

Conor Monighan

Call 2019



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Conor's practice includes public/ human rights, police, information, inquests/ inquiries, firearms and employment law.

Conor Monighan is a diligent barrister who delivers high quality work in complex cases. His clients range from private clients to government bodies. He acts in sensitive and high-value cases before a range of courts and tribunals, including the Court of Appeal and the High Court.

Recent instructions include:

- *Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court* (Admin): Judicial review on the availability of Closed Material Proceedings (led by Charlotte Ventham KC).
- *Commissioner v Malik* (Admin): Leading authority on costs awards against public bodies (led by Russell Fortt).
- Four major public inquiries: *The Post Office/ Horizon IT Inquiry* (for a private client, instructed by Mishcon de Reya), the *Infected Blood Inquiry*, the *Grenfell Tower Inquiry* and the *Jermaine Baker (police shooting) Inquiry*.
- *H*: Firearms case concerning an Appellant with extreme right-wing view sympathies, involving Counter Terrorism Policing and a PII application.
- *Z*: Sole counsel in relation to an ongoing application for judicial review which has reached the Court of Appeal.

As a junior in demand, Conor often opposes senior members of the Bar. He is known for his personable approach and client care, leading to repeat instructions.

Conor is on the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers' Association ("HRLA") and the UK's [leading human rights blog](#) has published over fifty of his articles.

Conor's clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](tel:02074102000).

Expertise

Public and Human Rights Law

Conor has a strong, and rapidly expanding, public and administrative law practice.

He has particular strength in sensitive cases and human rights claims. Conor is on the Human Rights Lawyers Association's ("HRLA") Executive Committee and the UK's [leading human rights blog](#) has published fifty of his articles.

Conor maintains his knowledge of the field through his long-standing membership of the Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA), the HRLA and the Young Public Law Group (YPLG).

Conor's clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](tel:02074102000).

Notable Public and Human Rights Law cases

K

Ongoing challenge to a refusal of a Public Interest Immunity/ Closed Material Proceedings application (led by Charlotte Ventham KC).

B

Ongoing challenge concerning the power of lower courts to suspend protective civil orders pending an appeal.

P

Acting for the Interested Party in a judicial review concerning the limits of the High Court's power to issue quashing orders.

[R \(Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis\) v Kingston Crown Court \[2023\] EWHC 1938 \(Admin\)](#)

Significant judicial review concerning the availability of Closed Material Proceedings (led by Charlotte Ventham KC).

[Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Malik \[2023\] EWHC 3213 \(Admin\)](#)

Leading authority on costs awards against public bodies (led by Russell Fortt).

X

Defending a threatened judicial review brought by a group which specialises in representing travellers.

Police Law

As a police law specialist, Conor has experience of the full range of police law including: civil actions, judicial reviews/ appeals by way of case stated, inquests, high-profile/ complex civil applications made by the police (e.g. SPOs) and firearms cases.

Conor has particular expertise in sensitive cases, including where there are Public Interest Immunity issues and/ or a terrorism element.

Judicial Reviews/ Appeals by way of Case Stated

Conor has been instructed in a number of nationally significant judicial reviews on behalf of Forces, including:

- [R \(Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis\) v Kingston Crown Court \[2023\] EWHC 1938 \(Admin\)](#): Important judicial review concerning the availability of Closed Material Proceedings (led by Charlotte Ventham KC).
- [Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Malik \[2023\] EWHC 3213 \(Admin\)](#): Leading authority on costs awards against the police, building upon *Perinpanathan* (led by Russell Fortt).

Civil Claims & Operational Policing

Conor regularly represents Forces in civil claims. For example, he recently advised on a novel *DSD* style case arising from an allegedly deficient investigation into a potentially prolific rapist. Conor has advised on wrongful arrest claims, s.59 CJPA applications, search warrant matters, PII/ CMP applications etc.

Firearms

Conor is a leading firearms barrister – please see the relevant tab for more information.

Civil Applications

Conor has considerable expertise in civil applications made by the police (e.g. SPOs). He is often instructed in high-profile and complex cases, particularly where there is a PII/ CMP element. Recent examples include:

- Urgently advising on, and running, nationally important High Court appeals relating to SROs/ SPOs (etc) – e.g. *Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Malik* [2023] EWHC 3213 (Admin).
- Successfully defending a 5-day SPO appeal which resulted in an indefinite order being granted.
- Multi-million pound POCA cases (including compensation claims, for which he was led by Alan Payne KC).
- An application by a Chief Constable against one of its own officers and another against an ex-fireman.
- Advising on novel applications – such as a Force’s first Stalking Protection Order appeal.

Conor’s clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](tel:02074102000).

Notable Police Law cases

R (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis) v Kingston Crown Court [2023] EWHC 1938 (Admin)

Important judicial review concerning the availability of Closed Material Proceedings (led by Charlotte Ventham KC).

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Malik [2023] EWHC 3213 (Admin)

Leading authority on costs awards against the police, building upon *Perinpanathan* (led by Russell Fortt).

B

Ongoing appeal by way of case stated concerning the ability of the Magistrates’ Court to suspend protective civil orders pending an appeal to the Crown Court.

POCA case

Acting for the Interested Party in a judicial review concerning the limits of the High Court’s power to issue quashing orders.

