

Joseph Lavery

Call: 2023

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Joseph practises in all of Chambers' core areas including public law, employment law, information and data law, public procurement, education, and sport.

Current and recent highlights include:

- *Guy Carpenter & Company Limited v Willis Limited* [2026] EWHC 361 (KB): A 17-day High Court trial regarding a "team move" in the reinsurance industry involving allegations conspiracy.
- *Wikimedia Foundation and another v Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology* [2025] EWHC 2086 (Admin): Judicial review proceedings concerning the categorisation regulations made under the Online Safety Act.
- *NAA v An Independent Review Panel, London Borough of Haringey* [2025] EWHC 1845 (Admin): Judicial review proceedings concerning the interaction between the school exclusion process and Article 4 ECHR/the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Joseph was the Judicial Assistant to Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls, in the Court of Appeal. In this role Joseph worked on notable and high-profile appeals spanning the breadth of civil law, including in the area of public law and human rights. Joseph has a LLM from Harvard Law School, where he studied comparative public law as a scholar of the Saint Andrew's Society of New York, and a BA in Jurisprudence from the University of Oxford.

Expertise

Data Protection and Information

Joseph accepts instructions in data protection and information matters including under the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Joseph has a particular expertise in freedom of information law, having acted for and against the Information Commissioner in a First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal proceedings, including the first Upper Tribunal case addressing the 'Information provided in confidence' exemption.

Current and recent highlights include:

- *Wikimedia Foundation and another v Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology* [2025] EWHC 2086 (Admin): Judicial review proceedings concerning the categorisation regulations made under the Online Safety Act.
- *Tees Valley Combined Authority v The Information Commissioner* [2025] UKFTT 215 (GRC): Proceedings concerning the application of the commercial interests exemption under the Freedom of Information Act, in which the Tribunal described Joseph's submissions as "*detailed and persuasive*".
- *Gangadharan v The Information Commissioner* [2025] UKFTT 963 (GRC): Proceedings concerning whether requested information amounted to personal data under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Acting and advising both for and against the Information Commissioner in relation to various Freedom of Information Act matters.
- Advising in relation to various GDPR issues, and acting in County Court GDPR claims.

Joseph's recent work in this field as a pupil includes:

- An upper tribunal appeal on the meaning of "*personal data*" for the purposes of the data protection legislation (assisting Rupert Paines).
- An upper tribunal appeal concerning the disclosure of information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (assisting Rupert Paines).

Wikimedia Foundation and another v Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

[2025] EWHC 2086 (ADMIN)

Judicial review proceedings concerning the lawfulness of regulation 3 the Online Safety Act 2023 (Category 1, Category 2A and Category 2B Threshold Conditions) Regulations 2025.

Gangadharan v The Information Commissioner

[2025] UKFTT 00963 (GRC)

Proceedings concerning whether requested information amounted to personal data under the Freedom of Information Act.

Tees Valley Combined Authority v The Information Commissioner

[2025] UKFTT 215 (GRC)

Proceedings concerning the application of the commercial interests exemption under the Freedom of Information Act, in which the Tribunal described Joseph's submissions as "detailed and persuasive".

Achievements

Awards

Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2022)

Residential Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2022)

Best Public Law Submission, Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal (2020)

LLM Scholarship, St Andrew's Society of New York (2020)

College prizes for academic performance, Hertford College (2017-2020)

Publications

Rosalind Dixon & Joseph Lavery, *Commissioning Economic Equality? Lessons from Scotland*, 2023 FLR 315

Joseph Lavery, *Determining the Extent of Devolved Legislative Competence: A Comparative Analysis Between Scotland and Canada*, 2020 OUULJ 185

Education

University of Oxford, BA in Jurisprudence

Harvard Law School, LLM (Thesis: *The United Kingdom Internal Market Act: A Comparative Analysis*)