



## Practice Areas

EMPLOYMENT LAW

LICENSING LAW

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

POLICE LAW

PUBLIC / ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

## News

[5 Essex Court is rated highly in its specialist fields in Chambers and Partners 2013](#)

[5 Essex Court welcomes four new members](#)

## Contact us

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### Background:

Robert graduated from the University of Durham with a law degree in 2008. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 2009. Before coming to the Bar, Robert worked as a Legal Assistant at the House of Commons. This involved working on interventions in judicial reviews to assert Parliamentary Privilege and frequently advising on public law issues.

As a result of this experience, Robert has gained a detailed grounding in public law principles. He is now routinely called upon to advise police forces on these matters.

Robert was appointed to the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel in February 2017.

Robert accepts instructions in all of Chambers' main practice areas.

He is Security cleared.

### Employment Law:

Robert has experience of a wide range of employment issues. He has acted in claims for unfair dismissal, disputes involving allegations of discrimination, and actions arising from TUPE. He is often asked to draft pleadings and advise on complex employment disputes.

Robert is adept at addressing technical questions of statutory construction.

### Licensing Law:

Robert has been instructed in a variety of licensing matters. He frequently appears for licensing authorities on appeals to Magistrates' Courts and has attended many local authority licensing hearings to make representations on behalf of responsible authorities.

Robert was recently instructed on behalf of the Chief Constable of Surrey to make representations against an application for a premises license for a new festival (for 5,000 people) in the Mole Valley. The application was refused.

### Personal Injury:

Robert has a busy personal injury practice. He frequently appears in trials and has advised and drafted pleadings in a large number of claims. He has been instructed in a range of actions for clinical negligence, workplace stress and other multi-track litigation.

Robert has been involved in high value claims, including actions in which parties have been permanently disabled. Where appropriate he is happy to accept instructions on the basis of a CFA.

**Police Law:**

Robert represents police forces across the country and has extensive experience in a range of civil matters. He has acted in a large range of civil actions against the police and is especially interested in cases involving police information and the Data Protection Act. Robert has a great deal of experience dealing with the issues facing the police in the family court, and is regularly instructed in Children Act proceedings to deal with disclosure requests.

Robert also has familiarity with applications for Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Risk of Sexual Harm Orders and applications made under the Proceeds of Crime Act. By spending time providing in-house advice to a police force he has developed a good knowledge of the problems that police practitioners face.

**Inquests:**

Robert has acted in a number of inquests (including several heard by juries) and has been particularly praised by clients for his handling of sensitive issues.

**Public Law:**

Robert has a long-standing interest in Public Law. He has been instructed to act in several applications for judicial review, and frequently appears in the First-Tier and Upper Tribunals.

Robert is especially interested in Freedom of Information and Data Protection. He has advised police forces on disputes with the Information Commissioner, and acted for police forces in high value claims brought under the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Interests:**

Robert likes wine, skiing and mountaineering.

**Significant work and cases****Police:**

Re X (Children) (Disclosure of Judgment to Police) [2014] EWHC 278 (Fam) Robert acted for a Chief Constable, making submissions on why an especially sensitive fact finding judgment should be disclosed to police.

Re the Al Hilli Children [2013] EWHC 2190 (Fam); [2014] 1 FLR 403 and [2013] EWHC 2299 (Fam); [2014] 1 FLR 428 – Robert was acting for the Chief Constable of Surrey (as junior to Fiona Barton QC) in these complex family proceedings. Particular issues arose in relation to the disclosure of sensitive information and the assertion of PII, the attendance of representatives of the press, and the sensitivities associated with an international, cross border investigation.

Ali v Bashir [2013] EWHC 2572 – Robert acted for the Chief Constable of Surrey in these election court proceedings. He represented the Chief Constable at the scrutiny, and handled applications for the disclosure of police information.

**Inquests:**

Re William Hafele (deceased) (2014) – Robert acted for the Chief Constable of Surrey in this two week Article 2 jury inquest.

Re Francis Andrade (deceased) (2014) – Robert acted for the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester at the inquest into the death of a professional musician who was found dead after giving evidence against a couple who had sexually abused her whilst she was a student at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester.