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experience in our specialist areas and the
outstanding quality of our counsel

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Jeremy Johnson QC
Call: 1994 Silk: 2011



Jeremy is ranked as a leading silk in his areas of specialism and a 'star individual' for police law. His practice focuses on public law, human rights (domestic and international), public inquiries and claims against the police and other public bodies.

Jeremy acts for a range of clients, including individuals, corporations and public bodies, who consider him to be “a *hugely talented lawyer*” whose judgment is “*very impressive, and also his demeanour*”. Clients refer to him as “a *first-rate, efficient, clear-thinking silk of the highest quality*” who is an “*outstanding analyst*”, “*accessible and approachable*” and “*practical, sensible and thoroughly decent*”.

Notable examples of his work over the last 20 years include:

- Numerous cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court across a broad spectrum of practice, but particularly including domestic and international human rights.
- Numerous long running public inquiries (including **Hutton, Billy Wright, Al Sweady** and **Grenfell Tower**).
- Major inquests (including **Diana, Princess of Wales, Hillsborough, Birmingham Pub Bombings** and **Manchester Arena Bombing**).
- Multi-party private law litigation with a human rights/civil liberties element (including the claims arising out of the murders of **Lynette White** and **Daniel Morgan**, and the group litigation arising out of **Hillsborough**).

Jeremy is a Deputy High Court Judge and a Recorder of the Crown Court.

Recommendations

Jeremy is ranked as a “star individual” for Police Law in Chambers UK and is also highly ranked for Administrative & Public Law, Inquests & Inquiries and Immigration.
Chambers UK

"His intellectual capacity in police cases is phenomenal, which is coupled with the fact that he is very down to earth and approachable." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"He is extremely hard-working and has an exceptional grasp of police work and everything allied to it." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"A man with prolific output and a first-class legal mind." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"He's a go-to for the really heavy, high-profile stuff." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"A brilliant barrister who is extraordinarily courteous." (Inquests & Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2019

"He's a reliable, sensible and pragmatic opponent." (Inquests & Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2019

"He's incredibly easy to work with and is very constructive." (Inquests & Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2019

"Very good for government security and police matters. He really does have a rapport with the court and has the reputation of a much more senior silk." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"Very effective." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2019

'Able to see the bigger picture, he is great at articulating points to clients.' (Police Law - Defendant)
Legal 500 2019

"His knowledge of all areas of police work is immense. He is extremely approachable and well-liked by both clients and witnesses." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

"He is at the top of his game in this area and is extremely personable." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

"It is his judgement that is very impressive, and also his demeanour. He also impresses with his knowledge and approach to cases." (Inquests & Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2018

"A super advocate. He is practical, sensible and thoroughly decent. He really knows his stuff." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2018

"An outstanding analyst, who is accessible and approachable." (Police Law – defendant)
The Legal 500 2017

"He is a first-rate, efficient, clear-thinking silk of the highest quality" who is "super-clever, seems to know everything, and has a brain the size of a planet." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"A brilliant academic mind, he knows all the arguments that can be raised to get the best result for clients. He has the respect of courts and is very calm when faced with difficult situations." (Inquests and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2017

"He is an extremely clever lawyer and a quality performer." (Inquests and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2017

“If Jeremy’s on your team you know you’re going to be well looked after.” (Immigration)
Chambers UK 2017

“He has a formidable intellect and is well tipped for the judiciary when the time comes.” (Inquests & Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2016

“He is well prepared, polished and understated. He dominates this area of the law from the defendant side.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2016

“He is renowned as a hugely talented lawyer and a safe pair of hands.” (Inquests & Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2016

“He is a very fair and decent opponent, who is persuasive and has a nice manner in court.” (Immigration)
Chambers UK 2016

“You have to be on top of your game with him because he will not let you get away with anything.” (Immigration)
Chambers UK 2016

“When you ask him a very complicated legal question his response is quick and impeccable. He can tackle huge and very complex cases, and sometimes breaks new law.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2014

Public / Administrative

Jeremy acts for both claimants and defendants in all areas of public and administrative law, but particularly in relation to claims concerning human rights and civil liberties, criminal law and public protection, immigration and asylum and police/prisons.

Notable Public/Administrative Law cases, many of which include human rights:

R (Roberts) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2016] 1 WLR 210, Supreme Court - whether the power of stop and search conferred by s60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is compatible with Arts 5 and 8 ECHR (and whether its use breached Art 14 ECHR)

R (Catt) v Association of Chief Police Officers (and another), and related case [2015] AC 1065, Supreme Court - whether the retention of intelligence relating to the claimant’s participation in demonstrations breached Art 8 ECHR. And whether the retention of a police warning letter sent to another claimant breached Art 8 ECHR.

