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.

> ***One of the few barristers in the data protection field who offers expertise in both the regulatory and black letter law fields of information law***
>
> LEGAL 500 2022

Expertise

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Julian has particular expertise in inquests and inquiries work and has a broad range of experience. Examples of his work includes:

The COVID-19 Inquiry
Julian acts on behalf of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, including Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Professor Sir Jonathan Van Tam and Professor Dame Jenny Harries. Julian is also instructed separately on behalf of former Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies.

The Post Office Horizon Inquiry
Julian acts as Counsel to the Inquiry in this statutory Inquiry established to gather a clear account of the implementation and failings of the Horizon IT system at the Post Office.

Dawn Sturgess Inquiry
Julian has been instructed in the Inquiry into the death of Dawn Sturgess arising from the poisoning of Sergei Skripal in Salisbury.

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry
Julian acted for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in this public inquiry into the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower on the night of 14 June 2017.

The Brook House Inquiry
Julian was lead counsel for the Home Office in this inquiry into the mistreatment of detainees at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre which followed an undercover Panorama documentary.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
Julian acted for a local authority and a group of charitable and religious organisations in this long running inquiry into child sexual abuse.

The Infected Blood Inquiry
Julian acted for a range of Trustees of the Alliance House Organisations (charitable trusts that supported the victims of infected blood) and professional advisors to the Organisations.

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

MA & BB v Secretary of State for the Home Department
Julian represented the Home Office in this leading case on the investigative requirements contained within Article 3 ECHR.

Miah v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Julian represented the Secretary of State in this challenge by the family of a victim of necrophiliac David Fuller who were seeking a statutory public inquiry to investigate the circumstances relating to his prolific offending.

Inquest into the death of Ella Kissi-Debrah
Julian appeared in this ground-breaking inquest into the death of a young child suffering from asthma. It is the first Article 2 ECHR inquest to examine the role of air pollution as a cause of death.

Inquest into the death of Sudesh Amman
Julian represented the Metropolitan Police in this Inquest into the death of man who was fatally shot by the Police in the course of a terrorist attack in Streatham High Street in February 2020.

Inquest into the death of Osman Ahmednur
Julian appeared for a local authority in this inquest into the death of a young asylum seeker. The inquest addressed issues concerning a 'suicide cluster' of young Eritrean asylum seekers.

Inquest into the death of Naser Ahmed
Julian acted for a local authority in this inquest into the death of a child at school following an allergic reaction. The inquest brought to national attention issues surrounding the use of an epi- pen.

With a background in criminal litigation and national security matters Julian is also experienced at advising in connection with the privilege against self-incrimination (and seeking undertakings from the Attorney General) and the use of sensitive material before inquests and inquires.

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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.

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.

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