



## Alex Shattock

Call: 2018

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### Practice Manager

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## Expertise

Public, Planning, Environment, International, European Union Law, Property

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## Overview

Alex's practice focuses on public, planning and environmental law. His public law work includes matters concerning human rights, education, community care, immigration and information law. He has been involved in a number of widely reported judicial review challenges with a public interest element.

He has a doctorate (PhD) in public international law from Cambridge University.

Recent work includes:

- Acting for the claimant in *R (Hough) v SSHD*, a planning and consultation challenge to the controversial continued use of Napier Barracks as asylum seeker accommodation. Reported in The Guardian. With Charles Bishop and led by Alex

Goodman.

- Acting for the claimant in *R (Rights: Community: Action) v SSHCLG* [2021] EWCA Civ 1954, an environmental and equalities challenge to the government's "slum housing" permitted development reforms and Class E planning deregulation (Alex appeared in both the Court of Appeal and Divisional Court), reported in the media here, here and here. Led by Paul Brown QC. During the course of the claim, the government announced minimum space standards for permitted development homes in England.
- Acting for the claimant in *XXX v Camden Borough Council* [2020] EWCA Civ 1468, the leading Court of Appeal case on applications for anonymity orders under CPR 39.2. Led by Justin Bates.
- Acting for Friends of the Earth opposing a new deep coal mine in Cumbria at a 4 week planning inquiry. Led by Paul Brown QC. Reported on the BBC and in several national newspapers.
- *Leadbetter v Secretary of State*: Acting for the claimant in an equality challenge on behalf of a blind lady to the provision of inaccessible Covid-19 shielding information. Settled with all the claimant's costs paid, after the government agreed to reconsider its approach and pay for detailed research into accessible shielding communications. Led by Tim Buley QC. Reported on the BBC.

Alex accepts direct access and pro bono instructions where appropriate. He is a legal reviewer for the charity Freedom From Torture and has done a lot of work with the Environmental Law Foundation.

During his doctorate he researched the legality of military intervention in civil wars. He also has law degrees from Oxford and LSE. His previous work experience includes teaching economics, working in a secure prison, and working at the Law Commission on its driverless cars project. In his spare time he enjoys films, video games, and Scandinavian heavy metal music.

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## Human rights and civil liberties

Alex has a keen interest in human rights, civil liberties and Equality Act issues. A lot of his work in this area is done on Legal Aid. Notable work includes:

- Sole counsel for the claimant in numerous urgent claimant reviews of the Home Office's failure to provide adequate accommodation to vulnerable destitute asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers. His clients in this area have included a large number of disabled and/or stateless asylum seekers with infant children. See e.g. *TG v SSHD* [2021] 1 WLUK 253 and *K v SSHD* [2020] EWHC 3639 (Admin).
- *Leadbetter v Secretary of State*: Acting for the claimant in an equality challenge on behalf of a blind lady to the provision of inaccessible Covid-19 shielding information. Settled with all the claimant's costs paid, after the government agreed to reconsider its approach and pay for detailed research into accessible shielding communications. Led by Tim Buley QC. Reported on the BBC.
- Instructed for the claimant in an urgent Article 3 challenge to a Council's decision to remove a homeless man on daily dialysis from a hospital without an adequate accommodation and transport package in place.
- Instructed for the claimant in an urgent High Court challenge to a local authority and CCG's failure to carry out an assessment under s.117 of the Mental Health Act.
- *DMA v SSHD* [2020] EWHC 3416 (Admin) (interim hearing only): A successful High Court disclosure application to require the Secretary of State to release sensitive KPI data relating to its private accommodation providers for failed asylum seekers. The disclosed information was relied on heavily by the judge in the final hearing.
- Instructed for the claimant with Justin Bates in an Equality Act challenge to a local council's social housing allocation scheme.
- Claimant judicial review of a trafficking 'reasonable grounds' decision.
- Instructed in a claim against the Information Commissioner concerning information rights, anonymity orders, reasonable adjustments and freedom of expression. Led by Samantha Broadfoot QC and Julia Smyth.
- Numerous unlawful detention/false imprisonment judicial reviews and damages claims.

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## Planning and environmental law

Alex practices in all aspects of planning and environmental law. He is particularly interested in pollution, climate change and the overlap between equality law and planning.

Alex has worked for a variety of environmental NGOs and campaigners including Extinction Rebellion, WWF, Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth, RSPB, the Environmental Law Foundation and Rights: Community: Action.

