



Rory Dunlop KC

Year of call: 2002 | Silk: 2019

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"He is up there in the top five busiest silks and can turn his mind from one case to another very easily." Chambers and Partners 2022

"A brilliant advocate who is really highly skilled and experienced in very challenging cases, and whose work is simply masterful." Chambers and Partners 2020

Rory is recommended as a leading silk by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners in six practice areas: administrative and public law, professional discipline and regulatory law, data protection, immigration and education. He has been shortlisted by Legal 500 for Immigration Silk of the Year 2023

Before taking silk, Rory spent 12 years on the Attorney General's panels, including four years on the A panel. Rory has acted in over thirty cases in the Court of Appeal, five in the Supreme Court and more than a hundred in the High Court. He is the co-author of the Oxford University Press textbook, *Detention Under the Immigration Acts: Law and Practice* and he wrote the chapter on appeals and judicial review in the most recent editions of the LexisNexis textbook, *Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings*.

On 23 January 2023 Rory was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge.



Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Regulatory

Immigration and Business Immigration

Data Protection and Information Law

Education

Civil Liberties and Human Rights

Healthcare

Inquiries

Parole Board and Prisons

Data Protection and Information Law

Rory is recommended as a leading silk in Information Rights and Data Protection in both The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners (where he was ranked in Band 1 for juniors before taking silk). He advises and represents public authorities and data controllers in relation to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. He often appears in appeals to the First-tier and Upper Tribunal against decisions of the Information Commissioner. Recently he represented the University of Southampton in FOIA appeals concerning the letters and diaries of Lord and Lady Mountbatten.

Cases of note

- ***Lownie v Information Commissioner and University of Southampton* (EA/2020/0021, 26, 58, 59, 125)** - The university had been entitled to withhold certain information within the papers of Lord and Lady Mountbatten. Some of that information was exempt under s40(2) of FOIA as it was the personal data of their surviving child. Other information was exempt under s27 of FOIA as its disclosure would have prejudiced international relations.
- ***Ministry of Defence v Information Commissioner and Burt* (EA/2019/0038)** - The Information Commissioner had been wrong to order the disclosure of the withheld elements of a report by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulatory. The disclosure would be likely to prejudice defence, security and/or international relations.
- ***Department of Transport v Information Commissioner* [2019] EWCA Civ 2241** - The First-tier Tribunal had been entitled to examine, line by line, a document relating to a meeting with HRH Prince Charles and find that the withheld information was not environmental and therefore fell under FOIA.
- ***Foreign and Commonwealth Office v Information Commissioner and Corke* (EA/2019/0031)** - The Information Commissioner had been wrong to order the disclosure of the discussions which led to Harvey Weinstein being awarded a CBE.
Judgment

Recommendations

"He is up there in the top five busiest silks and can turn his mind from one case to another very easily."
Chambers and Partners 2022

"Rory is always on top of his brief and he is very smooth in submissions." "He is a very, very eloquent advocate. He is a very knowledgeable barrister and he has wide expertise." Chambers and Partners 2022

"He is extremely talented and is a very fair opponent who is well respected." Chambers and Partners 2022

"Even at the immigration Bar, Rory's command of the authorities is unequalled. He uses this knowledge to great effect, on his feet he can cut down other counsel by showing their submissions are based on misreadings of complex cases." The Legal 500, 2022

"Such a tough opponent – there's no aspect of a case he doesn't advance, and you can't miss a single thing because he will spot it. I didn't enjoy that day in court!" Chambers and Partners 2021

"He has an understated and calm advocacy style, is extremely intelligent and quickly gets on top of complex issues." Chambers and Partners 2021

"Analytically sharp and unflappable in court." Chambers and Partners 2021

"There is nothing nicer than listening to him in court, as he makes it all so straightforward and attractive." Chambers and Partners 2021

"A formidable class act." The Legal 500 2020

"His practice is mostly on the government side but he's equally good at acting for claimants. He's thorough, reliable, easy to work with and extremely proficient." Chambers and Partners, 2020

Memberships

- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Administrative Law Bar Association
- Immigration Law Practitioners' Association
- Human Rights Lawyers' Association
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Free Representation Unit

Qualifications

Education

- 1999: BA (Mods) Literae Humaniores (First Class). Examiners' special commendation for an outstanding paper in Logic.
- 1999: BA (Hons) Literae Humaniores (First Class).
- 2000-2001: City University: Postgraduate Diploma in Law (Distinction).
- 2002: Inns of Court School of Law – Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent).

Scholarships and prizes

- 1990: Full fee scholarship (awarded to top 5 in the year) for Eton College
- 1996: Roberts Gawen scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford.
- 2000-2001: Lord Bowen scholarship to Lincoln's Inn
- 2001-2002: Lord Mansfield scholarship to Lincoln's Inn.
- 2002-2003: Lord Wolfson scholarships to Lincoln's Inn.
- 2005: Pegasus scholarship to the European Court of Human Rights.

Additional Information

Appointments

- 2002: Called to the Bar (pupillage at 39 Essex Chambers)
- 2005: Registry of European Court of Human Rights
- 2007: Attorney General's 'C' panel of counsel.
- 2008: Attorney General's FOI panel.
- 2011: Attorney General's 'B' panel of counsel.
- 2015: Attorney General's 'A' panel of counsel.

- 2019: Queen's Counsel
- 2023: Deputy High Court Judge

Publications

- Detention under the Immigration Acts: Law and Practice (OUP), 2015 (author)
- What We Didn't Say: a novel (Twenty7), 2016 (author)

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