



Sasha White QC

Call: 1991 Silk: 2013

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Expertise

Planning, Environment

Overview

Sasha White QC is a Planning specialist with particular expertise in planning inquiries and High Court work.

He was nominated for Planning Silk of the Year by Legal 500 for 2020.

In 2020 Sasha:

1. Has represented Tower Hamlets successfully in the biggest Planning Litigation of 2020 involving the Secretary of State conceding alleged bias in the High Court in relation to the grant of planning permission to the Westferry Printworks development which has featured on the front page of every national newspaper in the past month in the "cash for favours" political crisis leading to the permission being quashed.

2. Has represented Sunderland City Council in one of the biggest planning inquiries of 2020 which featured in prime ministers question time on February 12 2020 involving a gasification plant in Sunderland which resulted in over 10,000 objections from local residents.
3. Has represented Wokingham Borough Council in the first appeal decision to mention Covid-19's effect on Housing Land Supply in successfully defending the refusal of planning permission by the Council.
4. Has represented Catesby Developments in Alford in getting planning permission for the Housing development at appeal and costs awarded against the LPA.
5. Has represented the Anderson Group winning permission at appeal for the redevelopment of Swan Wharf within the London Legacy Development Corporation area.
6. Has advised a major London planning authority on the biggest planning application they have dealt with.
7. Has advised on 4 major new settlements throughout the UK.
8. Has advised on the planning application for the biggest proposal in the North East this year.
9. Is instructed to promote a million square foot B class employment scheme in the North West at a call in inquiry later in the year.
10. Has been involved in creating "Have We Got Planning News for You" which has had over 25,000 viewers since April 2020 in the first 10 episodes.

He has been described as a "Great Advocate" [Chambers & Partners 2018] and a "lovely, lovely guy to work with" [Chambers & Partners 2017] and "as a hugely impressive High Court and inquiry advocate" [Legal 500 2020].

Since taking Silk in 2013 he has been:

- Listed as number 6 in the Planning Magazine Survey of Leading Silks for 2019-20.
- Identified as one of the top three silks in residential planning appeal work in the UK in the Planning Magazine for 2020.
- Identified as a leading silk in Planning in Chambers & Partners in every year since taking silk.
- Identified as a leading silk within the top 20 identified in Legal 500 2020.

As a Junior he was:

- Stated to be "the leading Planning junior in the UK" by Legal 500 in 2003.
- Identified as the number one Planning Junior in the UK by Planning Magazine for 8 consecutive years.

In the past 5 years since 2015 Sasha has:

- Appeared as advocate over 100 public inquiries under the Planning Acts.
- Appeared as advocate in the High Court and Court of Appeal on numerous occasions.
- Successfully promoted the Newcastle and Gateshead EIP involving the promotion of 40,000 homes.
- Promoted over 75 Housing Appeal Schemes ranging in size from 50 to 5000 units.
- Been instructed by the Homes and Communities Agency in England and the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland.
- Been instructed by 8 of the top 10 planning solicitors firms identified in the Planning Magazine.
- Been instructed by 9 of the top 10 UK housebuilders.
- Been instructed by 8 of the top 10 UK retailers.
- Advised on 5 major settlements and garden villages all in excess of 5000 units.
- Advised on many student housing schemes for the major providers.
- Advised on many care home schemes for many of the leading operators in the field.
- Advised on many of the most notable listed building and conservation area appeals in the UK including schemes in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Camden.
- Appeared at EIPs for both the LPAs and developers.
- Been instructed by the leading members of the Land Promoters Development Forum including Wates, Catesby Estates and Ptarmigan.
- Appeared for the LPA in a major inquiry in Sunderland for an EFW proposal in February 2020 mentioned in Prime Minister Questions.
- Won Permission for a major redevelopment in the LLDC in November 2019.
- Won the Inspectors recommendation to refuse the Westferry Printworks proposals for a major redevelopment scheme of 1500 homes in January 2020.
- Won planning permission at appeal for the largest town centre redevelopment in August 2019 in Swanley, Kent.
- Advised a major London Planning Authority in 2019 on the biggest planning application in their history.

Previous career highlights include:

- Pupillage with Neil King QC, Alun Alesbury and William Hicks QC.
- Promoting the major expansion of Liverpool Airport in 1995 with Lionel Read QC.
- Appearing in the 12 party Peterborough Retail inquiry in 1996 led by Stephen Morgan.
- Advising Tesco Stores from 1997-present day on over 200 retail schemes.

