Christopher Knight KC



Silk: 2026 Call: 2008 England & Wales

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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 a true expert in the field.***
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> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

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

Local Government

Christopher has considerable litigation and advisory experience in relation to the broad scope of local government law, ranging from community care and pensions to setting up academy schools and special educational needs.

R (Halton Borough Council) v Road User Charging Scheme Adjudicators

Novel challenge to the decision-making of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal concerning the scope of its jurisdiction and related public law issues

School Facilities Management Ltd & others v Governing Body of Christ the King College & Isle of Wight Council

Two week Commercial Court trial concerning whether a £15m contract for a sixth form building was ultra vires the school, with extensive additional issues concerning misrepresentation and restitution

School Facility Management Ltd v Governing Body of Christ the King College and Isle of Wight Council

[2020] EWHC 1118 (COMM), QBD (COMM), MAY 7 2020, [2020] PTSR 1913, [2020] 1WLR 4825

It was ultra vires for a college to enter into a contract for the construction and hire of a modular building and associated equipment

School Facility Management Ltd v Governing Body of Christ the King College and Isle of Wight Council

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It was ultra vires for a college to enter into a contract for the construction and hire of a modular building and associated equipment

R (Adamson) v Kirklees Council

Challenge before the Court of Appeal to the appropriation of allotment land arising from the interpretation of historic records

R (Hackney LBC, Waltham Forest LBC) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Challenge to directions issued preventing the authorities publishing their local newssheet

R (We Love Hackney) v Hackney LBC

Challenge to Hackney's licensing policy by local businesses for non-compliance with the PSED

R (Harvey) v Haringey LBC & Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Challenge to the Local Government Pension Scheme as discriminatory against unmarried partners

R (Moore) v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

A challenge to allotment disposals and the 'exceptional circumstances' provision

R (Harris) v Broads Authority

A challenge to brand the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads as a national park

Haslam v Information Commissioner & Bolton Council

High-profile Upper Tribunal decision requiring the disclosure of names of councillors who had failed to pay their council tax

Haslam v Information Commissioner & Bolton Council

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Noon v Matthews

Appeal by way of case stated by the Conservators of the River Cam concerning the power of delegation of prosecutorial decision-making

Noon v Matthews

Appeal by way of case stated by the Conservators of the River Cam concerning the power of delegation of prosecutorial decision-making

London Borough of Tower Hamlets v London Borough of Bromley

The application of various historic pieces of local government legislation to determine the ownership of a Henry Moore sculpture

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

A challenge to the imposition of external commissioners on a local authority

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