

Graham Denholm



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Profile

Graham is recognised as a leading junior barrister in immigration, civil liberties and human rights, and public and administrative law. He appears regularly in the Administrative Court, the County Court, the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, and the Court of Appeal, and has conducted numerous cases before the First-tier and Upper Tribunals.

Related practice areas

Immigration

Administrative & Public Law

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities

Mediation

Immigration Detention Group

Anti-Trafficking

Immigration

Ranked in Band 1 for immigration in Chambers and Partners 2021, where he is described as “a standout junior” Graham has “notable expertise in asylum and deportation matters, particularly [in] cases involving vulnerable clients such as children and trafficking victims,” and is “a recognised immigration detention expert.”

Graham’s immigration practice extends from personal and business matters, including EU free movement law, to complex asylum, human rights, and deportation cases. He has extensive experience of human rights cases involving children. He has a particular interest in the impact of Brexit on EU nationals in the UK and on those employing EU nationals.

Graham is well-known for his work challenging immigration detention and is regularly instructed in detention challenges in the Administrative Court, the Queen’s Bench Division of the High Court, and the County Court. He is the co-author of *Detention under the Immigration Acts: Law and Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Administrative and Public Law

Ranked as a leading junior in Administrative and Public Law in Chambers and Partners (Band 4), Graham’s public law practice spans a range of different areas, including public law challenges in the immigration sphere, age dispute challenges, education (including funding challenges for care leavers and others), social care and data protection. His broad expertise in immigration law means he is particularly well placed to advise in cases in which immigration status is a live issue. He appears in the specialist Tribunals and the Administrative Court and welcomes instructions across the range of Chambers’ public law work as sole counsel or as part of a team.

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities, General Civil Litigation

Graham is recognised as a leading practitioner in the field of civil actions against the Home Office arising out of immigration detention. He is an experienced trial lawyer with an excellent knowledge of civil procedure and strong tactical judgement. He is an effective and focussed cross-examiner of lay and expert witnesses and is known for his measured and analytical advocacy. He is ranked in both directories in band/tier 3 for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, with Chambers & Partners noting his “unsurpassed” knowledge of false imprisonment. The Legal 500 refers to his “encyclopaedic knowledge of immigration detention powers and

policies [and] sound public law analysis.”

Graham has taken many multi-track civil claims to trial in the High Court and County Court and has been instructed in countless others that were successfully compromised. Many of the cases in which Graham has been instructed included claims for psychiatric injury. He works collaboratively with his instructing solicitors and is happy to be involved from the early stages of proceedings to assist in formulating a case strategy.

Graham's broader experience of civil practice includes general personal injury work, landlord and tenant cases, and litigation relating to art and antiquities. He is keen to develop his civil litigation practice into other related areas such as actions against the police.

Mediation / ADR

Graham has a keen interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution and is in the process of becoming an accredited mediator.

Direct Access

Graham is accredited by the Bar Council for Direct Access, which means that, in appropriate cases, he can accept instructions directly from members of the public and businesses for the provision of advisory and advocacy services.