

Landmark Chambers

Barrister CV

Leon Glenister



Contact us

clerks@landmarkchambers.co.uk

+44 (0) 20 7430 1221



Leon Glenister

Call: 2011

lglenister@landmarkchambers.co.uk

Leon is well-established as a leading barrister at the UK Bar, practising in public, education, healthcare and planning/environmental law.



Expertise

Public and Administrative, , , Planning

Contact Practice Managers

Ben Connor

020 7421 2483

bconnor@landmarkchambers.co.uk

Zoe Bluck

020 7421 1301

zbluck@landmarkchambers.co.uk

Jamie Lal

020 7421 1309

jlal@landmarkchambers.co.uk

Richard Bolton

020 7421 1392

rbolton@landmarkchambers.co.uk

Practice Summary

Leon is ranked across Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 in five areas: Administrative and Public, Education, Planning, Local Government and Social Housing law. He is described as “one of the best public lawyers of his generation”, having “a superb ability to present complex technical issues clearly and persuasively”; and that it is “always reassuring to have Leon on your side rather than against you”.

Leon regularly acts in complex cases of a national profile, including in the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. His cases have included the Alfie Evans litigation, the challenge to the Yorkshire Ripper’s move from Broadmoor, the challenge to the A-level grading during the COVID pandemic and the challenge to the NHS accountable care organisation contract. In planning, he recently acted in the ‘bridge to nowhere’ case and is currently acting in the challenge to the Local Plan for Manchester and surrounding areas.

Leon was shortlisted for two Junior of the Year awards at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2024.

He is co-author of NHS Law and Practice (LAG, 2024); and the 'Noddy Guide to SEN', a free guide to special educational needs law. He is a contributing author to 'Children's Social Care Law' (LAG, 2018) and 'Adult Social Care Law' (LAG, 2019).

Leon is a tutor in Administrative Law at the University of Cambridge. Away from law, he is a Governor of Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

He is proudly of mixed heritage, with a British father and Malaysian-Chinese mother.

Public and Administrative

The core of Leon's practice involves public law and judicial review. He is widely recognised as one of the leading barristers in this area, ranked as a leading practitioner across Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 in Administrative Law and Public Law, Local Government, Education Law, Social Housing Law and Planning Law. He was described in the Legal 500 as "one of the best public lawyers of his generation". He was shortlisted for Junior of the Year in Public Services and Charities at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards.

Leon is appointed to the Attorney General's A Panel of Counsel, the most senior panel acting for central government. However, he strictly maintains a balanced practice, acting for and against public bodies, as well as for interveners. His work covers the breadth of public law, including (but not limited to) cases involving a commercial aspect, ombudsman decisions, regulation, discrimination, consultation, local government, human rights and civil liberties.

He is co-author of NHS Law and Practice (LAG, 2024); and the 'Noddy Guide to SEN', a free guide to special educational needs law. He is a contributing author to 'Children's Social Care Law' (LAG, 2018) and 'Adult Social Care Law' (LAG, 2019).

Relevant cases

- Successfully resisting a judicial review against a school's decision to permanently exclude a pupil, which considered the interaction between the legal frameworks for exclusion and child criminal exploitation (***R (RWU) v A Governing Body*** [2024] EWHC 2828 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting a judicial review regarding an important argument on statutory interpretation in the teaching regulatory framework (***R (Aquilina) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2024] EWHC 1998 (Admin)).
- An appeal on the relevancy of a child's views on the educational placement named in their Education, Health and Care Plan (***TM and SM v Liverpool City Council*** [2024] UKUT 201 (AAC)).
- A challenge to a local authority's implementation of social care recommendations made by the FTT (***R (LS) v LB Merton*** [2024] EWHC 584 (Admin)).
- Successfully acting in the Court of Appeal in a challenge relating to the common law right of autonomy in the context of a disabled prisoner's right to demand medical treatment (***R (JJ) v Spectrum Community Health CIC*** [2023] EWCA Civ 885)
- Successfully resisting a challenge to the Government's White Paper on social care reform, specifically in relation to the policy regarding an appeals system for local authority social care decisions (***R (HL) v Secretary of State for Health and Social***