X

Defending a threatened judicial review brought by a group which specialises in representing travellers.

Information Law and Data Protection

Conor regularly advises on data protection/ information law issues throughout his practice. He is well-versed in the realities of data protection litigation and has delivered lectures on the subject.

Although Conor's information law practice is broad, recent examples of his work includes:

- Advising on the lawfulness of proposed disclosures.
- Providing tactical advice on threatened litigation.
- Obtaining a strike-out order on behalf of a public authority, drawing upon his human rights practice (Conor is on the Executive committee of the [Human Rights Lawyers Association](#)).

He is a regular contributor to 5 Essex Chambers' ['Data Brief'](#), which sends monthly updates to clients working in this interesting field.

Conor's clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](#).

Inquests

Conor is regularly instructed to represent IPs at inquests. He has experience of coronial proceedings arising from a range of contexts, including police custody, NHS care and prisons.

Cases of note include:

- [The Sammy Alban-Stanley inquest](#): Assisted with this inquest which arose from the sad death of a child with a rare genetic condition.
- [The Jermaine Baker \(Police Shooting\) Inquiry](#): Acted on behalf of the Home Office, led by Claire Palmer, following the conversion of the inquest into a public inquiry.
- X: Acted on behalf of the Police following the tragic death of a man with a complex history of mental health issues. The coroner's conclusion ultimately praised the Force for its conduct.

As part of Conor's inquest practice, he regularly contributes towards 5 Essex Chambers' 'Inquest Authorities Index' – available [here](#).

Conor's clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](#).

Inquiries and Investigations

Conor is an experienced public inquiry junior, having acted in:

- **The Post Office/ Horizon IT Inquiry** (for a former CEO of the Post Office, instructed by Mishcon de Reya).
- **The Infected Blood Inquiry** (for the Department of Health and Social Care).
- **The Grenfell Tower Inquiry** (for a large commercial organisation).
- **The Jermaine Baker (Police Shooting) Inquiry** (for the Home Office).

Conor has previously drafted inquiry submissions for a major Government Department. He also drafted a Rule 9 response on behalf of a well-known former Secretary of State.

He believes in the importance of properly preparing witnesses and recently assisted a key witness whose evidence was praised by the Chair. He has acted as sole attending counsel and has experience of handling sensitives in this context, not least from the Jermaine Baker Inquiry.

He is currently acting for a private client in the Post Office/ Horizon IT Inquiry.

Conor's clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](#).

Employment Law

Conor has a long-standing interest in employment law which, giving him a strong understanding of the field. He has represented a variety of clients, including in redundancy, unfair dismissal and discrimination claims.

Conor provides a high level of care to clients and clear tactical advice from the outset. For example, he was recently instructed to undertake a 10-day reasonable adjustments claim in light of his performance at preliminary hearings.

He has been an active member of ELBA (the Employment Law Bar Association) for many years and received an ‘Outstanding’ for his Masters’ Dissertation on unfair dismissal law.

Conor’s clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](tel:02074102000).

Firearms and Explosives

Conor is a leading firearms and explosives licensing barrister. He is regularly instructed in significant, sensitive and high-profile firearms/ shotgun appeals and frequently opposes KCs.

He is instructed in numerous Public Interest Immunity cases, having been junior counsel in *Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court* [2023] – the leading authority on firearms appeals and the availability Closed Material Proceedings.

Conor regularly advises senior officers on gun licensing and has been invited to join the National Firearms Licensing Working Group in reflection of his expertise.

Conor’s clerks can be contacted on [020 7410 2000](tel:02074102000).

Notable Firearms and Explosives cases

Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court [2023]

Junior counsel in the most significant firearms case for many years (led by Charlotte Venthams KC).

K

Ongoing judicial review arising from the Crown Court’s refusal to grant Public Interest Immunity in a firearms appeal (led by Charlotte Venthams KC).

H

Firearms appeal brought by an Appellant with extreme-right wing sympathies, necessitating the involvement of Counter-Terrorism Policing.

A

Appeal brought by a domestic abuser (successfully opposed a KC who specialises in the field).

B

Succeeded in an appeal brought by a paedophile, having cross-examined a retired High Court judge who supported the appeal.

X

Instructed in firearms appeals brought by two members of the aristocracy who are household names.

Education & Qualifications

- 2014 – 2017: BA (Hons) in English Literature, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University.
- 2018: Graduate Diploma in Law, City, University of London

- 2019: Bar Professional Training Course, City, University of London
- 2019: Master of Laws (LLM) in Legal Practice, City, University of London
- 2019: Called to the Bar by Gray's Inn.

Memberships

- The Human Rights Lawyers' Association ([HRLA](#)), Executive Committee Member.
- Administrative Law Bar Association ([ALBA](#)).
- Employment Law Bar Association ([ELBA](#)).
- Personal Injury Bar Association ([PIBA](#)).
- Young Public Lawyers' Group ([YPLG](#)).

Awards

- 2019: The Stephen Seabrooke Memorial Prize (for performance on the BPTC) – City Law School.
- 2018: Roger Cox Award – Gray's Inn.
- 2017: CPE Award – Gray's Inn.
- 2016: Winner of the Times Advocacy Competition.