

Paul Fisher

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Paul was incredibly diligent and easy to work with – a keen sense of detail coupled with a firm technical and legal understanding
- Legal 500

Paul also has a thriving public law practice. His work is advocacy-heavy, complemented by the fact that he serves as Counsel on the Attorney General's Civil Panel (C Panel). In this capacity he frequently acts for and advises various government bodies, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Environment Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government. This includes judicial review and applications for interim relief in cases relating to alleged unlawful detention, human trafficking and unlawful deportation as well as the lawfulness of sanctions regimes.

Paul is no stranger to disputes with an international angle. Outside of the UK, he has particular expertise in projects within the Middle East and the CIS/Central Asia. He is a busy junior advocate with plenty of experience acting as sole counsel and with silks. Notable recent cases include:

1. A series of hearings before the High Court in which Paul successfully obtained freezing orders in respect of commercial debts arising from the largest private prosecution in British legal history (*Mirchandani -and- (1) Gheewala (2) Augusta Ventures Ltd [2020] EWHC 1742 (QB)*);
2. A number of cladding cases in which Paul acts for claimants and defendants in actions arising out of investigations instigated following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017. This includes a case arising out of the significant Media City UK development in Salford, in which Paul acts for one of the defendants (led by Sian Mirchandani QC);
3. Proceedings before the Qatar Civil and Commercial Court for enforcement of performance/advance payment bonds (*Obayashi Qatar LLC v Qatar First Bank LLC (Public) [2020] QIC (F) 5*) and in a trial concerned with a debt owed for the supply and installation of ATMs in Doha for a major Qatari bank (*Protech Solutions LLC v Qatar Islamic Bank QPSC [2020] QIF (F) 14*).

Paul frequently writes for publications throughout England and the Middle East on matters pertaining to his main areas of practice. He provides seminars and talks tailored to the needs of individual firms and has given lectures abroad on advocacy and the English legal system. Paul also has Russian language skills and has experience of legal issues surrounding significant infrastructure projects arising out of the CIS.

For more details about Paul's work in respect of each of his practice areas, please refer to the relevant headings below.



Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Paul Fisher.

Areas of Expertise

Public Law

Paul has been appointed to the Attorney General's Panel of Counsel (C Panel) with effect from 1 March 2019. In this capacity he frequently acts for and advises various government bodies, including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Environment Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

He has extensive experience of public law cases, having acted for and against public entities as sole counsel and in a led capacity. Paul frequently appears before the Administrative Court and Upper Tribunal. Recent cases have included acting:

- For the Secretary of State in *Mendes v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2019] EWHC 2233 (concerning the lawfulness of the Certification regime pursuant to Regulation 33 of the EEA Regulations);
- As sole counsel for an intervener before the Divisional Court in the case of *MRH v The County Court sitting at Manchester* [2015] EWHC 1795 (Admin), which involved the judicial review of a county court judgment making a finding of fraud and dishonesty in respect of third parties;
- On behalf of the Secretary of State in interim relief hearings and JR proceedings concerned with the continued detention of individuals pending deportation;
- In JR proceedings concerned with 'reasonable grounds trafficking' decisions pursuant to the UK's National Referral Mechanism;
- As sole counsel in interim relief hearings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals;
- As part of a counsel teams in respect of the review of claims brought against various government entities, including the Ministry of Defence (Noise Induced Hearing Loss claims) and the Lord Chancellor (for the decision to remove certain categories of prison law case from the scope of legal aid).

In his commercial practice, Paul is frequently engaged due to his understanding of the interaction between private obligations and public law. For example, he has been instructed in an action brought by two universities for the provision of allegedly negligent advice on EU public procurement rules (led by Patrick Lawrence QC)

Paul frequently writes on topics of constitutional interest. Originally from Cardiff, Paul has written extensively on the development of a Welsh jurisdiction and the devolution settlement. He was a part-time lecturer in constitutional law at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford and has written for publications such as the Washington Post, Independent and Kyiv Post on questions of constitutional law throughout Europe.

His international practice means that he has also been called upon to advise on the application of umbrella clauses in investor-state disputes.

Qualifications & Memberships

Memberships

COMBAR, PNBA, TECBAR

Education

Paul read law at St. Catherine's College, Oxford where he obtained a first class degree and was awarded a David Blank Scholarship. At the same institution Paul achieved a distinction on the BCL studying with the benefit of a graduate scholarship. Throughout this time Paul received various university prizes including for his performance in Competition, Labour and EU



Constitutional law. Having studied the BPTC at Cardiff University (graded Outstanding) Paul was called to the Bar at Middle Temple where he is an Astbury Scholar and a Lechmere Essay Prize winner. In 2012 he was awarded the Access to Justice Foundation Student Essay Prize. Paul has served as a part-time Lecturer at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford teaching the law of contract and constitutional law. Paul also has an MA in Russian studies from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London (Distinction).

Insights

Wheeldon Brothers Waste Limited v Millennium Insurance Company Limited [2018] EWHC 834 (TCC): the construction of a condition precedent relating to storage of combustible materials

30 April 2018

When a fire caused damage at a waste processing plant owned by the Claimant, Wheeldon Brothers Waste Limited ("Wheeldon"), the Defendant insurer, Millennium Insurance Company Limited ("Millenium"), declined an indemnity on the grounds that, among other things, Wheeldon had been in breach of conditions precedent to liability. Judgment in favour of Wheeldon's claim for declaratory relief, and indemnity and/or damages (liability only) was given by Jonathan Acton Davis QC sitting as Deputy High Court Judge. The case serves as another reminder of the principles applicable to contractual construction and the operation of conditions precedent to liability in insurance contracts. The Court's decision is considered by Paul Fisher of 4 New Square.

Ambitions for Astana

7 March 2018

Paul Fisher writes for Practical Law in the first of a series of articles on dispute resolution in the new Astana International Financial Centre and its Court. Click to read the article.

Soviet Union's Approach to Arbitration and its Enduring Influence Upon Arbitration, Russian Law Journal, 2017 5(4):129-150

4 November 2017

Milton Furnitures Limited v Brit Insurance Limited [2015] EWCA Civ 671

7 July 2017

Building Qatar: International Diplomacy and the Contractual Bargain

7 July 2017

Liability insurance: governing law and jurisdiction

1 September 2016

Atlasnavios – Navegacao, LDA v Navigators Insurance Company Ltd & Ors [2016] EWCA Civ 808

1 August 2016