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## Ian Brownhill

Year of call: 2009

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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

## -- Safeguarding

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Ian acts in a huge variety of cases involving safeguarding children and adults. He has advised safeguarding adults reviews, domestic homicide reviews and conducted various investigations in respect of safeguarding matters. Ian had advised a number of charities and faith organisations in respect of their safeguarding arrangements and defended civil claims brought as a result of those arrangements.

Ian has advised in respect of safeguarding issues in British Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and with regard to issues which have arisen in Asia, South America and Africa. In addition, Ian has advised as to safeguarding arrangements for athletes, schools and universities.

### Cases of note:

- **An investigation into a whistleblowing complaint at a charity** - Ian investigated a whistleblowing complaint as to the safeguarding arrangements at a major charity and the arrangements made in respect of redress for non-recent abuse.
- **An investigation into a whistleblowing complaint at a care provider** - Ian investigated a whistleblowing complaint as to the policies and procedures in respect of the Mental Capacity Act at a major care and support provider.
- **An investigation into the safeguarding arrangements at a football club** - Ian was instructed to review the safeguarding arrangements at a Championship football club when a youth player was exposed to potential harm.
- **Various sexual misconduct allegations at universities** - Ian has been involved in a number of different investigations with regard to sexual misconduct at universities. Ian has acted as an advisor as well as defending participants in student disciplinary processes.

## 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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