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## Ian Brownhill

Year of call: 2009

Email: [Ian.Brownhill@39essex.com](mailto: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

## -- Education

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Ian has been involved in university disciplinary matters since his time as an undergraduate. Today, Ian advises universities conducting investigations into disciplinary matters as well as representing students subject to those processes. Ian has acted in numerous investigations involving sexual misconduct in an education context.

Outside of student discipline, Ian has been involved in a number of civil claims and complaints especially in the independent school sector. In addition, Ian has been involved in governance disputes at maintained schools. Ian was a school governor for a number of years at three different academies.

Ian is at the cutting edge of education law cases where students lack capacity to make their own decisions as to their education.

### Cases of note:

- ***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.

## Recommendations

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*"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

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

## Qualifications

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### 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

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### 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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