1 COR

1 CROWN OFFICE ROW

"a brilliant and balanced advocate"

"quite simply brilliant; he is incisive, erudite and immensely knowledgeable, with a practical approach to litigation"

"a phenomenal brain … incredibly effective and his capacity for work is just unstinting. He is calm and in control, and inspires complete confidence"

Angus is recognised as one of the leading KCs at the Bar across a range of different fields, and particularly noted for the strength of his written and oral advocacy as well as his negotiation skills and strategic awareness. He was shortlisted for Human Rights and Public Law Silk of the Year at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2025.

He has 35 years of experience in public and private law on behalf of individuals, private bodies, Government departments, and other public bodies. He has been appointed to act as amicus curiae (advocate to the court) on many occasions, including in the phone hacking trial of *R v Rebekah Brooks et al* and committal proceedings against Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (aka Tommy Robinson). He has represented the UK Government at the UN in Geneva and in European Court of Human Rights in proceedings in Strasbourg. He has acted in 10 cases before the House of Lords / Privy Council / Supreme Court. In 2025 he was appointed to sit as a judge of the Courts of Appeal in Jersey and Guernsey (a part-time role).

Since its launch, he has been an editor of the UK Human Rights blog, which was set up and is maintained by members of 1 Crown Office Row. He also contributes to the Quarterly Medical Law Review (QMLR).

Before turning to law, Angus read Zoology at Oxford. He then worked in Zambia as a safari guide. He maintains his interest in natural history above and below water and has co-authored various papers on butterflies and hoverflies in the Hebrides and Madeira. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Linnean Society. He was a trustee of Buglife (the invertebrate conservation charity) for 10 years and

remains a trustee of the Barristers' Benevolent Association. Angus also keeps bees at his home in Hampshire and has twice (in 2014 and 2024) won the Appleby Trophy for 'best cut-comb' at the Meon Valley Beekeepers' annual show – although on the second occasion his was the only entry in that category. Since 2023 he has been entering his home-made marmalade at the World Marmalade Awards.

"Angus is approachable, thorough, and very user friendly, as well as an excellent tactician and advocate."

Legal 500 2026

"Angus has an incredible read on the courtroom. He has the court's ear and he really has extraordinary gravitas in the courtroom."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Angus is a real class act. He is a really wonderful operator with a wonderful turn of phrase and he's very committed."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Angus is quite simply brilliant; he is incisive, erudite and immensely knowledgeable, with a practical approach to litigation."

Legal 500 2024

"Angus is a very intelligent lawyer, who is measured and strategic in his presentation."

Chambers & Partners 2024

The McCullough Review

In June 2024 Angus was appointed by the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to conduct an independent review into conduct by PSNI arising from concerns raised in relation to surveillance of journalists, lawyers and other groups. Matthew Hill and Rajkiran Arhestey joined him as assistants on the work of the Review, which reported in September 2025.

Rwanda

In 2022-2023 Angus led the team of counsel acting *pro bono* for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, acing as intervener in the challenge to the Government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, leading to the Supreme Court decision in November 2023.

Special Advocate and National Security

Angus has been instructed as the special advocate in some of the most high profile cases of recent years in the field of national security, and has been active in promoting understanding and debate in relation to closed material procedures.

Notable national security cases include:

- Shamima Begum: Appeal against deprivation of British citizenship, in SIAC, the Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court.
- Saifullah v. Home Secretary (2020-2022): Challenge to the adequacy of investigation into deaths of Afghans in the course of a raid by a UK Army unit in Afghanistan, leading to the Haddon-Cave Inquiry.
- LTTE ('Tamil Tigers'): Appeal against refusal of deproscription before Prescribed Organisations Appeals Commission; appeal allowed by POAC in October 2020.
- CAAT: Challenge to UK licensing of arms sales to Saudi Arabia; Government's appeal to the Supreme Court withdrawn in 2020.
- Chagos Islanders Litigation (Bancoult et al): Appointed by the Divisional Court to act as Public Interest Immunity Advocate, 2018
- Abu Qatada: Proceedings in various courts, including the House of Lords, against high profile Islamist preacher
- Zatuliveter: Alleged Russian spy whose appeal against deportation was allowed
- AF (No.3): House of Lords case considering requirements of fairness in control order proceedings
- Al Rawi: Civil claim of Guantanamo detainees against the UK Government
- Pham: Statelessness and deprivation of British citizenship

Judicial Review

In recent major judicial reviews Angus has led teams of counsel, including:

- Wethersfield (2025): leading a team of counsel in a challenge to the Home Secretary's use of Wethersfield barracks as asylum accommodation.
- Medical Justice (2025): instructed on behalf of Medical Justice in the Court of Appeal, resisting the Home Secretary's appeal in relation to policies affecting detention of vulnerable people under immigration powers
- Manston (2024-2025): judicial review seeking an Article 3-compliant inquiry following the crisis at the Manston detention facility in 2022.

