



Richard Wald KC

Year of call: 1997 | Silk: 2020

Email: richard.wald@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"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

-- Planning Appeals, Hearings and Inquiries

Richard regularly acts for and against development across the full range of planning and enforcement matters. He also acts in other forms of inquiry and hearings, such as the UK COVID Inquiry (Appointed as

Counsel to the Inquiry in Spring 2022) and the Hearings of Petitions against the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

Cases of note

- **UK Covid-19 Inquiry** - Richard was appointed Counsel to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry in Spring 2022. He leads a team of Counsel responsible for the Module related to the public procurement of key equipment and supplies (including PPE and ventilators).
- **Luton Airport** - Richard acted for the principle objector to a recent application to increase the passenger cap and noise contours at Luton Airport. The application was called in by two Secretaries of State and heard by three planning Inspectors over the course of 20 days in the Summer and Autumn of 2022. Evidence centred around noise, socio-economics, climate change and planning.
- **Stansted Airport** – Richard acted on behalf of objectors in the 2021 30-day inquiry, resisting the further expansion of Stansted Airport.
- **Drake Park** – Richard acted for the promotor of “Drake Park”, a garden village development of up to 1,024 residential units on a green belt site in Elmbridge, Surrey. The s78 planning appeal which followed the refusal of outline planning permission by Elmbridge BC ran for 9 days and centred around the issues of (i) housing need (ii) the effect of the proposal on the Green Belt (iii) transport impacts (iv) drainage impacts.
- **Land East of Posbrook Lane, Titchfield, Fareham** - Richard acted for the LPA in this week-long appeal against a refusal of a 150 dwelling housing estate and associated development in a sensitive part of Hampshire’s Meon Valley. Key issues at the appeal included (i) whether and if so to what extent the LPA had a shortfall in its 5YHLS and the effect of any such shortfall, (ii) the impact of the proposal on the landscape within which the appeal site is located (iii) the impact of the proposal on the setting and significance of designated heritage assets in its vicinity.

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

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

BARRISTERS • ARBITRATORS • MEDIATORS

clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com