



Richard Wald KC

Year of call: 1997 | Silk: 2020

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"Richard is a superb barrister. He exudes a style which is measured, considered, exactly on the point and very persuasive. One of the most effective advocates, but most particularly in the High Court where his intellectual brilliance and gifted advocacy make him stand out as a true star" The Legal 500 2022

Richard Wald KC is a leading environmental, planning and public law silk. He has been ranked by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 in the categories of Environmental Law, Planning Law, Aviation Law, Administrative and Public Law and Energy Law. Prior to taking silk he was rated by Planning Magazine Legal Survey as amongst the UK's top planning juniors for over a decade and nominated by Chambers and Partners as Planning and Environment Junior of the Year.

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Administrative and Public (including Local Government and Human Rights)

Planning

-- Aviation and Aerospace

-- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

-- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure

-- High Court Planning Challenges

-- Planning Appeals, Hearings and Inquiries

-- Planning Enforcement

Environmental

Energy

-- Aviation and Aerospace

"Richard has a very good grasp of the details relating to aviation regulation and control. He is good on papers but excellent in court. He is measured, confident, on the point and very persuasive." The Legal 500

"An up-and-coming new silk" The Legal 500 2022 (Tier 1, Silks in Aviation Category)

Richard has acted for and against airport owners and operators in a number of legal contexts. These include statutory nuisance proceedings in relation to Formula 1 testing at RAF Elvington, an Environment Agency prosecution under the Water Resources Act 1991 for the alleged discharge of aviation fuel into controlled waters at RAF Mildenhall, numerous planning appeals arising out of applications by Top Gear to extend the scope of their permissions to film at Dunsfold Aerodrome, claims for compensation under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 following the development of Europe's premier private jet airport at Farnborough Aerodrome. More recently Richard has acted in behalf of parties promoting or objecting to airport expansion schemes including at Heathrow, Stansted, Manston and Luton airports.

Cases of Note:

- **Luton Airport** – Richard acted for the principle objector to a recent application to increase the passenger cap and noise contours at Luton Airport. The application was called in by two Secretaries of State and heard by three planning Inspectors over the course of 20 days in the Summer and Autumn of 2022. Evidence centred around noise, socio-economics, climate change and planning.
- **R (on the application of Jennifer Dawes) v Secretary of State for Transport and Anor (CO/2917/2020)** – Richard acted for the successful claimant in this first ever quashing of a development consent order since the introduction of the Planning Act 2008 (that granted to approve the re-opening of Manston Airport, on the Isle of Thanet in Kent, as a dedicated freight airport).
- **R (Ross & Sanders acting on behalf of Stop Stansted Expansion) v Secretary of State for Transport [2020] EWHC 226 (Admin)** – Richard acted for the claimants in this judicial review challenge concerning the interplay between the development consent order regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) and the conventional planning regime.
- **Heathrow Airport** – Richard has acted for opponents of Heathrow expansion over the last decade or so in three separate claims, including **R (Hillingdon LBC & Ors.) (Claimants) v Secretary of State for Transport (Defendant) & Transport for London (Interested Party) [2010] EWHC 626 (Admin)**, a judicial review challenge to government support for a third runway at Heathrow airport and related proceedings **R(Hillingdon LBC & Ors) v Secretary of State for Transport & Ors. [2017] EWHC 121 (Admin)** comprising a strike out application (founded on s13(1) of the Planning Act 2008) by Hillingdon LBC and others (principally west London local authorities) against the SSfT's decision to select for inclusion in a draft national policy statement (NPS) a proposal for a third runway at Heathrow Airport on grounds of a flawed approach to air quality and breach of legitimate expectation.
- **Hamish Johnston & Ors. (2) Philip Dandy & Ors. v TAG Farnborough Airport Ltd [2015] UKUT 534 (LC)** - Richard acted for over 200 claimants in these Part 1 Land Compensation Act 1973 claims for diminution in value of their homes following works to Farnborough Aerodrome, heard by the Deputy President of the Lands Tribunal over the course of a months' trial.

Recommendations

Environment

"Tenacious and inventive - one of the pre-eminent environmental silks in London, and far and away the most skilled and persuasive." The Legal 500 2022

"Measured, confident, persuasive, he is a superb barrister who is good on paper but truly excellent when in court on his feet." Legal 500 2021

Planning

"Richard is an outstanding High Court advocate: clear, insightful and effective on his feet. He has got a

brilliantly inventive mind."

"He is an excellent advocate, who is very approachable and easy to work with."

"He is very knowledgeable and very helpful."

"An excellent advocate, who is very approachable and easy to work with."

"Richard is a proper specialist in this area." Chambers and Partners 2023

Energy

"A breadth of knowledge across the many areas of nuclear regulation" The Legal 500 2015

Administrative and Public Law

"He has incredible skill and inventiveness in creating very attractive arguments." "He is fantastic with clients who are very sophisticated and familiar with the process, but also very wonderful at holding clients' hands through their first judicial review." Chamber and Partner 2020

"He's very bright and he packages his arguments and opinions in a way that the clients can understand."

"He puts everyone at ease and he gets to what really matters."

"Conscientious and diligent." "An amazing advocate." Chambers and Partners 2021

Aviation and Aerospace

"Richard has a very good grasp of the details relating to aviation regulation and control. He is good on papers but excellent in court. He is measured, confident, on the point and very persuasive." The Legal 500 2023

"An up-and-coming new silk" The Legal 500 2022 (Tier 1, Silks in Aviation Category)

Memberships and Appointments

- Planning & Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Chair of Environmental Law Foundation
- Member and former trustee of United Kingdom Environmental Law Foundation
- National Infrastructure Planning Association
- Assistant Commissioner to the Boundary Commission for England (2016)
- General Editor of Sweet & Maxwell Thomson Reuter's Encyclopaedia of Environmental Law (2005-2015)
- Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel to the Crown (2009)
- Attorney General's C Panel of Prosecution Counsel to the Crown (2003)
- University of Brighton Visiting Lecturer (MSc Environmental Policy and Law)
- Judicial Assistant in the Court of Appeal (Assistant to Konrad Schiemann LJ)
- Legal and Administrative Trainee at UN Office of Legal Affairs and DG1A (External Relations) of the European Commission

Qualifications, Scholarships and Prizes

- MA Hon. Spanish & European History, First Class with Distinction (finished 1st in year), University of Edinburgh: 1990-1994

- Erasmus Scholar (Coimbra Group) – University of Granada (Medieval History)
- Brown University – Special Student Scholarship – American Literature and History
- Inns of Court School of Law – Bar Finals
- Diplomas in Law (City University) and EC Law (King's College, London): 1996
- Gray's Inn Prince of Wales Scholar 1998
- Inner Temple Pegasus Scholar (Judicial Assistant to Chief Justice of Israel) 2000
- Trained and accredited Mediator and Pupil Supervisor

Additional Information

- General Editor of Thomson Reuters' Encyclopedia of Environmental Law 2004-2015
- Co-editor of Sweet & Maxwell Thomson Reuter's Environmental Law Bulletin
- Contributor to Tromans on Nuclear Law 3rd Edition (Hart Publishing, forthcoming)
- Contributor to Tromans on Environmental Impact Assessment: Law and Practice 2nd Edition (Bloomsbury, 2012)
- Co-Author of Butterworths/LexisNexis' Highways Law and Practice 2002

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