



Paul Stinchcombe KC

Year of call: 1985 | Silk: 2011

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“Paul is astonishingly quick to identify the key issues and develop coherent and persuasive arguments. He combines his hardworking nature with outstanding intellect and is a pleasure to work with.” The Legal 500 2022

“Paul gives a case everything – completely focused and in command of his brief.” The Legal 500 2021

“Paul is a particularly persuasive advocate, brilliant in both cross-examination and submissions.” Chambers and Partners 2020

Paul was called to the Bar in 1985, building up a substantial practice in public, environmental and planning law before becoming an MP (1997-2005), during which time he served on the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Joint Committee on House of Lords Reform. Since returning to the Bar in May 2005, Paul rapidly rebuilt his practice and was elevated to silk within six years. Paul acts for developers, local authorities and private clients, including local campaign groups. Paul is regularly recommended in the legal directories and was named as The Times Lawyer of the week following his successful challenge against a decision to redevelop the house in which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote The Hound of the Baskervilles. Paul was shortlisted for *“Real Estate, Environmental and Planning Silk of the Year”* at The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2018 and, in 2005, was elected as a Visiting Fellow to Cambridge University’s Centre of Public Law.

Areas of expertise

Planning

- Art and Cultural Property
- Aviation and Aerospace
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation
- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure
- High Court Planning Challenges

- Planning Policymaking
- Planning Applications
- Planning Appeals, Hearings and Inquiries
- Planning Enforcement
- Environment
- Biodiversity and Habitats
- Climate Change
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure
- Administrative and Public
- Local Government

-- High Court Planning Challenges

Paul regularly appears in leading planning cases in the higher courts, including winning the seminal case of *Hunston Properties*, which established a new planning industry (not to mention the ultimate adoption of the 'standard methodology') regarding the objective assessment of housing needs when a council had an out-of-date local plan.

Cases of note

- *R (Save St Albans Green Belt and Others) v (1) St Albans City and District Council and (2) Hunston Properties Limited* [2022] EWHC 2087 (Admin) - having won *Hunston Properties Limited v (1) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and (2) St Albans City and District Council* [2013] EWCA Civ 1610 almost 10 years ago, the seminal case on "objectively assessed needs", Paul returned to familiar territory, successfully defending the grant of planning permission for 150 dwellings on the same Green Belt site.
- *R (Ross & Sanders) v Secretary of State for Transport* [2020] EWHC 226 (Admin) - concerning the borderlines between the planning regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects and the conventional planning regime.
- *New World Payphones Ltd. v Westminster City Council* [2019] EWCA Civ 2250 - concerning the permitted development right to install telephone kiosks also used for advertising.
- *CPRE (Surrey) and POW Campaign Ltd v Waverley Borough Council and Others*, [2019] EWCA Civ 1826 - concerning the extent to which plan-makers must investigate unmet housing needs outside their area.
- *Eastleigh Borough Council v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government* [2019] EWHC 1862 (Admin) - concerning the planning balance when a housing application breaches policy and the local planning authority can demonstrate a five-year housing land supply.
- *Hallam Land Management v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Eastleigh Borough Council* [2018] EWCA Civ 1808 - concerning whether an exact calculation of housing land supply is required.
- *R (Tesco Stores Limited) v (1) Forest of Dean District Council (2) Asda Stores Limited and Others* [2015] EWCA Civ 800 - defending the decision to grant planning permission for a superstore, a leading authority on the extent to which one can use speeches made in debate as a basis for impugning a council decision at the end of the debate.

Recommendations

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- *“Paul gives a case everything – completely focused and in command of his brief.”* The Legal 500 (2021)
- *“A highly committed advocate who gives a case 100%, and who is effective and easy to work with.”* The Legal 500 (2021)
- *“Paul is a particularly persuasive advocate, brilliant in both cross-examination and submissions.”* Chambers and Partners (2020)
- *“He is very responsive, to the point, and offers clear guidance.”* Chambers and Partners (2019)
- *“Able to quickly grasp the salient facts and develop a logical strategy.”* The Legal 500 (2019)

Memberships

- Planning & Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Qualifications

Education

- 1980-1983: Trinity College, Cambridge, BA in Law (Double First Class) MA.
- 1984: Harvard Law School, LL.M.

Scholarships and Prizes

- 1980-1983: University of Cambridge, ten prizes for academic distinction including a Senior Scholarship from Trinity College and the Squire Law Scholarship (twice) from Cambridge University.
- 1984: Harvard Law School, Frank Knox Fellowship.
- 1985: Lincoln’s Inn, Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, Thomas More Bursary, Megarry Scholarship.
- 2005: Cambridge University, elected Visiting Fellow to Cambridge University’s Centre of Public Law.

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