



Richard Wald KC

Year of call: 1997 | Silk: 2020

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"Richard is a superb barrister. He exudes a style which is measured, considered, exactly on the point and very persuasive. One of the most effective advocates, but most particularly in the High Court where his intellectual brilliance and gifted advocacy make him stand out as a true star" The Legal 500 2022

Richard Wald KC is a leading environmental, planning and public law silk. He has been ranked by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 in the categories of Environmental Law, Planning Law, Aviation Law, Administrative and Public Law and Energy Law. Prior to taking silk he was rated by Planning Magazine Legal Survey as amongst the UK's top planning juniors for over a decade and nominated by Chambers and Partners as Planning and Environment Junior of the Year.

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Administrative and Public (including Local Government and Human Rights)

Planning

-- Aviation and Aerospace

-- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

-- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure

-- High Court Planning Challenges

-- Planning Appeals, Hearings and Inquiries

-- Planning Enforcement

Environmental

Energy

-- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure

Richard has acted for developers and objectors in a number of major infrastructure projects consented by means of various processes including hybrid bill, development consent order and planning inquiry.

Significant experience has included acting for the Department of Transport in the development of the UK's largest infrastructure project since the 1950's (HS2), acting for Natural Resources Wales at a number of conjoined inquiries into the proposed development of the M4 corridor around Newport, and acting for and against renewable energy developers on numerous major on and off shore schemes.

Cases of Note

- ***R (Ross & Sanders acting on behalf of Stop Stansted Expansion) v Secretary of State for Transport*** [2020] EWHC 226 (Admin) – Richard acted for the Claimants in this judicial review challenge concerning the interplay between the development consent order regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects and the conventional planning regime.
- ***R (on the application of Jennifer Dawes) v Secretary of State for Transport and Anor*** (CO/2917/2020) – Richard acted for the Claimant in this first ever quashing of the grant of a development consent order since the introduction of the Planning Act 2008. (approving the re-opening of Manston Airport, on the Isle of Thanet in Kent, as a dedicated freight airport)
- ***Westinghouse re Moorfield*** - Richard advised Westinghouse in relation to the DCO process for nuclear new build at the Moorside nuclear site near Sellafield in Cumbria.
- ***M4 Corridor around Newport*** - Richard acted for Natural Resources Wales in a number of joined public inquiries into the Welsh Government's proposals to build a £1.4 billion new section of motorway south of Newport (4 month inquiry between February 2017 and March 2018).
- ***High Speed 2*** - Richard formed part of Counsel team acting for the Department for Transport in relation to the passage of the hybrid bill authorising HS2 through the Commons. Principal areas of work related to the scheme's (and the largest ever) Environmental Statement and HS2's preparation and representation at hearings of petitions against the High Speed Rail Bill
- ***North Doncaster Rail Chord*** - Richard acted for the local authority in this, the first ever DCO to be granted under the Planning Act 2008. The new flyover (known as Doncaster North Chord) was opened in June 2014.

Recommendations

Environment

"Tenacious and inventive - one of the pre-eminent environmental silks in London, and far and away the most skilled and persuasive." The Legal 500 2022

"Measured, confident, persuasive, he is a superb barrister who is good on paper but truly excellent when in court on his feet." Legal 500 2021

Planning

"Richard is an outstanding High Court advocate: clear, insightful and effective on his feet. He has got a brilliantly inventive mind."

"He is an excellent advocate, who is very approachable and easy to work with."

"He is very knowledgeable and very helpful."

"An excellent advocate, who is very approachable and easy to work with."

"Richard is a proper specialist in this area." Chambers and Partners 2023

Energy

"A breadth of knowledge across the many areas of nuclear regulation" The Legal 500 2015

Administrative and Public Law

"He has incredible skill and inventiveness in creating very attractive arguments." *"He is fantastic with clients"*

who are very sophisticated and familiar with the process, but also very wonderful at holding clients' hands through their first judicial review." Chamber and Partner 2020

*"He's very bright and he packages his arguments and opinions in a way that the clients can understand."
"He puts everyone at ease and he gets to what really matters."*

"Conscientious and diligent." "An amazing advocate." Chambers and Partners 2021

Aviation and Aerospace

"Richard has a very good grasp of the details relating to aviation regulation and control. He is good on papers but excellent in court. He is measured, confident, on the point and very persuasive." The Legal 500 2023

"An up-and-coming new silk" The Legal 500 2022 (Tier 1, Silks in Aviation Category)

Memberships and Appointments

- Planning & Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Chair of Environmental Law Foundation
- Member and former trustee of United Kingdom Environmental Law Foundation
- National Infrastructure Planning Association
- Assistant Commissioner to the Boundary Commission for England (2016)
- General Editor of Sweet & Maxwell Thomson Reuter's Encyclopaedia of Environmental Law (2005-2015)
- Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel to the Crown (2009)
- Attorney General's C Panel of Prosecution Counsel to the Crown (2003)
- University of Brighton Visiting Lecturer (MSc Environmental Policy and Law)
- Judicial Assistant in the Court of Appeal (Assistant to Konrad Schiemann LJ)
- Legal and Administrative Trainee at UN Office of Legal Affairs and DG1A (External Relations) of the European Commission

Qualifications, Scholarships and Prizes

- MA Hon. Spanish & European History, First Class with Distinction (finished 1st in year), University of Edinburgh: 1990-1994
- Erasmus Scholar (Coimbra Group) – University of Granada (Medieval History)
- Brown University – Special Student Scholarship – American Literature and History
- Inns of Court School of Law – Bar Finals
- Diplomas in Law (City University) and EC Law (King's College, London): 1996
- Gray's Inn Prince of Wales Scholar 1998
- Inner Temple Pegasus Scholar (Judicial Assistant to Chief Justice of Israel) 2000
- Trained and accredited Mediator and Pupil Supervisor

Additional Information

- General Editor of Thomson Reuters' Encyclopedia of Environmental Law 2004-2015
- Co-editor of Sweet & Maxwell Thomson Reuter's Environmental Law Bulletin
- Contributor to Tromans on Nuclear Law 3rd Edition (Hart Publishing, forthcoming)
- Contributor to Tromans on Environmental Impact Assessment: Law and Practice 2nd Edition (Bloomsbury, 2012)
- Co-Author of Butterworths/LexisNexis' Highways Law and Practice 2002

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