



John Hendy QC



Call: 1972
Silk: 1987
Clerk: William Meade
Email clerk: wmeade@oldsquare.co.uk
Tel: 020 7269 0300
Email: clerks@oldsquare.co.uk

Profile

John Hendy QC was called to the Bar in 1972 commenced practice in 1977 and took silk in 1987.

You can download a Full CV for John which lists all his reported cases, by [clicking here](#).

Chambers and Partners 2019 credit 'His knowledge of the area is second to none and he is extremely dedicated to the cause' and call him 'a very good and level-headed advocate.' **Legal 500** 2018 say he 'combines exceptional powers of reasoning with compassion and humanity' and that 'his manner with both clients and the court is exemplary.' **Chambers & Partners** 2017 call him 'a forceful and robust advocate, and tremendously authoritative' and place him in 'The top flight of industrial action lawyers' adding that 'He's absolutely first-class, one of the top advocates for complex medical and employment-related disciplinary cases. If you want someone to really go for it, he's first-rate and hugely experienced.' **The Legal 500**, 2015 describes him as 'One of the best advocates at the Bar; supreme in the field of collective labour law'. **Chambers** 2015 says: Recognised as the leading silk at the Employment Bar when it comes to handling industrial relations cases ... His experience and skill in this area are lauded by clients and peers alike, who also praise him for his straightforward and effective advocacy' and **Chambers** 2014 said: 'A major figure in cases involving industrial relations, and a go-to barrister for a number of unions. He is well known for his work on high-profile, precedent-setting cases, and is an expert on injunctive restraints to industrial relations.' "He is an incredibly calm advocate who is very creative in looking at cases and taking them to the appellate level." **Chambers** 2013 spoke of 'the absolutely excellent John Hendy QC, who is a terrific fighter and an authoritative silk respected by opposing counsel, instructing solicitors and members of the judiciary.' 'A leading specialist in industrial relations cases, market sources say he superbly handles work of the utmost complexity and he continues to be a favoured choice of many notable solicitors for cutting-edge cases.' **The Legal 500**, 2013 described 'Star performer John Hendy QC as an extremely versatile advocate who can master any area of law.' **Chambers** 2012 recorded that he 'has the gravitas to pull off difficult arguments' and **Chambers** 2011 said he is 'capable at looking at cases from angles others might not, he is a very thorough advocate who certainly captures the attention of the court'; he is 'a delight to deal with', 'has a really nice touch with clients' and 'advocacy skills that simply knock opponents out.' It said that 'solicitors favour him as he is always thorough and well prepared, and has total command of the documents in front of him'. **The Legal 500** (2011) described him as an 'outstanding leader with unrivalled knowledge of trade union law'.



Without doubt he is best known for his work in industrial relations and employment law, having appeared in most of the UK's leading collective labour law cases in the last 36 years.

John has taken 9 cases to the European Court of Human Rights and appeared in in the Court of Justice of the European Union. He has appeared in 12 cases in the Supreme Court (including the House of Lords and the Privy Council), and has 68 reported cases in the Court of Appeal and 82 in the High Court. He has drafted applications to the supervisory committees of the International labour Organisation and European Social Charter.

He has also appeared in many high-profile inquests and inquiries, including:

- the Lakanal House fire inquest (for the bereaved and injured) 2013
- The Leveson Inquiry (for the NUJ), 2011-2012 (see his cross examination of Rupert Murdoch by [clicking here](#))
- The Potters Bar train crash inquest (for the bereaved), 2010
- the Ladbroke Grove Train Crash inquiry (for the victims), 2000
- the Southall Train Crash inquiry (for the victims), 1999
- the Street Markets inquiry for LB Tower Hamlets (chaired), 1991
- the Woolf inquiry into the Strangeways Prison Riot (for the POA), 1990
- the Kings Cross Fire disaster (for the Association of London Local Authorities) 1986.

In the past his practice included:

- personal injury work, predominantly claimant work injuries, disease and death
- representing doctors and others in disciplinary and regulatory cases

He is also:

- An Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Law, University College, London
- President of the International Centre for Trade Union Rights
- Chair of the Institute of Employment Rights
- Vice-President of the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine
- Fellow of the Society of Advanced Legal Studies

He is a frequent writer and speaker on trade union rights issues.

Career

| | |
|--------|---|
| 1969 | LLB (London University external; studied at Ealing technical College) |
| 1971 | LLM (Queen's, Belfast) |
| 1972 | Call to Bar (Gray's Inn) |
| 1972-3 | Pupillage |



- 1973-6 Director (full-time), Newham Rights Centre, East London
- 1976-7 Lecturer (labour and welfare law), Middlesex Polytechnic (now University)
- 1977 Began practice at the Bar of England and Wales
- 1987 Appointed Queen's Counsel
- 1995 Appointed Bencher of Gray's Inn
- 1998 Admitted to Bar of New South Wales
- 1999-2008 Head of Old Square Chambers
- 1999-2005 Appointed Visiting Professor, School of Law, Kings College, London
- 2014 Appointed Honorary Professor, Faculty of Law, University College, London
- 2015 Appointed a consultant to the International Trade Union Confederation in Brussels

Standing counsel to

- Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen
- Communication Workers' Union
- National Union of Journalists
- National Union of Mineworkers
- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
- Prison Officers' Association
- UNITE the Union
- University and College Union

Other relevant memberships

- Senior advocacy trainer, Gray's Inn
- Employment Lawyers Association
- Employment Law Bar Association (Chairman, 2003-5)
- Human Rights Lawyers' Association
- Industrial Law Society
- New South Wales Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- Western Circuit
- The Encyclopaedia of Employment Law editorial board
- Amicus Curiae (Journal of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies) editorial board

Recent and current work

- John has currently 5 on-going ECtHR cases, one for Unite the Union, one for the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (both raising Article 11 issues), and three for individuals (in employment matters raising Articles 6, 8 and 11 issues).
- He represents the Prison Officers' Association and the ICTU in separate matters before the International Labour Organisation



and the European Committee on Social Rights.

- He is currently leading for Unite the Union in the group litigation arising from the construction workers' blacklisting scandal. He is leading in a series of personal injury claims for civilians detained during the Iraq intervention.
- He represents the widow of a soldier killed by friendly fire in Iraq.
- He has an on-going doctor's disciplinary case and a barrister's disciplinary case.
- On a daily basis, he advises a variety of unions on rule book and industrial action matters.