

39 Essex Chambers
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
Email: clerks@39essex.com



Celina Colquhoun

Year of call: 1990

Email: celina.colquhoun@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

“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.”

“Very knowledgeable and commercial with considerable insight into the intricacies of planning enforcement matters and law... a niche specialism even within planning... unwavering under fierce judicial questioning.” Legal 500 2024 - Tier 1

“Celina is responsive and robust in her approach... is extremely knowledgeable and approachable with excellent attention to detail. Chambers and Partners Directory 2024 - Band 4

“Celina is dedicated, very analytical and keen for precision...very much considered to be a leading figure in the legal planning world” Chambers and Partners Directory 2023 - 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 was the winner of the Legal 500 Planning and Land Use Junior Award 2024.

She appears extensively as an advocate in public inquiries and hearings as well as in the High Court and Court of Appeal. She also has experience of wider major public inquiry work including the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry.

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 also advises on matters of local government and public law.

She is a trained and accredited mediator in her areas of specialisms.

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 and led to changes to Judicial Review legislation and procedure.

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 an active member of the Bar Council's Climate Crisis Working Group.

She is a convenor of the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group of the United Kingdom Environmental Law Association. (UKELA)

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

Inquiries

- Highways, Footpaths and Rights of Way

Celina advises and acts in a wide range of highways related matters. These include planning, compulsory purchase and highways creation and diversion issues and in particular modification to the Definitive Map. She advises and appears in respect of Highways Act and Road Traffic Regulation Act related matters including stopping up accesses and on and off-street parking control as well as matters arising under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and Traffic Management Act 2004. Celina in particular advised upon the drafting and introduction of the pan London - London Permit Scheme for Road Works and Street Works.

Cases of Note:

- ***Gloucestershire County Council Gloucester South West Bypass (Llanthony Road Section) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019*** – acted for promoting highway authority
- ***The County of Herefordshire (South Wye Transport Package- A4194 Southern Link Road) CPO and Side Roads Order (Highways Act 1980)*** – promoted CPO and Highways Orders for County Highway Authority
- ***R. (on the application of Alexander) v Parking Adjudicator [2014] EWHC 560 (Admin)*** – acted for the traffic authority and the case is the first to define what is meant by a ‘U Turn’.
- ***London Permit Scheme for Road Works and Street Works (‘the LOPS’)*** – advised and assisted a series of London Boroughs and TfL with the drafting and introduction of the LOPS which was the first permit scheme under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Each authority thereafter introduced the LOPS through individual Permit Scheme Orders.

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

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

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clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com