

Mr Simon Bell

General Information

As a Planning and Public Law Barrister and Litigation Specialist, Simon is passionate about good, fair decision making in public life. Called to the Bar in 2003, Simon has worked in many legal areas including criminal law, before specialising in planning and public law. Simon is a skilled litigator with experience of acting in all levels of courts in England and Wales.

During his legal career, Simon has been involved in advising on many high profile projects including HS2, the expansion of the UK's airport capacity and the effects of Brexit on the UK. Over the course of these projects, Simon developed his interest in planning and public law, infrastructure litigation, judicial reviews, resolving regulatory law issues, compulsory purchase and land use work.

Legal expertise:

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

- Assisting with (or objecting to) planning applications
- Appearing at planning inquires, statutory appeals or judicial reviews
- Infrastructure and major planning projects
- Traffic Regulation Orders and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Local and Neighbourhood Plans
- Compulsory Purchase Orders
- Development Consent Orders
- Investigations and enforcement actions brought by the Environment Agency or Natural England

PUBLIC/ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

- Claims for judicial review
- Appeals against decisions made by the Disclosure and Barring Service, the Information Commissioner, the HSE and other arms of Government
- Investigations and sanctions (civil and criminal) brought by the Electoral Commission
- Actions against decisions made by Local Government
- Assisting with "Code of Conduct Complaints" brought against Councillors
- Assisting with requests for information made under FOIA or the Environmental Information Regulations

GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION

- Property disputes involving trespass and nuisance
- Landlord and tenant disputes

Direct access and solicitor appointed

Having completed the direct access course, Simon can be instructed directly by members of the public as well as by solicitors. Simon also provides advice and assistance to local authorities to help them make good public law decisions, as well as acting for individuals where they feel the wrong public law decisions have been made.

Professional qualifications & associations

- Bar Vocational Course - Inns of Court School of Law
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) – University of Kent
- Member - Planning and Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Member - Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA)
- Member - Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Member - Agricultural Law Association (ALA)
- Member - Kent Law Society

Outside the office

When not in court, Simon enjoys spending time with his two young children as well as gardening and cooking. He also has a cider press and makes his own Kentish cider.

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