Christopher Knight KC



Silk: 2026 Call: 2008 England & Wales

E: Christopher.Knight@11kbw.com
T: +44 (0)20 7632 8500

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 absolutely brilliant on public and information law. He is hyper-intelligent, a completely safe pair of hands and is very usable***
>
> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2023**

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

European Union

Christopher is an experienced practitioner of European Union law in relation both to domestic incorporation of EU law regimes and the impact of EU law on English public law. He has extensive experience of advising on matters related to and arising from Brexit, including the scope of powers under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. He has acted as sole counsel before the Court of Justice of the EU.

> ***Christopher has a deep knowledge of EU law, especially in the elections field and writes with great clarity and p***
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> LEGAL 500, 2023

R (Dillon) v Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Supreme Court appeal on the proper meaning of Article 2 of the Windsor Framework

R (3Million Ltd & Open Rights Group) v Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (Nos 1 and 2)

Court of Appeal judgment considering the approach to relief where primary legislation has been found incompatible with retained EU law

R (the3Million Limited & ors) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

[2021 EWHC 245 (ADMIN)]

acting for the Defendant in the judicial review brought by a campaign group into the widely-publicised problems associated with the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections and associated damages claim.

R (the3million & others) v Minister for the Cabinet Office

Challenge arising out of the conduct of the 2019 European Parliamentary election, alleging a breach of the Voting Rights Directive and making a Francovich damages claim

Case C-505/19 Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Reference concerning Interpol Red Notices, the double jeopardy principle and the Law Enforcement Data Protection Directive

Case C-619/19 Land Baden-Wurttemberg

Reference concerning the internal communications exemption in the Environmental Information Directive

Case C-619/19 Land Baden-Wurttemberg

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

Case C-746/18 HK

Reference concerning access to retained communications data for the purposes of law enforcement

Case C-623/17 Privacy International v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Significant reference concerning the scope of Article 4(2) TEU and the competence of the EU in national security matters

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

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 the reference was withdrawn

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-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

Re the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill

First reference to the Supreme Court made under section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998, concerning legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for the retention of EU law after Brexit

Re the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill

First reference to the Supreme Court made under section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998, concerning legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for the retention of EU law after Brexit

R (Aire Centre) v Secretary of State for the Home Department & Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Challenge to Operation Nexus as contrary to the Citizens Directive and in breach of police powers

R (Aire Centre) v Secretary of State for the Home Department & Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Challenge to Operation Nexus as contrary to the Citizens Directive and in breach of police powers

R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Article 56 TFEU challenge to regulations prohibiting betting on the Euromillions lottery draw

R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Article 56 TFEU challenge to regulations prohibiting betting on the Euromillions lottery draw

R (EU Lotto) v Secretary of State for Digital, Media and Sport

[2019] EWHC 3111 (ADMIN, [2019] 1 CMLR 41 (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Andrew successfully represented the Secretary of State in this judicial review of the ban on off shore gambling companies offering bets on the outcome of the EuroMillions draws.

Case C-136/17 GC v CNIL

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

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

Case C-207/16 Ministerio Fiscal

Intervening for the UK in a reference about the meaning of ‘serious crime’ for the purposes of retention of communications data

R (Miller & Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

The Article 50 Brexit litigation about the power to withdraw from the EU before 11 Justices of the Supreme Court

R (Miller & Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

The Article 50 Brexit litigation about the power to withdraw from the EU

R (King) v Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

The abuse of right principle under the Common Agricultural Policy

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

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