Care [2023] EWHC 866 (Admin))

- Acting in a widely publicised challenge to the change of control of GP practices to a company controlled by US-based Centene Corporation (***Khurana v North Central London CCG*** [2022] EWHC 384 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in an article 14 ECHR challenge to the application of the student finance regulations following impacts of the COVID pandemic (***R (Naeem) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2022] EWHC 15 (Admin)).
- Acting in the first appeal considering the specificity required of 'education otherwise than at school' in an EHC Plan (***DM v Cornwall County Council (SEN)*** [2022] UKUT 230 (AAC)).
- Successfully resisting a challenge to DfE's termination of the academy funding agreement of Khalsa Secondary Academy, the leading case on faith school academies which also clarified the scope of the PSED (***R (The Khalsa Academies Trust) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2021] EWHC 2660 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting an application to re-open an appeal in the Court of Appeal following the Supreme Court's judgment in Pathan v SSHD (***R (Khan) v SSHD*** [2021] EWCA Civ 1655).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in a judicial review brought by Somerset County Council challenging an Academy order, in the context of a local school restructure (***Somerset CC v Secretary of State for Education*** [2020] EWHC 1675 (Admin)).
- An appeal on the relationship between Section F and Section I of an EHC Plan, and the scope of the LA's duty in a SEN appeal (***AJ v LB Croydon*** [2020] UKUT 246 (AAC)).
- Acting in the first appellate decision on the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme, clarifying its scope and general principles on FTT decision making (***DP v Topmark Claims Management Ltd*** [2020] UKUT 106 (AAC)).
- Acting for Keep the Horton General campaign group in the Court of Appeal challenging proposed reconfiguration of Horton General Hospital, arguing a two phase consultation was unfair ((***Keep the Horton General v Oxfordshire CCG*** [2019] EWCA Civ 646).
- An appeal on procedural fairness in relation to SEN proceedings (***NE and DE v Southampton City Council (SEN)*** [2019] UKUT 388 (AAC)).
- An appeal on whether the Disclosure and Barring Service can rely on conduct relating to an adult in barring an individual from working with children (***C v Disclosure and Barring Service*** [2019] UKUT 212).
- An appeal to the Supreme Court on the scope of PIP entitlement (***Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v MM*** [2019] UKSC 34).
- Acting for parents seeking to challenge the academisation of a school on the basis the consultation undertaken was then out of date (***Kitchener-Pope v GB of Peavehaven Community School*** [2019] EWHC 2666 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State for Health in a declaration of parentage application which raised a novel point on the interpretation of the Human Fertility and Embryology Act 2008, in relation to same sex couples using IVF where the correct consent forms were not signed (***M v W*** [2019] EWHC 649 (Fam)).
- Acting in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European Court of Human Rights in the initial appeal of the declaration that removal of Alfie Evans' life support was in his best interests (***E (A Child)*** [2018] EWCA Civ 550), as widely reported in the national and international press.

