Jonathan Moffett KC

Silk: 2017 Call: 1996

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



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.***
>
> **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

Environmental

Jonathan has extensive experience of litigating environmental cases in the courts. Most recently, Jonathan led the government's defence to three major challenges to its net zero policies. Jonathan has also advised on a wide-range of planning-related matters, including the Secretary of States' intervention in local authorities plan-making processes, the National Planning Statement for geological disposal facilities for nuclear waste, development consents for on and off-shore windfarm projects, the grant and revocation of planning permissions for open-cast coal mining, and the decision not to proceed with the plan to build a new stretch of the M4 across the Gwent Levels SSSIs.

Jonathan has particular experience of issues arising in the context of air quality: he appeared at the high-profile inquest into the tragic death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debra, he appeared in the ClientEarth litigation on the United Kingdom's air quality plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide pollution, he advised the Welsh Government on the formulation of their air quality plan, and he has advised a London Borough on the air quality implications of a controversial traffic scheme.

R (Friends of the Earth) v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

[2024] EWHC 995 (ADMIN) (HIGH COURT); [2024] ACD 80

Jonathan represented the Secretary of State on challenges brought by Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and the Good Law Project to the government's Carbon Budget Delivery Plan, which sets out the United Kingdom's pathway to achieving net zero.

Inquest into the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debra

2020

Jonathan was instructed by the London Borough of Lewisham to represent it at this high-profile inquest into the tragic death of a little girl who died from a severe asthma attack. The inquest examined the extent to which poor air quality contributed to her death.

R (Chiltern Farm Chemicals Ltd) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(2019, HIGH COURT)

Jonathan represented DEFRA on this challenge to a decision not to license pesticides under the EU Plant Protection Products Regulation.

Shortt v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

[2015] EWCA CIV 1192, [2016] 1 P&CR 15 (COURT OF APPEAL)

Jonathan was brought in to argue this case in the Court of Appeal on the correct interpretation of the standard-form agricultural occupancy condition.

R (An Taisce) v Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

[2014] EWCA CIV 1111, [2015] PTSR 189 (COURT OF APPEAL)

Jonathan acted for the Secretary of State in this judicial review of the grant of development consent for Hinkley Point C nuclear power station, based on allegation that the requirements of the Habitats Directive had not been complied with.

R (ClientEarth) v Secretary of State for the Environment and the Welsh Ministers

[2018] EWHC 315 (ADMIN), [2018] ENV LR 21 (HIGH COURT)

Jonathan represented the Welsh Ministers on this EU law challenge to the air quality plans for addressing nitrogen dioxide air pollution.

R (Friends of the Earth) v Welsh Ministers

[2015] EWHC 776 (ADMIN), [2016] ENV LR 1 (HIGH COURT)

Jonathan successfully resisted a major challenge, based on alleged failure to comply with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, to the Welsh Government's decision to proceed with a £1 billion project to build a new stretch of the M4 motorway to the south of Newport.

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