

39 Essex Chambers
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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

Immigration and Business Immigration

Rory is recommended as a leading silk in immigration by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. He has been shortlisted by Legal 500 for Immigration Silk of the Year 2023. He has appeared in over 30 immigration cases in the Court of Appeal and many more in the High Court and Upper Tribunal. He has advised and represented the Secretary of State for the Home Department (SSHD) in many of the key cases concerning immigration detention, Article 3 ECHR and ill-health and Article 8 ECHR and deportation.

Unusually, Rory acts both for and against the SSHD. He has represented claimants and appellants in numerous cases concerning the refusal of fresh claims, immigration detention, refugee family reunion etc. He is an expert in sponsor licensing and the Points Based System. He advises licensed sponsors on their obligations under Home Office guidance. He is also the co-author of Detention under the Immigration Acts: Law and Practice (OUP), the leading text book on immigration detention, which Lord Dyson described as "an essential addition to the library of anyone who practises in the field of the law of immigration".

Cases of note

- **AM (Zimbabwe) v SSHD [2020] UKSC 17; [2021] AC 633** - The Supreme Court interpreted and adopted the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Paposhvili v Belgium* (41738/10) [2017] Imm. A.R. 867.
[Judgment](#)
- **MY (Pakistan) v SSHD [2021] EWCA Civ 1500; [2022] 1 WLR 238** - A decision to refuse an application for leave as a victim of domestic violence was not a decision to "refuse a human rights claim" and did not trigger a right of appeal.
[Judgment](#)
- **R (FwF & anor) v SSHD [2021] EWCA Civ 88** - Public law errors, which led to delays in reuniting unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors with their family members in the UK under Regulation 604/2013 (Dublin III), did not breach Art 8 ECHR.
[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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