



LEGAL 500 (2009 Edition)



4-5 has shown continued success in this year's Legal 500 with a total of 55 barristers recommended as leaders in their field in their specialist areas. In addition, Legal 500 have ranked 4-5 as a leading set in Administrative and Public Law, Defamation and Privacy, Education, Environment, Media/Entertainment & Sport and Planning noting that;

"4-5 Gray's Inn Square acts for corporate and private clients, as well as national, regional and local government. Planning and public law remains the set's stronger offering, alongside environmental law. Head clerk, Michael Kaplan and his team provide 'excellent advice on choice of counsel in a quick and efficient manner'. Hodge Malek QC is 'particularly good on tactics in complex international matters'."

Administrative & Public Law

Ranked barristers : Timothy Straker QC, Richard Clayton QC, Richard McManus QC, Richard Spearman QC, Timothy Corner QC, James Strachan, James Ramsden, Charles Bourne, Jonathan Moffett and Andrew Sharland.

"4-5 Gray's Inn Square has 'a clear understanding of the realities of local government' and 'offers excellent service in all respects'. Timothy Straker QC 'produces knowledgeable advice with sensitivity' while Timothy Corner QC is 'friendly and approachable'. James Strachan displays 'first-class drafting' and 'excellent advocacy', appearing as junior counsel, led by David Pannick QC, to The Rent Service in a House of Lords human rights challenge regarding the administration of housing benefit. Charles Bourne is 'very commercial in his approach' and Andrew Sharland 'demonstrates an empathy with the client that many lawyers would do well to try and replicate'. Richard Clayton QC offers 'flashes of brilliance'."

Aviation

Ranked barristers : John Steel QC

"John Steel at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square [is recommended] for his extensive airport planning expertise."

Banking & Finance

Ranked barristers : Hodge Malek QC and Damien Falkowski

Commercial Litigation

Hodge Malek QC and Paul Marshall

Defamation and Privacy

Ranked barristers : Richard Spearman QC and James Strachan

“Richard Spearman QC of 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square enjoys an excellent reputation for legal insight in privacy matters. Solicitors describe him as having ‘an aura few other counsel in the field possess’; he is ‘pragmatic and commercial, with an amazing eye for detail and ability to retain information’. James Strachan’s approach is seen as ‘very positive’. The set are seen as ‘consistently good, and the clerking team commendable’.”

Education

Richard McManus QC, Jonathan Moffett, Jonathan Auburn, Andrew Sharland, Lisa Busch , Paul Greatorex, Sarah-Jane Davies and Michelle Pratley

“4-5 Gray’s Inn Square is ‘excellent’ on public law, with Richard McManus QC ‘being able to establish very good rapport with clients’. Jonathan Moffett’s quality of written advice is ‘always first-class, and his procedural knowledge, and tactical awareness cannot be faulted’. Jonathan Auburn ‘has a firm grasp of High Court procedure and case strategy’. Andrew Sharland’s ‘approach is practical, and he demonstrates client empathy.’”

Employment

Ranked barristers : Robert Griffiths QC and Stephen Whale

“Stephen Whale [is recommended] at the ‘very client friendly’ 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square.”

Environment

Ranked barristers : Timothy Straker QC, Timothy Corner QC, Robert Griffiths QC, John Steel QC, Garrett Byrne and Lisa Busch.

4-5 Gray’s Inn Square boasts a wide-ranging environmental resume. Leaders include the ‘first rate’ John Hobson QC, a ‘good strategic thinker who instils confidence in a team’. Tim Straker QC, who has an ‘excellent, in-depth knowledge of the environmental impact assessment process’, and John Steel QC were recently embroiled in a contest over an SSSI for fungi in Wales. Five members of the set were involved in the five-month call-in inquiry concerning the proposed increase in runway use at Stansted Airport. Junior Lisa Busch is recommended.

Fraud: civil

Hodge Malek QC and Richard Spearman QC

Human rights and Civil Liberties

Richard Clayton QC, Charles Bourne and James Strachan

“At 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square, juniors Charles Bourne and James Strachan act across all areas of public law, including local government. Richard Clayton QC is a ‘knowledgeable and insightful’ lawyer.”

Insurance and reinsurance

Ranked barristers : Hodge Malek QC

Media, Entertainment and Sport

Ranked barristers : Robert Griffiths QC, Richard Spearman QC and James Ramsden

“Richard Spearman QC at 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square wins plaudits for his ‘amazing knowledge and technical ability’ having successfully represented JK Rowling’s son, David Murray, in a privacy action in the Court of Appeal. Robert Griffiths QC has advised on the development of sports grounds including Lord’s cricket ground and the Oval. Sports lawyer James Ramsden is ‘gains the trust and respect of clients’.”

Planning

Ranked barristers : Timothy Corner QC, Timothy Straker QC, Peter Village QC, Brian Ash QC , John Steel QC, Robert Griffiths QC, John Hobson QC, James Strachan, Andrew Fraser-Urquhart, Robert White, Alex Goodman, Andrew Tabachnik and Stephen Whale

“With a traditionally strong reputation in the Administrative Court, 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square under the ‘tenacious and determined’ Peter Village QC, successfully challenged a council’s affordable housing policy under section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Frequently involved in landmark matters, including Stansted and the largest planning application in the history of Maidstone, the set’s leaders include Timothy Straker QC, who is engaged in promoting the first bridge over the River Mersey in 50 years. Also celebrated are the ‘bright and articulate’ Tim Corner QC. Juniors include the ‘calm and confident’ James Strachan, and Andrew Fraser-Urquhart, who has a burgeoning reputation in renewable energy and wind farm work.”