- Acting in the challenge to NHS England's Accountable Care Organisation (ACO) draft contract as being contrary to the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (**R (999 Call for the NHS) v NHS England** [2018] EWCA Civ 2849).
- Acting in a challenge to a decision by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator to refuse jurisdiction to hear a complaint. The Administrative Court's decision, to the effect that matters of jurisdiction are for the Court rather than rationality review, has implications for other ombudsman and adjudicator schemes (**R (B) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator** [2018] EWHC 1971 (Admin)).
- Acting for Gerard Coyne in a challenge to the leadership election of UNITE the Union, in which Len McCluskey was elected, as reported on the [BBC](#) and [Guardian](#).
- Challenging a school's decision to withdraw admission of a student (**R (LH) v X School** [2017] EWHC 1985 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Registrar General in relation to the registration of a birth following the use of donor sperm (**Application K** [2017] EWHC 50 (Fam)).
- Acting in a judicial review on the relationship between paragraph 353 and 94B of the Immigration Rules (**R (Ayache) v Secretary of State for the Home Department** [2017] UKUT 122).
- Acting in High Court proceedings on whether a damages claim for unlawful detention which follows a judicial review claim is an abuse of process (**XEM v Home Office** [2016] EWHC 2622 (QB)).
- Instructed in relation to a challenge of the Mental Health Tribunal decision to move Peter Coonan from Broadmoor back to prison, as reported widely in the national press, see [BBC](#) and the [Guardian](#).
- Acting in the Detained Asylum Casework litigation in the Court of Appeal (**R (TH) v SSHD** [2016] EWCA Civ 815).
- Acting for the PHSO in a judicial review challenge to the handling of a complaint relating to the death of two relations in the same hospital (**R (Andrews) v Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman** [2016] EWHC 2150 (Admin)).
- An appeal on the jurisdiction of the FTT to make costs orders (**UA v London Borough of Haringey** [2016] UKUT 0087 (AAC); [2016] E.L.R 219)).
- Challenging the decision of Lambeth Council to regenerate Cressingham Gardens Estate (**R (Plant) v Lambeth London Borough Council** [2016] EWHC 3324 (Admin); **R (Bokrosova) v LB Lambeth** [2015] EWHC 3386 (Admin)).
- Acting for the local authority defending a judicial review challenge to a section 17 assessment and decision, and the failure to provide interim accommodation, in the context of conflicting evidence on the availability of suitable accommodation (**R (Jalal) v Royal Borough of Greenwich** [2016] EWHC 1848 (Admin)).
- A challenge regarding interim accommodation where a parent does not have the "right to rent" (**N v Royal Borough of Greenwich** [2016] EWHC 2559 (Admin)).
- Acting in one of the first judicial review challenges to the Legal Ombudsman, in relation to its jurisdiction (**R (Kerman and Co LLP) v The Legal Ombudsman** [2014] EWHC 3726 (Admin); [2015] 1 W.L.R. 2081).
- Acting in a judicial review claim against the OIA where the Court held that matters of procedural fairness and irrationality are not matters of academic judgment and can be considered by the OIA (**R (Gopikrishna) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator** [2015] EWHC 207 (Admin)).
- Acting in a judicial review against the OIA as to whether plagiarism is a matter of academic judgment (**R (Mustafa) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator** [2013] EWHC 1379 (Admin)).

Leon is one of the foremost education barristers at the UK Bar. He is ranked as a leading practitioner in 'Band 1' (the top tier) in both of the legal directories, Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500. He is described in this area as "capable far beyond his call, resilient, unflappable"; having a "superb ability to present complex technical issues clearly and persuasively" and a "lovely manner with clients and experts"; and "absolutely on it". He was shortlisted for Junior of the Year in Public Services and Charities at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards.

He is instructed in complex and high profile cases across the education sector, and is instructed by all sides: education institutions (all types of schools, universities, nurseries), accreditation bodies, regulators, parents, students, and he regularly acts for the Department for Education. His cases regularly concern statutory duties, public law issues, discrimination, funding and special educational needs. He is also instructed to undertake investigations, both at a school and council level, including the Independent Review on the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment process at Hertfordshire County Council (report available [here](#)).

He is the co-author of the '[Noddy Guide to SEN](#)', a free legal guide to special educational needs and the leading legal resource on special educational needs law.

