

David Cowan (Associate)



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Profile

David joined Doughty Street Chambers in 2015, having previously been at Arden Chambers. He joined the Bar in 2006, through the “Distinguished Academic Route”.

He predominantly practises in the areas of homelessness and allocations, landlord and tenant, human rights, and property law, including shared ownership. He appears in County Courts in his areas of interest, on which he also advises. He relishes the nitty gritty of housing and property law issues, constructive trusts and concurrent tenancies; and he has expertise in eligibility issues, particularly in EU law, human rights and public law, and equality issues. He was a part-time secondee to the Welsh Government, assisting with Renting Homes (Wales) Bill, and he has expertise in housing issues in Wales.

He was junior counsel in *Bell v Lambeth LBC* [2022] EWHC 2008 (Admin); *Guiste v Lambeth LBC* [2019] EWCA Civ 1758; *Haringey LBC v Ahmed* [2017] EWCA Civ 1861; *McLeod v Peabody Trust* [2016] EWHC 737 (Admin); *Samin v Westminster CC* [2016] UKSC 1, *Temur v Hackney LBC* [2014] EWCA Civ 877 (homelessness), *Poplar HARCA v Howe* [2010] EWHC 1745 (QB) (public law defence to possession claim), and *R(Uddin) v LB Tower Hamlets*, discussed in 2008 *Journal of Housing Law*.

He manages his practice alongside being Journal of Law and Society Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at Cardiff University Law School, where he teaches and writes on property and housing law. He regularly participates in training events, and writes regularly for practitioner audiences.

In the past, he has been a member of the Department for Communities and Local Government's expert panel, the executive of the Housing Law Practitioners' Association, Civil Justice Council's Housing and Land Committee, and a Director of Legal Action Group. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Academy of Social Science.

Publications

David regularly speaks on housing law issues at conferences and training sessions. His commitment to social and housing justice has resulted in more than 10 books and 35 peer reviewed works, practically all on housing and land issues. His more specific research projects run from shared ownership to rehousing sex offenders, choice-based lettings to homelessness internal reviews, harassment and unlawful eviction to possession cases in the county court. His most significant books are *Great Debates in Property Law* (3rd ed, 2023); *Supported Housing and the Law* (2021); *Ownership, Narrative Things* (2018); *Housing Law and Policy* (2011).

David also writes regularly for practitioner audiences on issues such as shared ownership, homelessness review procedures, and allocations law.

Related practice areas

Housing, Social Welfare and Property