



Paul Stinchcombe KC

Year of call: 1985 | Silk: 2011

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"Paul is astonishingly quick to identify the key issues and develop coherent and persuasive arguments. He combines his hardworking nature with outstanding intellect and is a pleasure to work with." The Legal 500 2022

"Paul gives a case everything – completely focused and in command of his brief." The Legal 500 2021

"Paul is a particularly persuasive advocate, brilliant in both cross-examination and submissions." Chambers and Partners 2020

Paul was called to the Bar in 1985, building up a substantial practice in public, environmental and planning law before becoming an MP (1997-2005), during which time he served on the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Joint Committee on House of Lords Reform. Since returning to the Bar in May 2005, Paul rapidly rebuilt his practice and was elevated to silk within six years. Paul acts for developers, local authorities and private clients, including local campaign groups. Paul is regularly recommended in the legal directories and was named as The Times Lawyer of the week following his successful challenge against a decision to redevelop the house in which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote The Hound of the Baskervilles. Paul was shortlisted for *"Real Estate, Environmental and Planning Silk of the Year"* at The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2018 and, in 2005, was elected as a Visiting Fellow to Cambridge University's Centre of Public Law.

Areas of expertise

Planning

- Art and Cultural Property
- Aviation and Aerospace
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation
- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure
- High Court Planning Challenges

- Planning Policymaking
- Planning Applications
- Planning Appeals, Hearings and Inquiries
- Planning Enforcement
- Environment
- Biodiversity and Habitats
- Climate Change
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure
- Administrative and Public
- Local Government

-- Aviation and Aerospace

Having represented Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) in a 49-day 2007 inquiry resisting an increase in the passenger cap at the airport, Paul represented them again in the 30-day 2021 inquiry fighting yet further expansion. Paul has also appeared for SSE in three leading High Court cases, on issues as diverse as apparent bias and the interplay between the development consent order (DCO) regime and traditional planning. Paul recently led Richard Wald QC and Gethin Thomas in the successful challenge to the grant of a DCO re-opening Manston Airport, and is currently acting for Eastleigh Borough Council, leading Ned Helme and Catherine Dobson, resisting an application for judicial review of the council's decision to permit an extension to the runway of Southampton Airport.

Cases of note

- ***R (GOESA Ltd.) v Eastleigh Borough Council and Southampton International Airport* [2022] EWHC 1221** - resisting a judicial review of the council's decision to permit the extension of the runway at Southampton airport in a leading case concerning the environmental impact assessment of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions.
- ***R (on the application of Jennifer Dawes) v Secretary of State for Transport and Anor* (CO/2917/2020)** - quashing the grant of a development consent order approving the re-opening of Manston Airport, on the Isle of Thanet in Kent, as a dedicated freight airport – the first successful challenge to a DCO for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project since the introduction of the Planning Act 2008.
- ***R (Ross & Sanders acting on behalf of Stop Stansted Expansion) v Secretary of State for Transport* [2020] EWHC 226 (Admin)** - concerning the interplay between the development consent order regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) and the conventional planning regime.
- ***R (1) Peter Sanders (2) Brian Ross) v (1) Airports Commission (2) Secretary of State for Transport* [2013] EWHC3754 (Admin)** - a challenge to the Airports Commission on the grounds of apparent bias.

Recommendations

- *"Paul is astonishingly quick to identify the key issues and develop coherent and persuasive arguments. He combines his hardworking nature with outstanding intellect and is a pleasure to work with."*The Legal 500 (2022)
- *"Paul gives a case everything – completely focused and in command of his brief."*The Legal 500 (2021)
- *"A highly committed advocate who gives a case 100%, and who is effective and easy to work with."*

The Legal 500 (2021)

- *"Paul is a particularly persuasive advocate, brilliant in both cross-examination and submissions."* Chambers and Partners (2020)
- *"He is very responsive, to the point, and offers clear guidance."* Chambers and Partners (2019)
- *"Able to quickly grasp the salient facts and develop a logical strategy."* The Legal 500 (2019)

Memberships

- Planning & Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Qualifications

Education

- 1980-1983: Trinity College, Cambridge, BA in Law (Double First Class) MA.
- 1984: Harvard Law School, LL.M.

Scholarships and Prizes

- 1980-1983: University of Cambridge, ten prizes for academic distinction including a Senior Scholarship from Trinity College and the Squire Law Scholarship (twice) from Cambridge University.
- 1984: Harvard Law School, Frank Knox Fellowship.
- 1985: Lincoln's Inn, Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, Thomas More Bursary, Megarry Scholarship.
- 2005: Cambridge University, elected Visiting Fellow to Cambridge University's Centre of Public Law.

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