Relevant cases

- Successfully resisting a judicial review against a school's decision to permanently exclude, which considered the interaction between the legal frameworks for exclusion and child criminal exploitation (***R (RWU) v A Governing Body*** [2024] EWHC 2828 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting a judicial review regarding an important argument on statutory interpretation in the teaching regulatory framework (***R (Aquilina) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2024] EWHC 1998 (Admin)).
- An appeal on the relevancy of a child's views on the educational placement named in their Education, Health and Care Plan (***TM and SM v Liverpool City Council*** [2024] UKUT 201 (AAC)).
- A challenge to a local authority's implementation of social care recommendations made by the FTT (***R (LS) v London Borough of Merton*** [2024] EWHC 584 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in a judicial review challenging a determination of which local authority was responsible for a particular child.
- Acting for the Secretary of State in an article 14 ECHR challenge to the application of the student finance regulations following impacts of the COVID pandemic (***R (Naeem) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2022] EWHC 15 (Admin)).
- Acting in the first appeal considering the specificity required of 'education otherwise than at school' in an EHC Plan (***DM v Cornwall County Council (SEN)*** [2022] UKUT 230 (AAC)).
- Acting in relation to a series of challenges by universities against decisions not to re-award initial teacher training (ITT) accreditation.
- Successfully resisting a challenge to DfE's termination of the academy funding agreement of Khalsa Secondary Academy, the leading case on faith school academies which also clarified the scope of the PSED (***R (The Khalsa Academies Trust) v Secretary of State for Education*** [2021] EWHC 2660 (Admin))

- Acting in a challenge to a Welsh council's transgender guidance. See report on the [BBC](#).
- The challenge brought against Ofqual in respect of the grading system for A level results in the summer of 2020, which led to the Government U-turn to use centre assessed grades as the basis of student marks. The claim was brought by the Good Law Project on behalf of six students. News coverage of the challenge can be seen on the [BBC](#), [The Times](#), the [Telegraph](#) and the [Guardian](#). The legal team was covered in [The Lawyer](#). Following this, Leon has acted in numerous discrimination claims relating to centre assessed grades.
- Acting for the Secretary of State, successfully resisting a judicial review challenging the failure to direct that all teaching is online in the COVID pandemic (reported in the [Guardian](#)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in a judicial review brought by Somerset County Council challenging an Academy order, in the context of a local school restructure (***Somerset County Council v Secretary of State for Education*** [2020] EWHC 1675 (Admin)).
- An appeal on the relationship between Section F and Section I of an EHC Plan, and the scope of the LA's duty in a SEN appeal (***AJ v London Borough of Croydon*** [2020] UKUT 246 (AAC)).
- An appeal against an FTT decision, in relation to procedural fairness and reliance on documents which were not cited to the parties (***NE and DE v Southampton City Council (SEN)*** [2019] UKUT 388 (AAC)).
- An appeal as to whether the Disclosure and Barring Service can rely on conduct relating to an adult in barring an individual from working with children (***C v Disclosure and Barring Service*** [2019] UKUT 212).
- Challenging a school's decision to withdraw admission of a student (***R (LH) v X School*** [2017] EWHC 1985 (Admin)).
- Acting for parents seeking to challenge the academisation of a school on the basis the consultation undertaken was then out of date (***Kitchener-Pope v GB of Peavehaven Community School*** [2019] EWHC 2666 (Admin)).
- Acting for a student in a judicial review against the OIA in relation to its jurisdiction (***R (B) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator*** [2018] EWHC 1971 (Admin)).
- Acting for parents in a challenge against Somerset County Council's funding cuts for special educational need provision, as reported on the [BBC](#).
- An appeal on the jurisdiction of the FTT to make costs orders (***UA v London Borough of Haringey*** [2016] UKUT 0087 (AAC)).
- Acting in a judicial review claim against the OIA where the Court held that matters of procedural fairness and irrationality are not matters of academic judgment and can be considered by the OIA (***R (Gopikrishna) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator*** [2015] EWHC 207 (Admin)).
- Acting in a judicial review against the OIA as to whether plagiarism is a matter of academic judgment (***R (Mustafa) v Office of the Independent Adjudicator*** [2013] EWHC 1379 (Admin)).

Leon has a particular specialism in NHS law, healthcare and related areas. He is the co-author of the leading text in the area, [NHS Law and Practice](#) (LAG, 2024). He was shortlisted for Junior of the Year in Public Services and Charities at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards.

He has acted in a number of leading cases involving the NHS, including regularly at appellate level, for example challenges involving the scope of the right to autonomy in the context of medical treatment, the purchase of GP surgeries by a company controlled by US-based Centene Corporation, the accountable care organisation contract, reconfiguration of health services in Oxfordshire, and in the litigation concerning Alfie Evans.

He maintains a balanced practice in the area, regularly acting for commissioners, healthcare providers, patients and other interested persons. His work includes, but is not limited to, commissioning, continuing care disputes, reconfiguration of NHS services, disputes on the responsible commissioner, primary care contracting and the reconfiguration of services.

Relevant cases

- Acting in a challenge relating to the common law right of autonomy in the context of a disabled prisoner's right to demand medical treatment (***R (JJ) v Spectrum Community Health CIC*** [2023] EWCA Civ 885)
- Successfully resisting a challenge to the Government's White Paper on social care reform, specifically in relation to the policy regarding an appeals system for local authority social care decisions (***R (HL) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*** [2023] EWHC 866 (Admin)).
- Acting in a widely publicised challenge to the change of control of GP practices to a company controlled by US-based Centene Corporation (***Khurana v North Central London CCG*** [2022] EWHC 384 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State defending a widely publicised policy challenge by Maternity Action alleging the NHS charging regime for overseas visitors is discriminatory, (reported in the [Guardian](#) and [Independent](#)).
- Acting for the campaign group Keep the Horton General in the Court of Appeal in a challenge to proposed reconfiguration of Horton General Hospital, arguing a two phase consultation on the reconfiguration was unfair (***Keep the Horton General v Oxfordshire CCG*** [2019] EWCA Civ 646).
- Appearing in the Court of Appeal in the widely publicised challenge to the payment provisions of the NHS Accountable Care Organisation Contract, ***R (999 Call for the NHS) v NHS England*** [2018] EWCA Civ 2849.
- Acting in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European Court of Human Rights in the initial appeal of the declaration that removal of life support was in Alfie Evans' best interests (***E (A Child)*** [2018] EWCA Civ 550), in which it was argued the lack of a "significant harm" threshold before the state interfered with parental choices was discriminatory.
- Acting for Secretary of State for Health in a case which raised a novel point on the interpretation of the Human Fertility and Embryology Act 2008, in relation to same sex couples using IVF where the correct consent forms were not signed (***M v W*** [2019] EWHC 649 (Fam)).
- Acting on behalf of the Registrar General in proceedings relating to the registration of births where consent forms were not signed following assisted reproduction (***Application K*** [2017] EWHC 50 (Fam)).
- Acting for the PHSO in a judicial review challenge to the handling of a complaint relating to the death of two relations in the same hospital (***R (Andrews) v Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman*** [2016] EWHC 2150 (Admin)).

Planning

Leon is recognised as a leading barrister in planning and environmental law and was shortlisted as Junior of the Year in Planning and Land Use at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards. He is described by the legal directories in this area as “extremely efficient and bright”; having an “excellent manner with clients”; an “excellent advocate”; and a “real pleasure to work with”.

He is particularly sought after for his specialism in High Court challenges, as well as other advisory work. His cases are often complex and high profile, usually involving engagement with public law principles. He has recently acted in the ‘bridge to nowhere’ case and the challenge to PINS’ use of appeal planning officers; and is currently instructed in the challenge to the Local Plan for Manchester and surrounding areas and the challenge to the permission for development on the Bristol Zoo site.

