



Celina Colquhoun

Year of call: 1990

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“Celina is a skilful advocate who is able to build rapport with instructing solicitors and wider client teams. She is an impressive cross-examiner – she is thorough and thinks strategically.” The Legal 500 2023 and 2024 - Tier 1

“Celina is dedicated, very analytical and keen for precision...She is very much considered to be a leading figure in the legal planning world.” Chambers Directory 2023 and 2024 - Tier 5

Celina Colquhoun specialises in all aspects of planning and environmental law, including in particular highways, DCO, and CPO matters and has experience in licensing as well. Her practice also involves a considerable degree of wider Administrative and Local Government Law.

Celina is consistently recognised by The Legal 500 and in Chambers Guide for Planning and is rated by Planning Magazine's Legal Survey as amongst the UK's top planning juniors. She was chosen by Planner Magazine as a Women of Influence in March 2022.

She appears extensively as an advocate in public inquiries and hearings as well as in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Celina acts for and advises a very wide range of public bodies and private parties in relation to the to all forms of development, from application stage to appeal as well as planning enforcement matters and the promotion of or objection to development related Orders.

She is also a RICS Accredited Mediator.

In July 2020 Celina was appointed as a member of the six person panel constituting the Government's Independent Review of Administrative Law (IRAL) chaired by Lord Faulks. This reported to the Government in early 2021 leading ultimately to changes to Judicial Review legislation.

Celina is an elected member of the Bar Council. She is Co-Chair of the Bar Council's European Committee and Co-Vice Chair of the Bar Council's Law Reform Committee. She is also an active member of the Bar Council's Climate Crisis Working Group.

Areas of expertise

Planning and Property

- Aviation and Aerospace
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation
- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure
- High Court Planning Challenges
- Highways, Footpaths and Rights of Way
- Planning Policymaking
- Planning Enforcement and Lawful Development Certificates

Environment

Energy and Natural Resources

Environment

Celina's environment law practice focuses upon all aspects of SEA and EIA (related to every type of development and local plan making), biodiversity and habitats, conservation, all major environmental designations and protections, net zero and climate change implications, air quality, biodiversity gain, coastal defence, flooding, riparian rights, water and sewerage, land contamination and pollution controls. She regularly advises upon and acts in such matters in the context of infrastructure and development consenting, environmental regulation, enforcement, and the prosecution of offences.

Cases of note:

- ***Application by AQUIND Limited for a DCO in respect of the AQUIND Interconnector project following s35 Direction - (subsea electricity interconnector)*** – acted for Portsmouth City Council as an Interested Party and an Affected Person in respect of proposed compulsory acquisition of the authority's land. Issues raised surrounding associated development and traffic impact, The Secretary of State's decision to refuse the DCO was subsequently quashed in February 2023
- ***R (oao FCC Environment UK Ltd) v Cheshire East BC; TG Limited [unreported] Case No: CO/814/2019*** – acted for interested party in JR challenge to permission on former landfill site for sustainable urban extension based upon application of EIA Regulations and hydrogeological issues.
- ***Shirley v Canterbury City Council & SSCLG*** Claim No: CO/3841/2017 – on behalf of Council – s.113 PCPA 04 challenge to Local Plan on Air Quality Directive and SEA compliance
- ***Canterbury City Council - Canterbury District Local Plan*** – advised Canterbury City Council and acted for Council at plan examination including upon compliance with SEA and Habitats Regulations– Plan adopted 2017 (2006-2017).
- ***Application by Thames Water for a DCO in respect of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project ('the Super Sewer')*** – appointed under s101 of the Planning Act 2008 to advise and assist the Examining Authority throughout the examination and report stage issued included assessment of noise impact and vibration issues as well as impact upon subsoil and water quality.
- ***Dullingham Parish Council (R on the application of) v East Cambridgeshire District Council [2010] EWHC 1307 (Admin)*** – acted for local planning authority resisting Aarhus Convention based PCO prior to changes to CPR.

Recommendations

Celina Colquhoun has been recognised as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners since 2008 and The Legal 500 since 2010

- *"Celina really doesn't waver and is really quick to think on her feet."* Chambers and Partners 2022
- *"She has an enormous breadth of knowledge and experience in planning law. She is a very good with the client, listening patiently and carefully and then explaining in a way that makes complicated law clear and understandable for the client. She is a good team member and to be recommended for all types of planning work."* The Legal 500 2022 – Tier 2
- *"She brings enthusiasm and commitment, with a good depth of knowledge in relation to infrastructure projects."* *"Celina is able to cut through the detail and provide excellent strategic advice to the client."* Chambers and Partners 2021
- *"Highly competent when faced with challenging circumstances."* (Tier 2 London; Tier 1 Midlands) The Legal 500 2020
- *"She is extremely knowledgeable and personable and is our go-to barrister for disputed planning matters."* *"She has been approachable, friendly, committed and effective. She has provided accessible and clear advice to clients. Her knowledge of the law is exemplary and she displays huge stamina during a case."* Chambers and Partners 2019
- *"Unfazed by a challenging situation."* The Legal 500 2019
- *"She is extremely good, particularly with clients and consultant teams, and deals with substantial volumes of work diligently."* *"She has an excellent sense of judgement and is excellent at dealing with senior players in the industry."* Chambers and Partners 2018

Memberships

- Planning and Environmental Law Bar Association PEBA
- Compulsory Purchase Association CPA
- National Infrastructure Planning Association NIPA
- Administrative Law Bar Association ALBA
- United Kingdom Environmental Law Association UKELA
- JUSTICE
- Parliamentary Bar Mess PBM - committee member
- BAR COUNCIL elected member – Law Reform Committee (Co-Vice Chair) and European Law Committee (Co-Chair)
- EUROPEAN CIRCUIT of the BAR
- European Law Institute

Qualifications

Education

- 1988 - 89 Inns of Court School of Law (called 1990)
- 1986-1988 University of Buckingham – Law LLB
- 1985- 86 Institut Britannique, Paris

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