



Juan Lopez

Year of call: 2002

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"A driven and incisive advocate." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"Particularly thorough and forensic in his approach, he is highly focused, diligent, confident and concise, and gets right to the heart of the issues." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"...accessible and tenacious practitioner who has achieved some spectacular results." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"He understands the client's needs and is very thoughtful, considered and calm when in conference with clients" (Chambers and Partners UK Bar)

Juan is a specialist in all areas of infrastructure and planning, and in construction, environmental and related commercial claims, disputes, and regulation, with particular emphasis on the energy, transportation, building, waste/recycling and mining/extraction sectors. He has extensive experience across the full breadth of compulsory purchase and valuation/compensation law, minerals, land contamination, highways, and related property, as well as agriculture. He also advises on environmental taxes/levies, including in the areas of energy efficiency, landfill and climate change. Beyond his advocacy, he has a heavyweight litigation and advisory practice, and is instructed in international, high value multi-jurisdictional disputes, often working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, commonly for majors, operators, contractors, private clients and professional teams. He appears before the courts, in inquiries and arbitrations, and examinations. He is ranked as a Leading Junior by Legal 500 UK and Chambers and Partners UK. He also acts in commercial ADR and is an accredited mediator. He is a contributor to leading infrastructure, construction, energy and environmental legal practitioner texts.



Areas of expertise

Planning

- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

Energy and Natural Resources

Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes

Environment

Commercial

Property

Property

Juan advises on complex matters involving covenants, easements, highways duties/rights, access, boundary disputes, land erosion, operational railway land, adverse possession, and estoppel. He acts for investors, developers, agricultural landowners, commercial, residential property owners, and public bodies. He has represented Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (15+ inquiries) in respect of DMMOs affecting operational railway land/infrastructure (Highways Act 1980; Town and Country Planning Act 1990; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).

Cases include:

- Advising on Operation Brock HGV traffic management system, for remediating Port of Dover/Eurotunnel disruption, in conjunction with A20 Dover Tap queuing system and Kent Access Permitting.
- Advising on private maintenance responsibilities for the National Cycling Network, in conjunction with highway damage caused by the River Tyne and riverbank erosion.
- Advising rail infrastructure body on liabilities arising from vibratory, geotechnical and wider dredging disturbance to a river bed, from underbridge reinforcement and embankment reconstruction; Crossrail disputes.
- Cheddar Gorge: highway damage and land erosion.
- Promoting/objecting to the creation, substitution or extinguishment of rights affecting operational railway land/infrastructure (statutory and common law dedication; statutory incompatibility; illegality; s.57 of the British Transport Commission Act 1949; Railway Clauses Consolidation Act 1845).

Recommendations

Commentaries in The Legal 500 UK Bar and Chambers and Partners UK Bar, say:

- *"A driven and incisive advocate"* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"A junior with a forensic approach to cases."* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"Juan has an unfathomable ability to rapidly understand complex issues and provide a clear way forward, and is a pleasure to work with"* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"He understands the client's needs and is very thoughtful, considered and calm when in conference with clients"* (Chambers and Partners UK Bar [2024])
- *"Particularly thorough and forensic in his approach, he is highly focused, diligent, confident and concise, and gets right to the heart of the issues."* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2023])
- *"Very professional and diligent. A highly skilled advocate and able to turn the tables from friendly to challenging cross-examination at a moment's notice. Uses his experience to open up unforeseen opportunities during cross-examination. A real future star QC."* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2023])
- *"Robust. Well-organised. Great presentation."*
- *"...a force in matters concerning climate change, flood alleviation, coastal defence schemes and ecology."*

- *"...commercially aware...extremely professional and diligent."*
- *"...accessible and tenacious practitioner who has achieved some spectacular results."*
- *"Very knowledgeable, concise, proactive and user friendly."*
- *"...a tenacious advocate who really fights his corner."*

Memberships

- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- National Infrastructure Planning Association (NIPA)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
- Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)

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