- Supporting at appeal the expansion of Brent Cross in 1999.
- Winning permission for the new Newcastle Falcons Stadium in 2002.
- Winning permission for the preservation of part of the Cliveden Estate in 2008.
- Promoting a major new Tesco superstore led by David Elvin QC in Devon in 2008.
- Winning planning permission at appeal for major new Tesco superstore led by Russell Harris in Wiltshire in 2009.
- Quashing a Planning permission due to breaches of the EIA regulations in *Cooperative Group v Northumberland County Council* in 2009
- Winning in the Supreme Court with Neil Cameron QC in *Morge v Hampshire County Council* in 2010.
- Winning planning permission for 500 student units at appeal for UCL in 2010.
- Appearing for North Yorkshire County Council in a gas processing factory in 2011.
- Protecting the planning permission for a new stadium for FC United in the High Court in 2012.
- Protecting the planning permission for the redevelopment of Old Trafford Cricket Ground in the Court of Appeal in 2013 led by Christopher Katkowski QC in 2012.
- Winning permission on appeal for 1000 houses in North Tyneside for Persimmon and the Duke of Northumberland in 2013 and 2014.
- Appearing successfully in the Cornwall EIP for Wain Homes in 2014.
- Winning permission for over 200 houses for Wates in Chichester in 2014/2015.
- Winning permission at the third appeal into a housing site in Wallingford in 2016.
- Winning permission for a new school in the Green Belt in Hurley in 2016.
- Defending successfully the first Fracking planning permission in the High Court in 2016.

Personal:

- Read Law at Trinity College Cambridge where he was Vice President of the Cambridge University Law Society.
- Is a Director of Middlesex County Cricket Club and Chair of the Governance Committee.
- Has run 3 marathons [London, NYC, London] and 15 half marathons in the past 5 years.
- Has entered the Prudential London 100 mile cycle ride for August 2020.
- Is the Captain of Aston Rowant Cricket Club 4th
- Is a member of the following cricket clubs - MCC, Middlesex CCC, Kent CCC, Western Province CC, Primrose Hill CC.
- Is a member of the following golf clubs - Huntercombe, RAC, Alnmouth and Turnberry.
- Has Season Tickets at Rangers FC, Arsenal FC, Murrayfield and Twickenham.
- Has been married since 1997, is the father of 3 children and took 4 years away from work to be their full time carer in 2004-2008.

Qualifications

Sasha graduated in law from Trinity College Cambridge.

Sasha is the author of *Planning Appeals* which is a textbook covering all matters concerning the law, practice and policy relating to planning appeals.

He has lectured widely on such subjects as the Planning Bill, the IPC, the Planning Policy relating to London and the issue of costs in Public Inquiries.

He has also contributed articles and legal comments to *Planning Magazine*.

Sasha is a member of the Planning and Environmental Bar Association (PEBA)

He is extremely knowledgeable, has a brilliant mind, is a pleasure to work with

Chambers & Partners

Cases

26 May 2020	Secretary of State's decision to approve tall tower scheme quashed for apparent bias
20 Dec 2016	Planning Court rejects North Yorkshire fracking challenge
01 Jul 2014	R (on the application of Hampton Bishop Parish Council) v Herefordshire Council [2014] EWCA Civ 878
16 Dec 2013	R (on the application of Hampton Bishop Parish Council) v Herefordshire Council [2013] EWHC 3947 (Admin)
10 Mar 2011	Derwent Holdings Limited v Trafford Borough Council [2011] EWHC 491
10 Jun 2010	R (Morge) v Hampshire County Council [2010] EWCA Civ 608
21 Jul 2009	Gates Hydraulics v Secretary of State

Inquiries

29 Apr 2014	Apple Hill care home, Henley
01 Nov 2011	Ryedale Gas Facility
22 Dec 2010	University College London
18 Mar 2010	Prudhoe Town Centre Redevelopment
24 Apr 2009	Amesbury Retail Inquiry
01 Jan 2009	Retirement Village, West Wales

Publications

30 Nov 2020	Bias and predetermination in planning law: The lessons of Westferry and beyond
30 Nov 2020	Planning High Court Challenges Annual Conference, Part 3 - webinar
02 Jul 2020	Virtual Inquiries: a guide - Webinar
02 Jul 2020	What is the current position of the Planning Inspectorate to virtual appeals?
30 Jun 2020	Neighbourhood Plans: The Latest Law And Policy - Webinar
22 Apr 2020	A Comprehensive Guide to the Latest Planning Law, Practice and Policy (Part Two) - Webinar
22 Apr 2020	The Key Themes And Trends In Housing Appeals Over The Past Year (part Two)
15 Apr 2020	A Comprehensive Guide to the Latest Planning Law, Practice and Policy (Part One) - Webinar
15 Apr 2020	The Key Themes And Trends In Housing Appeals Over The Past Year (part One)

02 Dec 2019	Case Law Update
13 Nov 2017	High Court green belt case law update
16 Oct 2017	Current Legal Trends In Retail Policy And Practice
05 Jun 2017	Making it Fit: Applying development standards in London
17 Nov 2014	Town and Village Greens: Legal Update
08 Oct 2014	The NPPF and Localism: How courts and planning appeal decisions are interpreting the guidance
06 Feb 2014	Challenging PINS procedural decisions
18 Sep 2013	The NPPF in Practice: How planning appeal decisions are interpreting the guidance 18 months on
13 May 2013	Challenging Development Plans in the High Court
22 Apr 2013	Village Greens: Important Recent Case Law April 2013
21 Sep 2011	Town & Village Greens - Strategy for making a successful application for registration of land as a village green
09 Dec 2010	Planning Law Lunch Workshops - Top Planning Cases of 2010
12 Feb 2010	PPS4 Industrial Commercial Development
12 Feb 2010	PPS4 Specific Implications for Retail Developers
20 Apr 2009	London Specific Planning Issues - The Policy Direction