Jonathan Moffett KC

Silk: 2017 Call: 1996

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Jonathan is an acknowledged expert in public law, and has been described by the legal directories as "one of the best", combining "the perfect blend of razor-sharp intellect, strategic oversight and excellent client skills".

Jonathan's practice has a particular emphasis on the fields of regulatory law, local government law, human rights, education law, environmental law, and health and community care law. He has a huge amount of experience in dealing with claims for judicial review, and he is ranked by the legal directories as a leading silk in administrative and public law, local government law and education law.

Jonathan represents public sector bodies on some of their most important and difficult cases, and he is on the Welsh Government's panel of KCs, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's A panel of counsel, and the NPS panel of counsel instructed by Welsh public bodies. Jonathan sits as a Deputy High Court Judge in the Administrative Court and the King's Bench Division, and as a Recorder in the Crown Court. He is the editor of the sections on judicial review in the White Book, and co-author of the leading public law practitioners' text, *Judicial Review: Principles and Procedure* (OUP, 2nd edition, 2026). Jonathan is a former Chair of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association.

> ***Jonathan combines technical brilliance and attention to detail with an unsurpassed ability to communicate with the client and reassure them.***
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> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

Jonathan represents government bodies on some of their most important and difficult cases, and he is on the Welsh Government's panel of KCs, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's A panel of counsel and the NPS panel of counsel instructed by Welsh public bodies.

Jonathan sits as a Deputy High Court Judge and as a Recorder in the Crown Court. He is also Chair of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association, the editor of the sections on judicial review in The White Book, and co-author of a leading public law practitioners' text, Judicial Review: Principles and Procedure (OUP), a new edition of which is due to be published in 2024.

Expertise

Local Government

Jonathan is ranked as an expert in local government law by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. He has experience of dealing with matters across the full spectrum of local government law, including budget challenges, local government reorganisations, combined authorities, central government intervention, governance, service reorganisations, the public sector equality duty, inter-authority disputes, standards, local government finance and disposal of land.

Jonathan has particular expertise in relation to combined authorities, having advised a number of such authorities, and he was involved in the first ever judicial review arising in the context of combined authorities. He has also recently been advising a number of local authorities on proposed local government reorganisations.

Recent examples of Jonathan's local government cases include:

> ***Jonathan is exceptionally bright but personable too. He puts clients at ease and adapts his strategy and advice brilliantly to his audience.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

R (TW) v Essex County Council

Jonathan successfully represented Essex County Council on a challenge to its decision that a young person who did not have stable accommodation was not a child in need for the purposes of the Children Act 1989.

R (Good Law Project) v Essex County Council and Surrey County Council

(HIGH COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL, 2022)

Jonathan successfully represented Essex and Surrey County Councils on this challenge to various local authorities' compliance with the sufficiency duty, which requires them to take steps towards securing that they have sufficient accommodation within their areas to accommodate children in care.

R (Hertfordshire County Council) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

[2021] EWHC 1093 (ADMIN), [2021] EWHC 1145 (ADMIN), [2021] 1 WLR 3714, [2021] 1 WLR 3742, (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Jonathan represented the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government in this test case in relation local authorities' powers to hold remote meetings after the lapse of specific powers to do so during the coronavirus pandemic.

R (Hollow) v Surrey County Council

[2019] EWHC 618 (ADMIN), [2019] PTSR 1871 (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented Surrey County Council on this major challenge to its decision to reduce its schools and special educational needs budget by £21 million. This case is now the leading case on challenges to local authority budget-setting decisions.

R (Woolcock) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

[2018] EWHC 17 (ADMIN), [2018] 4 WLR 49 (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented the Welsh Ministers on this challenge to the fairness of the system of committing council tax defaulters to prison.

R (Canary Wharf Group) v Mayor of London

(2019, HIGH COURT)

Jonathan represented the Mayor of London on this major challenge to the London-wide Mayoral community infrastructure levy, which put in jeopardy the raising of up to £6 billion towards the costs of Crossrail.

Nottingham City Council v Parr

[2018] UKSC 51, [2018] 1 WLR 4985 (SUPREME COURT)

Jonathan led in the Supreme Court for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in this challenge to the First-tier Tribunal's decision to impose conditions on HMO licences which restricted the classes of persons who could live in the HMOs.

R (Derbyshire County Council) v Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority

[2016] EWHC 3355 (ADMIN) (HIGH COURT)

Jonathan acted for the Secretary of State, who intervened in the first ever judicial review relating to combined authorities, in this challenge to a consultation on changing the boundaries of a combined authority to include new local authority areas.

R (London Borough of Southwark) v London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

[2016] EWHC 1701 (ADMIN) (DIVISIONAL COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented the London Fire Authority in a judicial review of its decision to retain prosecutorial functions under the Regulatory Reform Order in relation to the prosecution of a local authority.

R (Islington London Borough Council) v London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

[2013] EWHC 4142 (ADMIN) (HIGH COURT)

Jonathan successfully led for the London Fire Authority on a major challenge brought by a coalition of seven London councils to the Authority's decision to close fire stations in the light of budget cuts.

R (Tower Hamlets London Borough Council) v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

[2014] EWHC 4364 (ADMIN) (HIGH COURT)

Jonathan successfully represented the Secretary of State on a challenge to the decision to conduct a best value inspection of Lutfur Rahman's controversial mayoral administration in Tower Hamlets.

Achievements

Publications

Editor, The White Book, CPR Part 54

Co-author, *Judicial Review: Principles and Procedure* (OUP, 2nd edition, 2026)

Contributing author, *Education Law Handbook* (LexisNexis, 2021)

Appointments

Deputy High Court Judge (King's Bench Division), 2023

Recorder (Crown Court), 2023

Education

Girton College, Cambridge, BA (Hons), Class I

Girton College Cambridge, LLM, Class I

Major Scholarship, Inner Temple

He has colossal public law experience and always comes up with a winning point.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan is an exceptional barrister: intellectually sharp, strategically astute and a formidable advocate. His drafting is meticulous; his advocacy authoritative and persuasive; and he has an enviable ability to master complex legal and factual issues at speed. He is highly responsive, collaborative and commercial in approach, and clients and instructing solicitors alike place immense confidence in his judgement.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is a fantastic lawyer.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan has excellent client-relationship skills, as well as being the best of the best in terms of expertise.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan is easy to work with, and his advocacy skills are excellent. He is calm, very methodical and clear.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan is exceptionally bright but personable too. He puts clients at ease and adapts his strategy and advice brilliantly to his audience.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Jonathan is an extremely approachable and personable barrister. Enthusiastic and energetic. Never fazed. Always a pleasure to work with. His advocacy is clear, concise, clever, orderly and ultimately successful.

LEGAL 500, 2026

One of the best.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2023

Jonathan is an outstanding barrister.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2023