



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

-- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

Juan is particularly experienced in CPO and valuation/compensation, which often coincides with his wayleaves and infrastructure consenting work. He acts for landowners and acquiring authorities, typically in infrastructure, town centre regeneration and housing contexts, and appears at inquiry and in mediation. He has a busy compensation advisory practice, and appears in Upper Tribunal Lands Chamber proceedings (substantive hearings; interim applications; arbitrations, across the breadth of compensation aspects (planning assumptions, business/management time loss, betterment, ransom, access, saleability, HA 1980 compensation): References involving Network Rail, HS2, Crossrail, National Highways, energy suppliers/distribution network operators, utilities (various)). He also commonly advises in connection with complex development and planning scenario valuations (Red Book/other) in statutory compensation contexts.

CPO cases include:

- **CPO Infrastructure and Town Centre Regeneration:** Banwell Bypass; Highways England (A2 & Ebbsfleet Junction) CPO [2020]; Bracknell Town Centre [2020]; North Finchley [2019]; Essex County Council (Chelmsford City Centre) (cycle route) CPO [2019]; Leicester City Centre (Belgrave & Mansfield) CPO [2018] (transport hubs; green growth transport corridors; cycle zoning); A50 Trunk Road (Utttoxeter Growth Corridor) CPO [2017]; M20 Lorry Park, Kent ('Operation Stack' linked) [2017]; Hounslow [2017]; Croydon [2016]; Brick Lane/Tower Hamlets [2013].

Compensation cases include:

- **Road infrastructure:** Metropolitan Borough of Stockport (A6 to Manchester Airport A555) CPO 2013 (LC arbitration: [2022 - ongoing]); HS2; Leicester City Centre [2020]; Leeds City Council (East Leeds Orbital Road) CPO [2020].
- **Rail infrastructure:** HS2 (various Euston references; Park Square); Crossrail; Network Rail Infrastructure Limited statutory compensation references, under Railway Regulation Act 1842 agreements (interference to business from urgent rail safety works; permitted remediation; reinstatement to riverbed sections; disturbance to licensee; planning performance obligations).
- **Energy infrastructure: Necessary wayleaves** for pylons and electric lines: advising (pre-compensation strategy stage: UKPN, EPN and SSE) on electricity distribution operator and landowners on disturbance, easements, betterment and saleability, compensation assessments for Upper Tribunal Lands Chamber references, and trespass (various). **Implied wayleaves:** Advising landowners on trespass/injurious affection claims, development valuations, ransom strips and damages (London Borough of Southwark v Kingpin Ltd; Vumpine (University of Manchester) v SoS).
- **Telecommunications infrastructure:** Advising Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (as lead London authority) on compensation liabilities from a [2021] district-wide, digital fixed-line infrastructure wayleave agreement; mast developments (various).
- **Water infrastructure:** Advising Severn Trent Water and Thames Water on compensation liabilities under Sch. 12, paragraphs 2 and 3 WIA 1991 (land value diminution; disturbance; business loss).
- **DNO misconduct/delay:** EA 1989 compensation for loss (r6 disturbance) caused by DNO delay in implementation of agreed future diversion of electric lines.
- **Statutory blight and ransom** (Landowners and Acquiring Authorities): electrical lines and

supporting infrastructure (corona discharge, general material detriment and saleability) (various).

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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