

Conor Monighan

Call 2019



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Conor Monighan is a diligent barrister who delivers high quality work in complex cases.

His clients range from private clients and companies to police forces and government bodies. He has appeared in a variety of courts and tribunals, including in the High Court as sole counsel.

Conor frequently assists **police forces** with high-value and sensitive matters. His current case load includes PII applications, Closed Material Proceedings, search warrant challenges, multi-million-pound POCAs and high value civil claims. He is also running multiple judicial reviews arising from Stalking Protection Order applications and was junior counsel in *Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court [2023]* – the leading authority on firearms appeals and the availability of PII/ Closed Material Proceedings.

He has acted in four major **public inquiries** to date, namely:

- The **Post Office/ Horizon IT Inquiry** (instructed by Mishcon de Reya);
- The **Infected Blood Inquiry**;
- The **Grenfell Tower** Inquiry; and
- The **Jermaine Baker (police shooting) Inquiry**.

Conor enjoys a strong **public law** and **inquest** practice, which builds upon his existing **human rights** work. He regularly acts in judicial reviews and Article 2 inquests, including those which give rise to information law issues. **Private clients** instruct Conor on many of the above matters, together with **employment** and **data protection** cases.

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

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

Expertise

Police Law

As a police law specialist, Conor advises and represents forces in a variety of civil matters. He has particular expertise in **sensitive cases**, including those which involve public interest immunity issues and/ or a terrorism element.

Recent cases include:

- *Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court* [2023] – the leading authority on firearms appeals and the availability of PII/ Closed Material Proceedings.
- Search warrant litigation (including Sch 5 Terrorism Act 2000 / Sch 1 PACE warrants).
- Section 59 PACE applications which involve multiple agencies and likely press interest.

Civil Claims Against the Police

Conor frequently advises on **civil claims against the police** including allegations of assault, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, discrimination, fundamental dishonesty etc. Clients particularly value the quality of his pleadings.

He has assisted with a broad range of claims, such as those involving allegations of mistaken arrest, inadequate briefings and excessive use of force.

Operational Policing

Conor is valued for his clear and timely advice on **operational policing** issues. He is very familiar with **public** and **human rights** work and recently assisted with an urgent Judicial Review threatened by a specialist Claimant group. He advises on a range of **data protection** issues – including where Article 8 ECHR obligations arise.

Civil Applications on Behalf of the Police

Finally, Conor has considerable experience in **civil applications** on behalf of the police. He has brought/ defended hundreds of these matters, including **firearms appeals**, PPA claims, contempt applications, POCAs, AFOs, gang injunctions, closure orders, ASBIs, SROs, SHPOs, SPOs, DDTROs, FMPOs etc – including where there is **press interest**.

His expertise in this area means he is generally instructed in complex and/ or high-profile cases. Recent matters include:

- Urgently advising on, and running, several High Court appeals relating to SROs/ SPOs. Many of these cases raise issues of national importance.
- Multi-million-pound POCA cases (including compensation claims, for which he was led by Alan Payne KC).
- An application made by a Chief Officer against one of its own officers.
- Assisting forces with novel applications- such as the first successful Stalking Protection Order appeal brought by a particular force.
- Cross-examining a retired High Court judge as part of a firearms appeal concerning a paedophile.

Conor would be pleased to discuss whether he can assist with your case and is contactable, via his clerks, 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**.

Public Inquiries

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](tel:02074102000).

Public

Conor has a rapidly growing public law practice, often arising from his work for police forces and the Government. His most recent case involved successfully defending a Force from a judicial review brought by a specialist Claimant group.

He has a strong knowledge of human rights issues and is a frequent contributor to the UK's leading human rights blog, which has published over fifty of his articles. He is currently defending a Chief Constable from a high-value Article 3/ 8 ECHR claim arising from a violent attack upon the Claimant.

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

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

Data Protection

Conor regularly advises on data protection/ information law issues, both of which arise frequently throughout his practice. He is well-versed in the realities of data protection litigation and has successfully struck out a number of such claims.

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 Chief Constable.

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](tel:02074102000).

Employment Law

Conor has a long-standing interest in employment law which, combined with his experience as a practitioner, gives him a strong understanding of the field. He represents a variety of clients, including in redundancy, unfair dismissal and discrimination claims.

Conor provides a high level of client care from the outset. For example, he was recently instructed in 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).

Human Rights

Conor is a specialist human rights lawyer with a deep-rooted interest in this fascinating area of law. Much of Conor's work involves human rights, including inquests, judicial reviews and civil claims.

Recent instructions have included:

- A high-value Article 3/ 8 ECHR claim brought following a violent attack on the Claimant.
- A judicial review issued by a specialist Claimant group which alleges numerous breaches of Article 8 ECHR.
- Multiple cases involving public interest immunity/ closed material proceedings. This includes *Commissioner v Kingston Upon-Thames Crown Court* [2023] – the leading authority on the availability of PII/ CMPs and applicability of the ECHR to firearms appeals.

Conor is on the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers' Association (HRLA) and regularly organises lectures to update other practitioners on the latest developments in the field. He would be very pleased to accept further instructions on matters involving HRA issues.

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

Healthcare

Conor has experience of the wide variety of issues which concern healthcare bodies and is able to provide comprehensive advice on issues which may arise.

Examples of his recent work includes:

- **Inquests:** Assisted with [the Sammy Alban-Stanley inquest](#), which arose from the sad death of a child with a rare genetic condition. Frequently acts in inquests which concern allegedly flawed care by the NHS and/ or private healthcare bodies.
- **Inquiries:** Instructed in inquiries which concern healthcare bodies, including the [Infected Blood Inquiry](#) (on behalf of the Department for Health and Social Care).
- **Personal injury:** Regularly advises on personal injuries claims, including advising at a pre-trial stage, and acts in small claim/ fast track trials.
- **Other civil claims:** Acted in a wide variety of civil claims, including numerous negligence claims against public authorities.
- **Employment:** Represented a number of clients in a wide variety of employment disputes. See Conor's employment expertise (above) for more information.

Personal Injury

Conor has experience of a variety of personal injury matters including road traffic cases, accidents at work, highway claims, occupiers' liability, claims for psychological/ physical injury etc.

He is frequently instructed to advise on such cases and has acted in a number of PI trials.

Conor has been a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA) for a number of years, enabling him to stay up to date with the latest developments in the field.

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

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

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.