Notable instructions include:

- *R (Cox and others) v Oil and Gas Authority*: Instructed by Extinction Rebellion in a judicial review of the Oil and Gas Authority's approach to the statutory definition of maximising economic revenue. Led by David Wolfe QC with Mellow Golden.
- *Bioabundance v South Oxfordshire District Council*: a section 113 Local Plan challenge brought on, inter alia, climate change grounds. Reported on the BBC, the Guardian and the Planner.
- *Rights: Community: Action v SSHCLG*: Acting for the claimant in an environmental and equality challenge to the recent permitted development and use class changes. Led by Paul Brown QC.
- Instructed by Friends of the Earth to oppose a new deep coal mine in Cumbria at a 4-week planning inquiry. Led by Paul Brown QC. Reported on the BBC.
- Acting for the claimant in an environmental challenge to a segregated asylum camp built at Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre. Success at the pre-action stage. Led by Alex Goodman. Reported on the BBC, Independent and Guardian.
- *R (CARA) v North Dorset District Council* [2021] EWHC 646 (Admin): successful late judicial review of a planning permission for a large caravan site in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (brought 6.5 years out of time). Led by Richard Turney.
- *Haytop Country Park*: Sole counsel for a Rule 6 Party in a seven day planning inquiry in which the developer had expanded a caravan site after unlawfully felling 100+ protected trees. Cross-examination on landscape, heritage, arboriculture, and planning. Opening submissions quoted in local media.
- Advising clients on a proposed judicial review relating to endemic river pollution.

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## Education law

Alex has a strong education law practice and been instructed on a variety of education matters. He advises individuals, schools, local authorities and the DfE. He is regularly instructed in SEN appeals and discrimination challenges in the First-tier Tribunal, involving issues such as whether an EHC plan should be made, choice of placement, overprovision, unreasonable public expenditure, and whether non-NHS approved treatments can be included in an EHC plan.

He often advises schools and local authorities on discrimination and equality issues.

He was instructed by Ofsted in a significant judicial review of a report brought by the educational establishment in question.

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## Immigration law

Alex regularly appears in immigration and asylum hearings, in the First-tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal and High Court. He has appeared in the Upper Tribunal in several deportation cases and has a particular expertise in cases involving the EEA Regulations.

He also regularly advises on unlawful detention and false imprisonment cases, including merits and quantum issues.

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## General public law

Alex has a broad public law practice and is regularly instructed in judicial review matters. Recently he has been instructed on public law cases involving elections, special educational needs assessments in schools, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit, asylum and immigration, age assessments and the *vires* of public authority actions. Recent instructions include:

- Advising claimants and local authorities on various data law matters,
- A claimant judicial review challenge to a local council's complaints handling policy,
- Advising schools and local authorities on various public law and equality matters,

- Several claims relating to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

He has advised on various Parish Council issues including a potential High Court application to declare that various elected officeholders acted while disqualified.

At the Law Commission, Alex was employed in the Public Law group and worked on several reform projects dealing with complex public law and regulatory problems. He is also familiar with public law issues relating to prisons, having worked for a year at HMP Hewell in Worcestershire, a Category B secure prison.

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## International law

Alex has an in-depth knowledge of international law. During his PhD he taught students on the undergraduate international law module. His doctoral research considered issues such as terrorism, military intervention, self-determination, neutrality and the UN Charter. He has presented his research at several academic conferences and at the UK Law Commission. His research on civil wars was cited in Professor Gray's *International Law and the Use of Force* (4<sup>th</sup> ed), the leading academic textbook on military intervention.

Alex has been instructed on cases involving international human rights obligations, the extra-territoriality of UK discrimination legislation and the UNHCR. He acted for the defendant in a challenge to a UK resettlement scheme for refugees fleeing Syria, in which the claimant argued too many Muslim were being admitted onto the scheme in breach of equality law and public international law (Led by David Blundell QC).

He has also provided advice on a variety of public international law matters, including:

- Advising on the application of international treaty law in the context of Brexit.
  - Advising on the scope of certain international immunities.
  - the UK treaty ratification process.
  - issues relating to the Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories.
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## Qualifications

PhD in public international law, University of Cambridge. Supervised by Professor Christine Gray. Thesis title: The legal limits of intervention by invitation of government in civil wars. Funded by a full scholarship and maintenance grant.

BPTC, University of Law. Inns of Court Major Scholarship.

LLM in public international law, London School of Economics. 1st in year.

BA in jurisprudence, University of Oxford. New College Scholar.

Alex attended state comprehensive schools and was the first in his family to go to university.

Alex is an alumnus of the Hague Academy of International Law, a centre for advanced international legal studies based in the Peace Palace at the Hague, Netherlands. He was the only British scholar to obtain a place on the 2014 Hague Academy public international law programme.

