

Ronnie Dennis

Call: 2010

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Ronnie is ranked as a leading junior in employment law. He has extensive experience in all areas of employment litigation, with a particular focus on discrimination and whistleblowing claims. He is regularly instructed in complex, high-profile and high-value claims, and frequently conducts lengthy hearings in the Employment Tribunal on behalf of both claimants and respondents. He also specialises in employee competition claims and has acted in a number of confidential information, restrictive covenant and team move cases.

Ronnie's public law practice encompasses all areas of judicial review. He has acted in several high-profile judicial review claims on behalf of private companies, local authorities and central government. Recent cases include acting for a private hire app defending a challenge to its licence to operate in the High Court and Court of Appeal: *R. (United Trade Action Group Ltd) v Transopco* [2023] 1 WLR 367.



He is highly responsive, organised and specialist. It is so easy to work with Ronnie as he is highly skilled and technically excellent yet very approachable.

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Expertise

State Aid & Subsidy Control

Ronnie also specialises in State aid/subsidy control. He acted for Coventry City Council in the leading domestic cases on the private investor test for State aid: **R. (Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council**. He now acts and advises in all areas of State aid/ subsidy control.

Post-Brexit subsidy control

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

Advising private companies on the compatibility of UK government grants with the subsidy control provisions of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

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

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The owners of Coventry City Football Club argued that the Council had granted a State aid to Wasps RFC by selling its interests in the Ricoh Arena at an undervalue. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision that the claim was unarguable. The Council had been entitled to rely on an independent valuation from KPMG, which demonstrated that it had complied with the private vendor test. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

Defending challenge to the Mayoral Infrastructure Levy

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The claimant sought to challenge the Mayor of London's levy on new commercial, retail and hotel development across London. The claim raised complex issues around the application of the State aid rules to different rates of taxation for different uses in different areas. Ronnie acted for the Mayor of London, led by Jonathan Moffett KC.

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

2008 EWHC 1583 (QB)

The owners of Coventry City Football Club argued that the Council had granted a State aid to the operator of the Ricoh Arena, ACL, by lending it £14.4m on non-commercial terms. The Court of Appeal upheld the Judge's decision dismissing the claim. The Court's judgment contains a helpful summary of the principles to be applied under the private investor test. Applying those principles, a private investor might also have made the loan because it was at a commercial rate of interest and safeguarded the Council's 50% share in ACL. Ronnie acted for the Council, led by James Goudie KC.

Achievements

Education

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

University College London, Law LLB, First Class



He gets on top of complex facts and law, he works incredibly quickly, he works well with the client, and his analysis is superb in drilling down into what really matters to advance the best possible case

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An immensely valuable junior

LEGAL 500



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

CHAMBERS UK



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

LEGAL 500



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

LEGAL 500



He's an excellent all-round barrister; he's very commercial, gives a pragmatic view and is very impressive on his feet

CHAMBERS UK



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

LEGAL 500



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

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Very smart and diligent. Very good with numbers

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