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John Bassett

Call: 1975

John was a member of 5 Essex Court for 25 years (1993-2018), having previously been a member of a general common law set of chambers in the Temple. At 5 Essex Court, John specialised in Police Law and Personal Injury Law. In addition, he regularly acted and still acts as a Legal Assessor at hearings of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's Fitness to Practise Committee. John is considered to be "one of the very best Legal Assessors that Panel colleagues have worked with".

John provides lectures in both police law and personal injury law. He was heavily involved in the 5 Essex Court NPIA accredited training on the introduction of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 and the Police (Performance) Regulations 2008. He continues to provide regular training on misconduct and unsatisfactory performance proceedings in the light of the changes brought about by the 2012 Regulations and the recent amendments thereto.

John is an appointed a Legally Qualified Chair for police misconduct hearings in the South Eastern and Eastern Regions which cover a total of 11 police forces.

Police Law

John advises and represents police forces across the country in most areas of civil law including judicial review, inquests and civil actions for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, misfeasance in public office, negligence and assault. He has a particular expertise in misconduct and unsatisfactory performance proceedings, frequently presenting at hearings on behalf of Appropriate Authorities.

John took a leading role in the training provided by 5 Essex Court to police forces when new misconduct and unsatisfactory performance regulations were introduced in 2008 and continues to provide training on the revised 2012 regulations. He now sits as a Legally Qualified Chair in the South Eastern and Eastern Regions. John also has considerable experience in matters relating to police pensions and advises on policy.

Notable Police Law cases:

***R (on the application of Baker) v Police Appeals Tribunal* [2013] EWHC 718 (Admin)** – whether the PAT has the power to correct mistakes in its decision once it is functus officio.

***R (on the application of the Chief Constable of Derbyshire Constabulary) v Police Appeals Tribunal (Green and Stewart – Interested Parties)* [2012] EWHC 2280(Admin)** – ruling on the requirements of a Regulation 21 Notice and whether it is open to a panel to find there has been a breach of a Standard of Professional Behaviour not expressly referred to in the Notice.

***R (on the application of Montgomery) v Police Appeals Tribunal* [2012] EWHC 936 (Admin)** – whether a panel was right to refuse an adjournment of misconduct proceedings when the appeal against conviction of the officer concerned was outstanding and the relevance of the subsequent outcome of that appeal.

***R (on the application of the Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary) v Police Appeals Tribunal (McLean – Interested Party)* [2012] EWHC 746 (Admin)** – when it is necessary in the interests of justice for

witnesses to give oral evidence at misconduct hearings.

R (on the application of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis) v Police Appeals Tribunal (Peart – Interested Party) [2011] EWHC 3421 (Admin) – whether the PAT has the power to determine there should be an appeal hearing on a ground not advanced by the Appellant in his Grounds of Appeal.

R (on the application of Merseyside Police Authority) v Police Medical Appeals Board (McGinty and Hudson – Interested Parties) [2009] EWHC 88 (Admin) – determination on what can properly be regarded as a “duty injury” for the purposes of police pensions.

Regulatory

As part of his Police Law practice, John has notable expertise in misconduct and unsatisfactory performance proceedings, frequently presenting at hearings on behalf of Appropriate Authorities. See under Police Law.