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## Recommendations

*"He is very junior, but he stood out as being a new leading light in the claimant public law Bar. I had a really pleasant experience. Clients like him as well - as he's a down-to-earth guy."* (Research for Chambers UK Bar 2022)

*"He's a very good young junior. He always performs extremely well, and is a bright young thing, really."* (Research for Chambers UK Bar 2022)

*"He's been fantastic."* (Research for Chambers UK Bar 2022)

*"He will be a star of the future. He is very good."* (Research for Chambers UK Bar 2022)

*"I just wanted to say how impressed I have been with Alex Shattock's work on the cases he has been doing for me. His drafting*

*is great, he is lovely to work with, and his advocacy is compelling. AND he has achieved some great results for our clients. I know that you probably know this already - but I thought I would pass on to you how impressive I have found him."* - E-mail to chambers from solicitor client.

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## Scholarships and prizes

### Scholarships

WM Tapp Studentship in Law, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Full tuition and living costs paid for a 3-year PhD.

Lord Denning Scholarship (major Inns of Court BPTC award), Lincoln's Inn.

Hardwicke Entrance Award, Lincoln's Inn.

New College Scholar, New College, Oxford. For distinction in law exams.

### Prizes

Opinion writing subject prize, University of Law. For the highest mark in the opinion writing exam.

Best Journal Entry prize, Legal Cheek. For an essay on sovereign immunity from domestic criminal prosecution. Presented at the 'Legal Cheek Awards'.

Shortlisted for the Harry Porter Prize (top 3 entries), Cambridge Footlights. The Footlights' annual prize for an original comedy play script.

Georg Schwarzenberger Prize in Public International Law, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. For highest overall achievement in public international law across the University of London law schools in a given year.

First Prize, New Statesman/Beatrice Webb Memorial Trust Essay Competition. For an essay on post-war economic policy. £1,000 award presented in Parliament. Essay published in the New Statesman magazine.

Lawyers' Alumni Prize, LSE. For ranking 1<sup>st</sup> out of 251 graduate law students.

Blackstone Prize, LSE. For best overall LLM results in public international law subjects.

LSE/African Prisons Project Human Rights Moot prize, LSE. Full funding for an internship in Uganda, for winning the Human Rights Moot.

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## Publications

Promoting Climate Justice through International Law- A Matter for the ICJ?, BICCL's Rising Sea Levels webinar series.

The A Word: Academic Appeals in Public Law Challenges, Judicial Review.

'Dinner Party Conversation', European Journal of International Law.

'Slaying the Giants', New Statesman essay prize winner.

'What would happen if the Queen went on a crime spree?', Legal Cheek prize winner.

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## **Inquiries**

17 Mar 2022	Major riverside development allowed in Reading for Berkeley Homes
15 Nov 2019	Residential scheme dismissed on appeal on grounds including unresolved highways matters

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## **Publications**

17 May 2022	Possible outcomes of Public Inquiries: what success looks like
17 May 2022	Public Inquiry - webinar
03 Feb 2022	'Strengthening Free Speech'
03 Feb 2022	Human Rights Act - the new Bill of Rights - webinar
17 Jan 2022	Temporary Asylum Accommodation and Delay
17 Jan 2022	Asylum Accommodation - webinar
18 Oct 2021	Designing for Equality and Best interests of the Child
18 Oct 2021	Equality Law for Planners - webinar
04 Mar 2021	Exams 2021: Equality Issues
04 Mar 2021	Exams 2021: legal issues
10 Nov 2020	Case law on the use of medical/medicolegal reports in court proceedings
10 Nov 2020	Medical Evidence in the Asylum Determination Process: Best Practice - webinar
10 Jul 2020	Rising Sea Levels: Promoting Climate Justice through International Law- A Matter for the ICJ?
01 Jul 2020	The TCC guide to public procurement claims: confidentiality rings/disclosure
01 Jul 2020	Introduction to Public Procurement 2: Challenging and defending public procurement decisions
22 Jun 2020	Machine learning and the future of asylum claims
22 Jun 2020	Asylum and Human Rights Update - Webinar
08 Jun 2020	Fratila v SSWP - pre-settled status and benefits entitlement
08 Jun 2020	EU free movement law and the EU settlement scheme - Webinar

31 Mar 2020	Unlawful Detention Damages
31 Jan 2020	Artificial intelligence, decision-making and the law
05 Nov 2019	Development Plan Challenges Update
01 Oct 2019	Compulsory Acquisition

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