Relevant cases

- Successfully resisting a “significant” planning claim relating to infrastructure contributions for development forming part of a wider allocation (***Swindon BC v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*** [2023] EWHC 1627 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting a challenge to an Inspector’s decision permitting development of up to 110 dwellings, raising issues on flood risk (***Soilleux v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*** [2023] EWHC 204 (Admin)).
- Challenge made to PINS as to its use of Appeal Planning Officers to make recommendations to Inspectors, raising issues of delegation and procedural fairness (***Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities v Smith*** [2023] EWCA Civ 514).
- An appeal on the ‘bridge to nowhere’, which was to enable future development but which itself had no transport links to or over it. The case has wider significance on the interpretation of Officer Reports and ‘salami slicing’ in relation to EIA (***R (Ashchurch Rural Parish Council) v Tewkesbury Borough Council*** [2023] EWCA 101).
- Successfully quashing approval for a 5G mast, in a case which considered the scope of the duty on telecoms companies to seek to use existing infrastructure (***Murtagh v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*** [2022] EWHC 2991 (Admin)).
- Successfully defending a “significant” planning claim considering the scope of a planning enforcement order in respect of a single use when there is a mixed use (***Payne v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government*** [2021] EWHC 3334).
- Successfully resisting a s288 claim, in the leading case on when working from home requires planning permission due to there being a “material change of use” or “incidental” use to a dwellinghouse (***Sage v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government*** [2021] EWHC 2885 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting a challenge to the grant of a consent by Natural Resources Wales for use of part of the River Wye for boating (***R (Townley) v Natural Resources Wales*** [2021] EWHC 2391 (Admin)).
- A challenge to a licence granted by Natural England permitting felling trees where there was a potential bat roost, for the purpose of HS2 construction (***R (Keir) v Natural England*** [2021] EWHC 1059 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting a challenge to the Cherwell Local Plan Partial Review, adopted by Cherwell DC as part of its development plan (***Cherwell Development Watch Alliance v Cherwell District Council*** [2021] EWHC 2190).
- Successfully resisting a challenge to an Inspector’s decision that the affordable housing requirement in a local plan included extra care developments which were within a C2 use class (***Rectory Homes Ltd v Secretary of State for Housing,***

Communities and Local Government [2020] EWHC 2098 (Admin)).

- Successfully resisting a challenge to an Inspector's decision refusing a CLOPUD relating to a caravan park, giving rise to issues as to what can be taken into account in interpreting a planning document (**Breckland DC v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2020] EWHC 292 (Admin)).
- Acting for the Health and Safety Executive in a called-in inquiry on the continuation of continuation of hazardous substances consent on land close to the Silvertown Tunnel, in order for it to be safe for the tunnel to open ([link here](#)).
- Acting in a challenge involving the correct test to apply in showing continuous use throughout a four year period after which no enforcement can be taken, and in particular where there had been renovations to a residential property (**London Borough of Islington v SSHCLG** [2019] EWHC 2691 (Admin)).
- Acting for the local authority in a hearing in relation to a residential development on Commercial Road, raising issues on viability ([link here](#)).
- Acting in a statutory challenge on the interpretation of the holiday accommodation provisions in the East Devon Local Plan (**Mills v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2019] EWHC 3476 (Admin)).
- Successfully resisting an appeal against an Inspector's decision to uphold an enforcement notice issued by LB Hackney in respect of unlawful development of a synagogue in East London (**Meisels v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2019] EWHC 1987 (Admin)).
- Acting for a rule 6 party at a four-day inquiry in relation to a major housing development in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, with issues including heritage and ecology ([link here](#)).
- Acting in a challenge to an Inspector's decision, successfully arguing that where there is an excess of five year housing land supply, an Inspector is not required to give increased weight to countryside policies (**Eastleigh BC v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2019] EWHC 1862 (Admin)).
- Acting for the developers at a six-day inquiry in respect of the redevelopment of Regent's Wharf, a canalside office space near King's Cross, with issues including heritage and light ([link here](#)).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in a challenge to an Inspector's decision in relation to five year housing land supply and what a "clear reason" is to refuse development pursuant to paragraph 11 of the NPPF (**Green Lane Chertsey (Development) Ltd v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2019] EWHC 990 (Admin)).
- Acting for the successful Claimant in a judicial review which quashed a Council's grant of planning permission on the basis it failed to fully consider the noise implications of the development (**R (Kerswell) v LB Lewisham** [2019] EWHC 754 (Admin)).
- Acting unled in the Court of Appeal for the Secretary of State in considering the scope of the Mansi doctrine in building conversions for which an enforcement notice has been issued (**Oates v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government** [2018] EWCA Civ 2229).
- Acting for the Secretary of State in a judicial review of the Planning Inspectorate's decision, following the quashing of a planning appeal dealt with by Inquiry, to determine the appeal by written exchange rather than by re-opening the Inquiry. The Court gave guidance on how such decisions should be taken (**R (North Norfolk District Council) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** [2018] EWHC 2076 (Admin)).