R (XX) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and another [2015] ACD 72 - whether the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme is compatible with Art 8 ECHR

R (TD) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and another [2014] ACD 7, Court of Appeal - whether the continued retention of records relating to an unfounded allegation of sexual assault made nine years earlier was unlawful

R WL (Congo) and KM (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2012] 1 AC 245, Supreme Court - challenge to the Secretary of State’s policy for the detention of foreign national prisoners pending deportation. Heard before a panel of 9 Supreme Court Justices in November 2009

R (F and Thompson) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] 1 AC 331 Supreme Court -

whether the regime requiring sex offenders to comply with notification obligations for an indefinite period without a right of review was compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

***Seal v United Kingdom* [2012] 54 EHRR 6 European Court of Human Rights** - whether the requirement to obtain the leave of the High Court under section 139(2) of the Mental Health Act 1983 before commencing civil proceedings is compatible with articles 6 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

***R (Purdy) v Director of Public Prosecutions* [2010] 1 AC 345 House of Lords** - whether the Code for Crown Prosecutors was sufficient to satisfy the legality requirement of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in assessing how prosecutorial discretion was likely to be exercised in cases of assisted suicide under the Suicide Act 1961.

***Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF* [2010] 2 AC 269 House of Lords** - whether the system of special advocates in control order proceedings, and the linked disclosure regime, complied with article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

***R v G* [2009] 1 AC 92 House of Lords** - whether the offence of rape under section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003 was compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

***Seal v Chief Constable of South Wales Police* [2007] 1 WLR 1910 House of Lords** - whether a failure to obtain the leave of the High Court under the Mental Health Act 1983 s.139(2) before commencing civil proceedings rendered those proceedings a nullity.

***R (Laporte) v Chief Constable of Gloucestershire* [2007] 2 AC 105 House of Lords** - whether preventing protestors from attending a demonstration had been a breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Human Rights

Jeremy has acted in many landmark human rights cases at every level, including the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Notable cases include (see also Public/Administrative experience) :

***R (Roberts) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2016] 1 WLR 210, Supreme Court** - whether the power of stop and search conferred by s60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is compatible with Arts 5 and 8 ECHR (and whether its use breached Art 14 ECHR)

***R (Catt) v Association of Chief Police Officers (and another), and related case* [2015] AC 1065, Supreme Court** - whether the retention of intelligence relating to the claimant's participation in demonstrations breached Art 8 ECHR. And whether the retention of a police warning letter sent to another claimant breached Art 8 ECHR.

***R (XX) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and another* [2015] ACD 72** - whether the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme is compatible with Art 8 ECHR

***R WL (Congo) and KM (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2012] 1 AC 245, Supreme Court** - challenge to the Secretary of State's policy for the detention of foreign national prisoners pending deportation. Heard before a panel of 9 Supreme Court Justices in November 2009

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***R (F and Thompson) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] 1 AC 331 Supreme Court** - whether the regime requiring sex offenders to comply with notification obligations for an indefinite period without a right of review was compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Information Law

Jeremy regularly gives advice on information law issues, and has acted in numerous cases in the Tribunals and the Courts involving claims under the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Human Rights Act 1998, as well as common law confidence/privacy claims.

Cases include:

***R (Catt) v Association of Chief Police Officers (and another), and related case* [2015] AC 1065, Supreme Court** - whether the retention of intelligence relating to the claimant's participation in demonstrations breached Art 8 ECHR. And whether the retention of a police warning letter sent to another claimant breached Art 8 ECHR.

***News Group v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2016] 2 All ER 483: [2015] Info TLR 179, Investigatory Powers Tribunal** - whether the police had lawfully obtained journalists' call data in the "plebgate" investigation.

Mathieson v Information Commissioner - whether location of ANPR cameras should be disclosed under FOIA.

Kennedy v Information Commissioner - whether Department of Transport's policies on selecting air passengers for searching should be disclosed under FOIA.

Butterworth v Information Commissioner - whether historical 19th century ledgers of payments made to Fenian informants should be disclosed under FOIA.

