



Ian Brownhill

Year of call: 2009

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"Ian is a brilliant advocate" Chambers and Partners 2024

Ian was awarded the Legal 500 Bar Awards junior of the year for Court of Protection and community care in 2023. He is one of the country's leading specialists in mental capacity, medical treatment disputes and has a broad practice in public, human rights and regulatory law.

Outside of the Court of Protection, Ian advises and acts in safeguarding cases in respect of both adults and children. Sport, education and criminal justice issues feature frequently in his cases. Ian's inquest practice often involves highly sensitive cases with a mental health element.

Ian's practice has crossed borders. Ian is frequently instructed by charities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and companies with an international reach, especially in respect of safeguarding matters. Ian has been instructed by, or worked alongside, lawyers from Scotland, the United States, Canada, the Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories.

Ian was one of the first barristers to be ranked by Chambers and Partners for his work in respect of independent investigations. In addition, he is commissioned to provide training to statutory organisations and in the private sector.

Ian sits as HM Assistant Coroner for Kent, is a chair and member of the Football Association's Safeguarding Review Panel and is Legally Qualified Chair and Hearing Body Panel Member for British Equestrian.



Areas of expertise

Court of Protection - Welfare

Court of Protection - Property and Affairs

Medical Treatment Cases

Administrative and Public

- Civil Liberties and Human Rights
- Education
- Inquests
- Parole Board and Prisons
- Safeguarding
- Investigations
- Sport
- Regulatory

Court of Protection - Welfare

Ian has acted in Court of Protection cases at every level, including in the Supreme Court. Ian is instructed in the most serious cases which the Court of Protection hears, often before a Tier 3 (High Court) judge. Outside of his welfare work, Ian appears in serious medical treatment cases in respect of both adults and children. Ian is regularly instructed in cases against leading counsel as a junior alone. Ian's work in this area is ranked by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

Many of Ian's welfare cases involve:

- physical, sexual or financial abuse,
- a P who is assessed to be at risk of offending,
- concerns that P has been radicalised, brainwashed, trafficked or groomed.

Cases of note:

- ***Re G (Court of Protection: Injunction)* [2022] EWCA Civ 1312** – Ian acted for the successful appellant in the Court of Appeal. This case establishes the approach and test for injunctions being granted by the Court of Protection.
[Judgment](#)
- ***A Local Authority v JB (by his litigation friend, the Official Solicitor)* [2021] UKSC 52** - Ian acted for JB (by his litigation friend, the Official Solicitor) in the High Court, Court of Appeal and in the Supreme Court. This is the leading case as to how to approach the question of mental capacity in respect of sexual relations. Ian was led by Parishil Patel KC and John McKendrick KC within the course of the case.
[Judgment](#)
- ***WU v BU* [2021] EWCOP 54** - The Court of Protection granted a final injunction to prevent a man from contacting a woman and preventing their marriage. The man had exercised coercive control over her, deliberately intending to secure a financial benefit for himself. Ian was led by Parishil Patel KC.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Greenwich RLBC v EOA* [2021] EWCOP 20** - The court made declarations that the P lacks capacity to make decisions regarding foreign travel, contact with his family and others and social media and internet usage. Ian represented P who had been subject to extreme religious and anti-social indoctrination as well as emotional and physical abuse.
[Judgment](#)
- ***A Local Authority v GP (Capacity: Care, Support and Education)* [2020] EWCOP 56** - The leading case as to the approach to be taken as to whether P is able to make a capacitous decision to accept or refuse care, support and education.
[Judgment](#)

- **P (Court of Protection: Transparency) [2019] EWCOP 67** - Court of Protection proceedings in respect of a 25-year-old man who had committed sexual offences and was subject to a suspended sentence order. The judgment considers how concerns in respect of jigsaw identification should be considered in the transparency order.

Judgment

Recommendations

"Ian is very approachable and knowledgeable. His advocacy is exceptional and his drafting skills are fantastic." Chambers & Partners UK, 2024

"Ian Brownhill is well versed in conducting independent investigations across a wide variety of sectors including education, charities, social care and sport. He is experienced in matters concerning safeguarding and other sensitive issues." Chambers & Partners UK, 2024

"He is user-friendly, very generous with his time and knows a lot about the way the prisons and probation interface with Court of Protection issues, which is really helpful in complex cases." Chambers & Partners UK, 2022

"Ian is incredibly knowledgeable in many fields. His advice is always very considered and balanced, and he is adept at putting clients at ease and is always very approachable." The Legal 500, 2022

"Ian's knowledge of this area of law is endless; there is nothing he does not know. In cross-examinations he leaves no stone unturned and always ensures the best job is done for the client." Chambers & Partners UK 2021

"Ian is a robust and punchy advocate, very well liked and respected, who always gives good, practical advice. Extremely hard working and highly intelligent barrister who works on complex issues quickly and efficiently." The Legal 500 2021

"He is knowledgeable, takes a no-nonsense approach and he is very good at problem solving. He very quickly gets straight to the heart of the issues." *"An incredibly passionate advocate."* Chambers & Partners UK 2020

"Incredibly bright, articulate, approachable, and responsive." The Legal 500 2020

"He's a real rising star in the Court of Protection – he's always really responsive, is very skilled in cross-examination and he's easy to work with." *"Ian's drafting and advocacy is always so concise."* Chambers & Partners UK 2019

Memberships

- Court of Protection Bar Association (CPBA)
- The Coroners' Society for England and Wales
- Amicus ALJ

Qualifications

Education

- Jurisprudence, BA Hons (Oxon), Lincoln College, Oxford University
- BVC, College of Law

Scholarships and prizes

- Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Tancred Student, Lincoln's Inn
- Shelford Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn.

Additional information

Appointments

- HM Assistant Coroner for Kent
- Chair and Member of the Football Association's Safeguarding Review Panel
- Legally Qualified Chair and Hearing Body Panel Member for British Equestrian.

Languages

- French (conversational)
- Italian (basic)

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