- Acting for a local authority at an inquiry in relation to its refusal to discharge a planning obligation where a lawful development certificate had been granted (link [here](#)).
- Challenging the decision of Lambeth Council to regenerate Cressingham Gardens Estate (*R (Plant) v Lambeth LBC* [2016] EWHC 3324 (Admin); *R (Bokrosova) v LB Lambeth* [2015] EWHC 3386 (Admin)).

Qualifications

- LLM (Master of Law) – Churchill College, University of Cambridge
- MA (Law) – Churchill College, University of Cambridge

Recommendations

"Leon is committed and approachable, great at cutting through complex cases to get to the key points, and at making difficult points seem simple."

Administrative law and human rights, Legal 500, 2025

'Leon is excellent and particularly strong on case strategy and working together with experts and a multi professional team to get clarity in a complex case. Leon's knowledge of education law is top tier and he uses this magnificently to get the best.'

Education, Legal 500, 2025

"Leon is excellent, capable far beyond his call, resilient, unflappable and an excellent and fair opponent to deal with. A formidable opponent."

Planning, Legal 500, 2025

"Leon is practical, excellent with clients, very results-focused and a real pleasure to work with." "He is very good with lay clients, very responsive and excellent." "Leon produces fantastic work. He is approachable and always delivers extremely high standards."

Education, Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Leon is my go-to junior barrister for special educational needs cases because he knows the law very well and is great with clients. He is a strong advocate who thinks quickly and makes complex things sound simple." "He is very good with lay clients, very responsive and an excellent practitioner."

Local Government, Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Leon is a great team player and he produced highly impressive written work." "He has quite an unusual mix of expertise, having a strong understanding of both land law and public law."

Administrative and Public Law, Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Leon Glenister is very able and always provides clear, helpful and swift responses." "Leon Glenister is a smooth operator."

Social Housing, Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Leon is one of the best of his generation in education law."

Education, Legal 500, 2024

"Leon has a real in-depth understanding of the law and a superb ability to present complex technical issues clearly and persuasively."

Environment, Legal 500, 2024

"A very able and highly responsive judicial review lawyer well suited to complex commercial matters. He has a fluent, engaging and warm manner."

Administrative Law and Human Rights, Legal 500, 2024

"Leon is dependably knowledgeable, has good judgement, and is easy to work with. He is highly regarded for his excellent advocacy; he can hold his own with much more senior counsel and he is instructed regularly for this reason."

Planning, Legal 500, 2024

"One of the best public lawyers of his generation. Clear thinking, tactical and writes really well."

Local Government (including Rating Law), Legal 500, 2024

"Leon is extremely knowledgeable and achieves fantastic results." "He is fantastic to work with; really clear and to the point and has a lovely manner with clients and experts."

Education, Chambers and Partners, 2023

"A very good public law barrister, who is very responsive." "He is fantastic to work with; really clear and to the point and has a lovely manner with clients and experts. He is absolutely on it."

Administrative and Public Law, Chambers and Partners, 2023

"He is fantastic to work with. He is really clear, to the point, and has a lovely manner with clients and experts."

Local Government, Chambers and Partners, 2023

"Very good and easy to work with, he'll bend over backwards to try and accommodate you. He's willing to listen to and take on board comments from solicitors, and is so bloody good on paper that the other side give up."

Social Housing, Chambers and Partners, 2023

"Leon is incredibly bright, thorough and personable. He goes the extra mile, seeing arguments others miss. He sets out a case both on paper and in court incredibly clearly, with a persuasive and inevitable logic. Equally, if he thinks that a case is weak, he has no qualms explaining that to the client. He is a first choice barrister and is always reassuring."

Planning, Legal 500, 2023

"Leon is extremely efficient and bright. He has an excellent manner with clients, immediately putting them at ease."

