



NICK ARMSTRONG

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Civil Actions against the Police
Commercial and Corporate
Law
Community Care Law
Discrimination and Equality
Education
Healthcare, Mental Health and
Mental Capacity
Human Rights
Immigration, Asylum and Free
Movement
Inquests and Inquiries
Local Government Law
Prison Law
Public Law

Called to the Bar 2001

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uk

Nick has a mixed public law and civil actions practice. He acts for individuals, businesses, charities, interest groups, unions and educational institutions.

Nick is an Equality and Human Rights Commission A panellist. In 2019 he was human rights and public law junior of the year in the Chambers and Partners Bar Awards.

CAREER

Nick began his legal career as an academic, and then became a solicitor. He graduated in 1991, obtained a PhD in civil justice reform in 1995 (as Lord Woolf's reforms, which became the Civil Procedure Rules, were being formulated), and then qualified as a solicitor at Irwin Mitchell in 1998 where he began to focus on public law. In 2001 he transferred to the Bar, joining Matrix in 2007.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Immigration

Nick is a very experienced immigration lawyer. His work ranges from immigration detention (see also his equality work, and his inquest work) to Tier 2 sponsorship requirements, illegal working and the consequences of Brexit. In 2019 Nick represented one of the successful claimants in the case that brought about a public inquiry into abuses at Brook House immigration removal centre in 2017 (and now acts in relation to the resulting inquiry). He appeared in the EU deportation case of Vomero [2019] 1 WLR 4729 both in the Supreme Court and in the Grand Chamber of the CJEU. Nick also appears regularly before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission.

Nick has acted for the Equality and Human Rights Commission in a number of cases concerning the hostile environment for migrants and its potentially discriminatory effect (cases include the current action by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants challenging the right to rent provisions, another concerned the NHS Charging Regulations).

The range of Nick's work also takes in work in relation to the immigration status of carers, and advice to haulage companies on their carrier obligations.

Discrimination

Nick is an experienced discrimination lawyer, with particular expertise in relation to disability discrimination. As well as the immigration related cases above, Nick has acted for the EHRC in respect of prisons, including a challenge to the use of pepper spray in prisons. Nick's education work (below) also often concerns equality claims.

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY:

"He's brilliant and fearless and has real tenacity. He brings a breadth of experience of public law cases to bear and is a very effective advocate." (2020, Administrative and Public Law)

"A very forceful and persuasive lawyer with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law in this field. He is a fearless advocate." "He is very committed and extremely bright." (2020, Community Care)

"An excellent jury advocate who is articulate, incredibly clear and very good at breaking down and conveying complex material with great simplicity." "His solicitor background gives him excellent insight into taking instructions and lateral thinking." (2020, Immigration)

"He is exceptionally bright and very user-friendly." (2019, Civil Liberties & Human Rights)

"Very succinct, to the point and on the ball, and his arguments are very technical. (2019, Immigration)

Chambers & Partners

"An excellent barrister with a no-nonsense style of drafting, and particularly strong with Tier 2 license revocations." (2020, Immigration)

"He is great on his feet, very clever, works hard for clients and cares about the outcome." (2020, Inquests and Inquiries)

"Strategic thinker, attention to detail and able to identify issues that others may have missed." (2018, Civil Liberties)

Legal 500

Education

Nick is an experienced education lawyer, representing children, parents, schools, local authorities and universities before the tribunals and in civil proceedings. He has particular experience in relation to special educational needs and disability. He has also acted for schools with regard to their regulation (including by Ofsted, and by the Education and Skills Funding Agency). He appeared for the National Autistic Society in the case which changed the definition of disability in relation to those with a tendency to physically abuse (*C v Governing Body of a School* [2018] ELR 554). Nick is a school governor.

Inquests

Nick is a very experienced inquest lawyer. He has acted in relation to a large number of prison deaths (including cases concerning particular clusters of deaths) and deaths in immigration detention. He acted for the family of Ann Maguire, the teacher who was stabbed by a pupil in a school in Leeds in 2014, and for the family of Paul McGuigan, a security operative murdered by another operative in Iraq in 2009.

National Security

Nick's work before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission is mentioned above. Nick also represented Amnesty International in what became the "10 NGOs case", which was concerned with the safeguards against state surveillance following the Edward Snowden revelations.

Prison

Nick is a very experienced prison lawyer. As well as the cases already mentioned he represented two of the victims of John Worboys in their successful challenge to the decision of the Parole Board to release him (*DSD v Parole Board* [2018] 3 WLR 829). He represents the claimant in *Youngsam* [2019] 3 WLR 33, which is an important case concerned with whether determinate sentence prisoners enjoy the protection of Article 5(4) of the ECHR, and the doctrine of binding precedent. Nick is also in *Gourlay* [2017] 1 WLR 4107, which is an important case concerning the costs liability of the Parole Board (currently on its way to the Supreme Court, and *McAtee* [2019] 1 WLR 3766, which concerns what is or is not a "criminal cause or matter" for the purposes of appeal rights.

Privacy

Nick has significant experience of privacy and data protection across a number of his areas of practice. He appeared for the claimant in the key Supreme Court case concerned with criminal records checks, *T v Chief Constable of Manchester* [2015] AC 49, and in the successful follow up to that case, *Gallagher* [2019] 2 WLR 509. Nick also acted for the claimants in *WXYZ v Secretary of State for Health* [2016] 1 WLR 698, which was concerned with health authorities sharing migrant data with the Home Office (and is an important case on medical confidentiality). Nick's work in the national security context also often contains a privacy element.

Social welfare

Nick regularly appears in community care judicial reviews, and in cases before the Court of Protection. A recent example is *Mazhar v Lord Chancellor* [2019] HRLR 19, an important case arising out of the forced detention of a physically disabled but mentally capacious man. The case is brought against the judge who authorised the detention, and raises important issues about the process for challenging judicial acts under the Human Rights Act 1998.

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Professional regulatory and Legal Aid Agency work

In part because he is a former solicitor, Nick is instructed in a range of professional regulatory matters on behalf of solicitors. He carries out a lot of work around legal aid contracting. He appears regularly before the Contract Review Body of the Legal Aid Agency and other legal aid contractual bodies. He has acted in a number of judicial reviews, including of legal aid tendering decisions. Nick has also appeared before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and before the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society of Jersey.

Privacy Notice

Nick is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. In order to provide legal services to his clients, including advice and representation services, Nick needs to collect and hold personal data. This includes his client's personal data and the personal data of others who feature in the matter upon which he is instructed. To read Nick's privacy notice in full, please see [here](#).

Nick is regulated by the Bar Standards Board and accepts instruction under Standard Contractual Terms. To find out more information on this and the way we work at Matrix, including our fee transparency statement, please see our [service standards](#). Nick is qualified to carry out direct access work and will do so in an appropriate case.