Police Law

Recognised as "*a genuine police law specialist*" (Chambers UK), Jeremy acts for claimants, chief constables, police and crime commissioners and the Independent Police Complaints Commission in all cases involving the police, including public law claims, malfeasance cases, employment claims, disciplinary proceedings and Data Protection/Freedom of Information. He regularly provides advice on policy and operational issues, including in relation to counter-terrorism investigations, the use of covert techniques, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, Special Police Services, Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

Police Law cases include:

***DSD v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2018] UKSC, Supreme Court** - whether Article 3 ECHR gives rise to a right of action for damages for failures in a rape investigation.

***Robinson v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police* [2018] UKSC, Supreme Court** - whether the police owed a duty of care to bystanders when carrying out an arrest in a public place.

***Rees and others v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2017] EWHC 273 (QB)** - litigation arising out of

the investigation into the murder of Daniel Morgan.

Hillsborough Group Litigation - claims arising out of the Hillsborough disaster.

R (Roberts) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2016] 1 WLR 210, Supreme Court - whether the power of stop and search conferred by s60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is compatible with Arts 5 and 8 ECHR (and whether its use breached Art 14 ECHR).

Mouncher and others v Chief Constable of South Wales Police [2016] EWHC 1367 (QB) - civil claims arising out of the investigation into the murder of Lynette White, and the subsequent prosecution of police officers for perverting the course of justice.

R (Catt) v Association of Chief Police Officers (and another), and related case [2015] AC 1065, Supreme Court - whether the retention of intelligence relating to the claimant's participation in demonstrations breached Art 8 ECHR. And whether the retention of a police warning letter sent to another claimant breached Art 8 ECHR.

Michael v Chief Constable of South Wales Police and another [2015] UKSC 2, Supreme Court - whether a duty of care was owed to the maker of a 999 call who was subsequently murdered.

AJA and others v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and others [2013] EWCA Civ 1342 - claims brought by women alleging that they had been deceived into having sexual relationships with undercover police officers.

Seal v United Kingdom [2012] 54 EHRR 6 European Court of Human Rights - whether the requirement to obtain the leave of the High Court under section 139(2) of the Mental Health Act 1983 before commencing civil proceedings is compatible with articles 6 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

R (F and Thompson) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] 1 AC 331 Supreme Court - whether the regime requiring sex offenders to comply with notification obligations for an indefinite period without a right of review was compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

R (Purdy) v Director of Public Prosecutions [2010] 1 AC 345 House of Lords - whether the Code for Crown Prosecutors was sufficient to satisfy the legality requirement of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in assessing how prosecutorial discretion was likely to be exercised in cases of assisted suicide under the Suicide Act 1961.

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R v G [2009] 1 AC 92 House of Lords - whether the offence of rape under section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003 was compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Seal v Chief Constable of South Wales Police [2007] 1 WLR 1910 House of Lords - whether a failure to obtain the leave of the High Court under the Mental Health Act 1983 s.139(2) before commencing civil proceedings rendered those proceedings a nullity.

R (Laporte) v Chief Constable of Gloucestershire [2007] 2 AC 105 House of Lords - whether preventing protestors from attending a demonstration had been a breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Public Inquiries

Jeremy acts both for individuals/families and public authorities, and has acted in many public inquiries over the last 10 years, including:

- **Grenfell Tower Inquiry**
- **Renewable Heat Incentives Inquiry**
- **The AI-Sweady Inquiry**
- **The Billy Wright Inquiry**
- **The Hutton Inquiry** (junior counsel for the Kelly family)
- **The Scott Review**
(for the Northern Ireland Office, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and a number of officials)

Inquests

Jeremy is recognised as a leading silk in inquests with his substantial experience in the field. Jeremy is instructed by families, police forces, government and other public bodies in major, sensitive and complex inquests.

Examples of significant cases include:

- **Manchester Arena Bombing** - acting for Greater Manchester Police.
- **Birmingham Pub Bombings** – instructed by West Midlands Police regarding the fresh inquests into the deaths of the 21 victims of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings
- **Guildford Pub Bombings** – instructed by Surrey Police regarding the application to resume the inquests into the victims of the 1974 Guildford pub bombings
- **Inquests concerning the deaths of Williams and Yemm** – instructed by South Wales Police in the inquests into the deaths of Cerys Yemm (killed by Matthew Williams shortly after his release from prison) and Matthew Williams (died after police sought to restrain him with use of taser) at the time of the killings.
- **Hillsborough** – instructed by West Midlands Police in the inquests into the 96 victims of the Hillsborough stadium collapse. Jeremy is now instructed in the group litigation arising out of the disaster.
- **Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed** – instructed in the inquests into the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed
- **Hutton Inquiry** – instructed on behalf of the family of David Kelly in the inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death.