Local Government, Legal 500, 2023

"Leon is approachable, friendly and very clear. His written work is exceptional and he is extremely clever and knowledgeable."

Administrative Law and Human Rights, Legal 500, 2023

"Leon is an impressive advocate with outstanding legal and technical knowledge."

Education, Legal 500, 2023

"He is very detailed in his advice. He really gets to the core of the issue and is very quick to turn around advice." "He's an excellent barrister."

Social Housing, Chambers and Partners, 2022

"Very bright, thinks tactically and is very responsive." "He's conscientious and approachable with very good attention to detail."

Education, Chambers and Partners, 2022

"He is very conscientious, ambitious and interested in this field." "He is a flexible, versatile practitioner."

Local Government, Chambers and Partners, 2022

"Leon is an extremely bright junior, who is headed for the very top. He has a consummate knowledge of administrative and public law, has great strategic insight and is extremely responsive."

Administrative and Public Law, Legal 500, 2022

"A great communicator, he is clear and concise in his writing style and orally. Excellent advocate. His client care is first class, too."

Local Government, Legal 500, 2022

"Leon is an incredibly clear and calm thinker, who can cut through a wealth of detail to pick out the important points, and then present them persuasively either on paper or in court. Very hard working and delivers to tight deadlines. Extremely bright and personable and very good with the clients. A first-choice junior, and always reassuring to have Leon on your side rather than against you."

Planning, Legal 500, 2022

"His easygoing charm goes down very well with clients. He is an excellent advocate."

Social Housing, Chambers and Partners, 2021

"He provides great analysis which he translates to clear, succinct and persuasive pleadings. He is tenacious in identifying the main issues." "He's pragmatic and looks for ways to reach a satisfactory outcome rather than just arguing over every point."

Education, Chambers and Partners, 2021

"Very bright, amiable, approachable. Feel very comfortable discussing cases with him. Very clever and able to review lots of papers very quickly when needed on particularly urgent cases whilst getting a good grasp of the issues." "Thinks dynamically and practically about cases, and is very much a safe pair of hands."

Legal 500, 2021

"Leon is excellent: he is clear and concise in writing and orally, and well-liked by clients for his calm and professional demeanour and good humour. He 'punches above his weight', holding his own with much more senior counsel. He works well with expert witnesses and is good in cross-examination."

Legal 500, 2021

"A pleasure to instruct - he's approachable and works well with clients and witnesses. He identifies the key issues very quickly and provides excellent advice." "He's very clear, very persuasive and demonstrates a lot of confidence."

Education, Chambers and Partners, 2020

"He provides comprehensive responses to questions and is able to provide guidance and assurance that is presented in a way the client can understand."

Social Housing, Chambers and Partners, 2020

"A rising star"; "clients really appreciate his calming influence and professionalism"; "liked by clients and good on the technical aspects of cases"; "good at finding commercial solutions"; "brilliant – you couldn't ask for a nicer and easier-to-work-with barrister"; "clear, concise and cuts through excess details"; "clear advice and responds in a timely manner."

Chambers and Partners, 2019

"A rising star"; "strong advocacy"; "never fazed by anything, he is appreciated by clients for his calming influence"; "approachable and always works well with clients and witnesses"; "he's diligent, very hard-working, knowledgeable about the law and someone who has a very good way with clients."

Chambers and Partners, 2018

Cases and inquiries

19 11 24	Administrative Court considers the extent possible child criminal exploitation can impact a school's decision to permanently exclude
05 08 24	Leon Glenister successfully defends judicial review challenging the established interpretation of teaching regulation legislation
01 08 24	Leon Glenister acts in successful appeal to Upper Tribunal on the requirement to take account of a child's views, wishes and feelings in decisions on their special educational provision

15 03 24 Leon Glenister acts in important judicial review on “extended appeals” in special educational needs

30 07 21 High Court dismisses challenge to Cherwell Local Plan review

11 02 21 Legal Challenge to Cherwell Plan granted permission to proceed
