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39 Essex CHAMBERS

Jonathan Darby

Year of call: 2012

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"Jon has a superb legal mind, an incisive way of getting to the heart of a problem, and is wholly unflappable. He has star quality." The Legal 500 2023

"…the moment he opens his mouth, people listen…" Chambers and Partners 2021

Jon's planning, environmental and property practice complements broader public and administrative law interests and his varied civil liability work. Jon appears regularly in all types of court and tribunal alongside undertaking pleading and advisory work for a wide variety of domestic and international clients, including developers, consultants, local authorities, and the Government Legal Department. He is a Member of the Football Association's General Appeal Panel.

Before coming to the Bar, Jon taught Property and International Environmental Law at Cambridge University whilst completing a PhD in International Environmental Law at Queens' College.

Areas of expertise

- Planning and Property
- Environment
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Administrative and public
- Information and Media
- Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury
- Sport

Administrative and public

Jon has a wide public law practice, encompassing planning and environmental law, compulsory purchase, highways, housing, public procurement, civil liberties and human rights (including unlawful detention and associated claims), freedom of information, and local government law. Jon's experience of local government law includes prosecutions in the Crown and Magistrates' Courts concerning a range of

matters, including environmental protection and noise abatement.

Jon is frequently instructed in relation to planning judicial and statutory reviews. His wider practice includes appearing in a significant number of immigration tribunal appeals, as well in relation to judicial review challenges to immigration decisions, the "Mau Mau" uprising, and naturalisation appeals (including SIAC matters). He regularly appears on behalf of the Secretary of State in relation to civil penalty appeals.

Jon is ranked as a leading junior for local government law (The Legal 500).

Inquests

Jon is regularly instructed in sensitive inquests, including appearing for both local authorities and families.

Recommendations

"Jonathan is outstanding; he is just fantastic." Chambers and Partners 2023

"He showed excellent knowledge on some very esoteric points of CPO law. He was very willing to deal with ad hoc queries at short notice and is very client-friendly." Chambers and Partners 2023

"Jon has a superb legal mind, an incisive way of getting to the heart of a problem, and is wholly unflappable. He has star quality. He is a go-to choice when a specialist planning junior is needed, and he has worked on a number of high value, tricky cases." Legal 500 2023 (Planning)

"Jonathan is extremely knowledgeable, thorough, determined and passionate, and these all come across quite clearly in his advocacy." Legal 500 2023 (Local Government)

"A great fighter and takes every point, you would always want him on your side." Legal 500 2023 (Environment)

"He is really hard-working and dedicated and has excellent written skills." Chambers and Partners 2022

"He's very commercial, pragmatic and very easy to work with." Chambers and Partners 2022

"One of the best junior barristers at the planning Bar. He has a superb legal mind and very sound practical judgement." The Legal 500 2022

"He's got extremely good judgement and an incredible ability to handle detail, and the moment he opens his mouth, people listen." Chambers and Partners 2021

"He's extremely responsive, very sharp and on the ball. He combines good technical advice with a high degree of commerciality." Chambers and Partners 2021

"Very good with clients and has a calm authority that puts clients at their ease. Good on technical issues where multiple parts of different law intersect." The Legal 500 2021

"He has the ability to get to the root of the matter and simplify it with clarity. He is calm, measured and expert in his delivery." "He understands the stresses that clients are under and doesn't patronise them." Chambers and Partners 2020

Memberships

- Middle Temple
- United Kingdom Environmental Law Association
- Planning and Environmental Bar Association

- Compulsory Purchase Association
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Human Rights Lawyers Association

Qualifications

Education

- 2010-2011: BPTC, Very Competent, City Law School
- 2007-2011: PhD, International Environmental Law, Queens' College, Cambridge University
- 2006-2007: MPhil, Land Economy (Environmental Policy), Queens' College, Cambridge University
- 2003-2006: MA, Law, Queens' College, Cambridge University

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2010-2011: Middle Temple Astbury Scholar
- 2002-2008: Scaldwell Charity Educational Grant
- 1998-2002: Foundation of Thomas Roe Educational Grant

Additional information

Pro Bono

Jon is committed to pro bono work with a particular focus on projects and organisations in the planning and environmental fields. Jon has also volunteered extensively for a range of organisations in a legal advice and referral capacity, including the Environmental Law Foundation and the Legal Response Initiative.

Publications

- *"Planning Law: Practice and Precedents"* co-editor, Sweet and Maxwell,
- *"Shackleton on the Law and Practice of Meetings"*, contributor to the Thirteenth Edition, Sweet and Maxwell

Appointments

- 2016 – 2022: Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel
- 2021 – 2024: Member of the Football Association's General Appeal Panel