary

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

Keane v Information Commissioner

Upper Tribunal consideration of the national security exemption in relation to the names of 19th century Irish informants

Parker v Information Commissioner

Upper Tribunal decision addressing the effect of appellate case law on the vexatiousness exemption

Haslam v Information Commissioner & Bolton Council

High-profile Upper Tribunal decision requiring the disclosure of names of councillors who had failed to pay their council tax

Haslam v Information Commissioner & Bolton Council

High-profile decision requiring the disclosure of names of councillors who had failed to pay their council tax

Kennedy v Charity Commission

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

Kennedy v Charity Commission

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

Goldsmith International Business School v Information Commissioner

Leading Upper Tribunal authority on the approach to the personal data exemption under FOIA, adopting the principles proposed by counsel

UCAS v Information Commissioner & Lord Lucas

Upper Tribunal decision on the application of FOIA to a partially designated public body

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