



Victoria Hutton

Year of call: 2011

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“One of her real strengths is to understand and advise clients, she cuts through the issue and provides excellent advice. She’s developed a huge expertise.....” Chambers and Partners 2023

Victoria is consistently rated as one of the leading juniors at the planning and environmental bar. She has been shortlisted as planning and environment junior barrister of the year by Chambers and Partners (2021) and was included in the Planner’s Women of Influence list for 2020. Victoria is the co-author of ‘Planning Policy’ (Bloomsbury 2018 with Richard Harwood QC). She has extensive advocacy experience which includes appearing in a number of substantive appeals before the Court of Appeal in her own right. Victoria also appears regularly in the High Court, inquiries, informal hearings and local plan examinations. Victoria’s work spans both England and Wales.

Areas of expertise

Planning

Environment

Energy and Natural Resources

Planning

Victoria is consistently rated as one of the top juniors at the planning bar (Planning Magazine, Chambers and Partners and Legal 500). Victoria’s cases span the full range of planning work from promoting large infrastructure (for example, Sizewell C) through to advising on knotty enforcement matters. Victoria appears in all tribunals including hearings, inquiries, the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Cases of note:

- **Expansion of Luton Airport** – Victoria represented London Luton Airport Operations Limited (‘LLAOL’) at a six week called-in planning inquiry. The inquiry considered LLAOL’s s73 application to increase the airport’s throughput by 1m passengers per annum and amendments to other conditions. A decision is awaited.
- **Promotion of Sizewell C Development Consent Order** - Victoria represented the promoter of a development consent order for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell C. Victoria’s particular focus was on environmental issues including habitats regulation assessment. Consent was granted in

2022.

- ***R (Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site) v Secretary of State for Transport* [2021] EWHC 2161 (Admin)** - Victoria appeared on behalf of the successful claimant in this high-profile judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State to grant development consent for a new road and tunnel through the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. Victoria also represented a consortium of archaeologists throughout the development consent order (DCO) examination process.
- ***Promotion of Crematoria*** - Victoria has represented Dignity Funerals Ltd in two successful appeals for new crematoria. One case involved the promotion of a crematorium in the South Staffordshire green belt where Victoria appeared as junior to Peter Village KC. Victoria also successfully promoted a new crematorium in Huntingdon at appeal.
- ***Promotion and objection to residential and retail development*** – Victoria regularly appears for and against residential and retail proposals across the country.
- ***Promotion of Harrow School's Sports and Science Facilities*** - Victoria (as junior to John Steel KC) represented Harrow School in its appeal against the Mayor of London's refusal of planning permission for sizeable sports and science facilities located in metropolitan open land. The case raised issues of need, openness and heritage impact. The appeal was successful and the school was awarded costs.
Victoria subsequently appeared in the High Court challenge of the decisions by the London Mayor (***Mayor of London v SSHCLG* [2020] EWHC 1176 (Admin)**).
- ***Local Plan advocacy*** - Victoria regularly appears at local plan examinations. This has included representing the promoters of exception sites and other third parties. Victoria represented Great Chesterford Parish Council at the Uttlesford Local Plan examination and successfully argued that the plan was unsound.
- ***M4 Relief Road to the South of Newport*** - Victoria acted for Natural Resources Wales at this six month inquiry.
- ***Numerous High Court and Court of Appeal matters*** occurring in both English and Welsh Courts.

Recommendations

- *"One of the rising stars of the Bar, her knowledge and expertise in environmental law is second to none and her work is always of high quality." Legal 500 2023*
- *"Victoria's knowledge and expertise in planning law is probably unrivalled by those of her age and experience." Legal 500 2023*
- *"Victoria is excellent. Incredibly bright, always thorough and prepared, and a delight to work with." Chambers and Partners 2023*
- *"One of her real strengths is to understand and advise clients, she cuts through the issue and provides excellent advice. She's developed a huge expertise in planning law, but is still very good value." Chambers and Partners 2023*
- *"She is a rising star of the Planning Bar. Excellent." Chambers and Partners 2023*
- *"She is very responsive, clear in the advice she gives and pragmatic." Chambers and Partners 2022*
- *"Victoria is well liked by clients for her commercial advice and technical knowledge." Chambers and Partners 2022*

- *"She is friendly, efficient and an expert in her field."*Chambers and Partners UK 2020
- *"She'll cut to the chase and she's very good at explaining quite complex issues to"*Chambers and Partners UK 2020
- *"Hard working, thorough and dependable. Effective advocate. Excellent with clients."*The Legal 500 2020
- *"She's very efficient and has a commercial acumen that isn't always present in juniors."*Chambers and Partners UK 2020
- *"Able to command the facts and deploy knowledge to convey the importance of the issues."*The Legal 500 2020
- *"She is fluid in her addresses to court and has an exceptional writing ability."*Chambers and Partners UK 2018

Memberships

- Planning and Environmental Bar Association (PEBA)
- United Kingdom Environmental Law Association (UKELA)

Qualifications

Education

- Oxford University, Brasenose College, Modern History MA (Hons)
- BPP Law School, Graduate Diploma in Law
- London School of Economics, LLM Public International Law (Distinction)
- BPP Law School, Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding)

Scholarships and Prizes

- Lord Haldane Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Proxime Beit Prize, Oxford University
- Academic Exhibition, Brasenose College, Oxford University

Additional Information

Appointments

- Treasurer of the Planning and Environmental Bar Association
- Committee Member of the Joint Oxford Law Planning Conference

Languages

- French (Rusty)

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