



Ian Brownhill

Year of call: 2009

Email: Ian.Brownhill@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"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

Medical Treatment Cases

Ian has an established medical treatment practice in respect of both children and adults who lack capacity to make decisions as to their treatment. Ian has a particular interest in treatment decisions for prisoners and other detained persons. Ian is speaking at the 4th International Conference on End of Life and the Law in the United States in 2024 with a presentation on food refusal as a form of protest.

Ian has acted in a number of urgent out of hours medical treatment cases which have ranged from obstetrics to blood transfusions to limb amputation. Ian's work in this area is ranked by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500, he is described as having, "*an encyclopaedic knowledge of CoP.*"

Cases of note:

- ***East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust v DL* [2023] EWCOP 47** – Acting for P, by her litigation friend, the Official Solicitor in respect of urgent treatment following food refusal.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust v D* [2023] EWHC 2000 (Fam)** – Acting for Alder Hey in an application for a declaration that it was in the best interests of a 14 year old to have active treatment withdrawn.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust v RL* [2023] EWCOP 22** – Acting for the applicant Trust in respect of a life sentenced prisoner who was refusing food and responding to unseen stimuli.
[Judgment](#)
- ***PH (By his litigation friend, the Official Solicitor) v Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board* [2022] EWCOP 16** - Various medical treatment decisions alongside complex welfare proceedings for a man with a long history of mental health difficulties.
[Judgment](#)
- ***University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust v AS, M, F* [2021] EWHC 2927 (Fam)** - Application by hospital trust for determination as to what treatment is in best interests of four-year-old child suffering from Krabbe Disease, a life-limiting genetic disorder.
[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)

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