



Paul Burns

E-Mail burns@exchangechambers.co.uk
Call 1998

PRACTICE

Paul is Head of the Local Government & Social Housing Department at Exchange Chambers. He advises and represents clients throughout the country and has particular expertise in the following areas of practice:

- Anti-social behaviour litigation including ASBO's, injunctions, possession actions and demotion claims in cases involving threats to kill, gang activity, drug dealing, violence, intimidation and general nuisance including the largest family anti-social behaviour order and the widest County Court banning order. Also regularly deals with disability discrimination and capacity issues.
- All aspects of Housing Law, Residential Landlord & Tenant Law and Housing Management including Section 11 Landlord & Tenant Act, Section 4 Defective Premises Act (including personal injury), Environmental Protection Act and stock transfer issues (clients have a combined housing stock of over half a million properties).
- The interface between Housing Law and Human Rights
- Judicial Review and Human Rights

In 2007 Paul became the only barrister to date to be awarded a Chief Constable's Commendation by Merseyside Police. The Commendation was awarded for "*commitment, professionalism, dedication and motivation*" following Paul's role as Counsel in high-profile litigation concerning serious gang related activity in Merseyside. Paul continues to be at the forefront of developing the use of special measures in the County Court including the use of voice modulation in cases of witness intimidation.

In 2008 Paul was the only barrister in the north west of England to be listed by The Times as one of the top 10 UK "*Future Stars of the Bar*".

In 2009 Paul was named "Barrister of the Year 2009-2010" at the biennial Liverpool Law Society Legal Awards.

Since 2010 Paul has acted as Independent Counsel to Police Misconduct Hearings.

Paul has been a Governor at a leading Merseyside school since 2003 and Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors since June 2011.

In June 2010 Paul was appointed a Non-Executive Director at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust by The Appointments Commission.

CASES

Significant reported cases include R [on the Application of Gilboy] v. Liverpool City Council & Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2007] EWHC 2335 (Admin) [2008] EWCA Civ 751 where he successfully represented the Defendant in the High Court and Court of Appeal, R [on the Application of Langley] v. Preston Crown Court & West Lancashire District Council & Secretary of State for Justice [2008] EWHC 2623 (Admin) where he successfully represented the Interested Party in the Divisional Court and Knowsley Housing Trust v. Prescott & Prescott [2009] EWHC 924 where he successfully represented the Appellant in a High Court appeal against the refusal of an outright possession order in a drugs case.

Paul is currently instructed in a number of ongoing cases of interest covering diverse areas of practice. These include a High Court test case concerning the interface between residential possession proceedings and human rights legislation, judicial review litigation concerning issues of mental health and housing and civil litigation concerning gang behaviour and firearms, capacity issues and the interface between housing law and equality legislation.

MEMBERSHIPS

Paul is a Member of The Northern Circuit and The Northern Administrative Law Association. He sits as one of two Counsel on the Technology & Construction Court Users Committee, is a Sir Thomas More Scholar and Hardwicke Scholar at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and is a Registered Pupil Supervisor.

TRAINING

Paul regularly provides continuous professional development training for local authorities and registered providers of social housing as well as support organisations including the police. All training seminars are fully accredited by the Law Society and Bar Council.

WHAT THE INDEPENDENT DIRECTORIES SAY

The **2009** Edition of Chambers UK cited Paul as a leader in his field and awarded him the highest available ranking, noting that "*Paul Burns has carved out a niche for himself as an expert on housing management, stock transfers and anti-social behaviour orders. Paul is recognised for his incredible level of expertise.... You know you'll get the best representation out there when you instruct him and you know he'll always do a damn good job for you*".

Chambers UK **2010** cited Paul as a leader in the fields of social housing and local government law where he was awarded the highest available ranking. He was the only barrister to feature as a leader in both areas of specialism and was noted for being "*... an excellent advocate who always has the ear of the Judge. His advice is always frank and realistic. He inspires great confidence in clients, who invariably go back to him time and time again.*"

Chambers UK **2011** again named Paul as the only barrister recognised as a leader in the fields of local government law and social housing law where he was awarded the highest available ranking. Chambers UK 2011 cited Paul's "*enviable reputation for his expert knowledge on anti-social behaviour litigation. He advises on the full range of housing matters and is noted for his thorough preparation and personable nature ... he is extremely highly regarded in the region for his local government work and is particularly commended for his expertise in housing law and stock transfers*".

In Chambers UK **2012** Paul has maintained his ranking as the only barrister to be named as a leader in the fields of local government law and social housing law. He is noted as an "*undisputed leader*" in social housing who is "*absolutely brilliant and a man with a high*

success rate ... a pleasure to work with ... sources note his ability to endear himself to both clients and instructing solicitors ... he is singled out in particular for his expertise in social housing and the interface of that with human rights law."

CONTACT

Further information may be obtained from Mr Roy Finney (Practice Manager) at finney@exchangechambers.co.uk.