Medical Claims

He conducts medical claims of the highest value and complexity for both claimants and defendants. He won the Chambers and Partners award for personal injury and clinical negligence barrister of the year 2009, took

silk in 2010, and medical law remains a major specialism. Angus is available to act as a mediator or arbitrator in personal injury and clinical negligence disputes, bringing his extensive experience acting for both sides in the field to achieve resolution. He also advises and appears in regulatory and disciplinary matters.

Arbitration & Mediation

Angus is a qualified Arbitrator and member of the Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Arbitration Service (PIcARBS). He also has long experience of mediation and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, and is available for appointment as a Mediator.

Inquests and Inquiries

Angus is experienced in high profile inquests and public inquiries (dating back to roles in the Bloody Sunday and Rosemary Nelson Inquiries in Northern Ireland), often in relation to aspects involving sensitive or confidential information. He has been acting for the officers' ex-wives in the ongoing Undercover Policing Inquiry. Selected past inquest include:

- **Bournemouth helicopter crash.**
- **Private plane crash at RAF St Mawgan.**
- **Death of overseas visitor requiring heart transplant.**

Contempt of Court

Contempt of Court is an area of specialist expertise. He has been instructed by the Attorney General in cases of press and juror contempt, including the 'Facebook juror' case, and the first contempt proceedings brought against a newspaper for an online publication. He was appointed as amicus in the phone hacking criminal trial of *R v Rebekah Brooks and others*, to advise the court in relation to reporting restrictions and costs. Angus represented the UK Government in *Dallas v UK*, in Strasbourg, a case of juror contempt. He was also appointed as amicus in the committal proceedings in the Old Bailey against Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (Tommy Robinson).

Environmental Law

Selected Cases

- **Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee: 5 cases – 2009/10:** Appeared in the UN in Geneva on behalf of the UK Government.
- **United Utilities Water Plc v Environment Agency [2007] 1 WLR 2707, House of Lords.**

- **R (Greenpeace) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [2006] Env LR 19:** Challenge to the Defra's measures to tackle the problem of dolphin bycatch in pair trawling.
- **Environment Agency v Inglenorth Ltd [2009] EWHC 670 (Admin) Divisional Court:** Concerning the meaning of 'waste'.
- **Redfern Inquiry:** Represented one of the principal nuclear industry bodies.

Recommendations

Angus is recognised as a *Star Individual* by Chambers & Partners for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, reflecting his outstanding reputation and consistent excellence in this field. He also holds Band 1 rankings in three additional areas: Administrative & Public Law, Clinical Negligence, and Immigration. 2026 editorial includes:

- *"Angus is on top of the detail and a brilliant judicial review advocate."*
- *"Angus McCullough KC is the leading special advocate."*
- *"Angus has real authority in court."*
- *"When people have a choice, everyone would say Angus is their first choice for special advocate."*
- *"Angus is the star choice for national security litigation."*
- *"He has an ability, due to many years' experience, to understand what judges will do in cases and to use that to his strength in formulating his approach."*
- *"He is a very measured and impressive advocate."*
- *"He is an all round outstanding silk. He is experienced, provides excellent client care and is a real team player. He is an effective advocate and extremely effective at cross-examination."*
- *"Angus takes nothing at face value and he has a fantastic forensic mind. He has a super calming presence and is outstanding."*
- *"He is thoughtful and balanced, with the ability to see a clear answer in tricky cases."*
- *"Angus is client-friendly, knowledgeable and works extremely hard."*
- *"He is personable, incredibly intelligent, accessible, and reliable."*
- *"Angus is a giant in this area yet is so approachable. He is really lovely and deals with complex issues as if they were the most basic thing."*
- *"Angus is an excellent barrister with very good judgement."*
- *"Angus is the leading special advocate. He is brilliantly skilled and a first choice for these incredibly difficult cases."*
- *"Angus has real authority in court. He is a brilliant judicial review advocate – he goes at a nice pace and is on top of the detail."*

Angus is also recommended as a leading silk by the Legal 500 for Administrative law and Human Rights, Clinical Negligence and Immigration.

Appointments

- Judge of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey (part time appointment) (2025)

- Elected Bencher, Middle Temple (2016)
- Special Advocate (Northern Ireland) (2016)
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland (2016)
- Arbitrator, PICARBS (Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Arbitration Service) (2016)
- Special Advocate (England & Wales) (2002)
- Trustee, Barristers' Benevolent Association (2000)
- Member of Treasury "A" Panel (2002-2010)
- Member of Treasury "B" Panel (1997-2002)

Awards

Chambers & Partners 'Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence Barrister of the Year' Bar Award (2009)

Education

- Diploma in Law, Polytechnic of Central London (1989)
- MA, Pembroke College, Oxford (BA (Hons) 1987)

Memberships

- PNBA
- ALBA
- HRLA
- PIBA
- UKELA

Publications

- Editor of the White Book (2019 – present)
- Contributor to chapter on Closed Proceedings in National Security, Ward and Jones (2021)
- Judicial Review, Issue 2, Volume 24 (2019) 'Disclosure in Closed Material Proceedings: What Has to Be Revealed?'
- Contributor to chapter on Nature Conservation, Burnett-Hall on Environmental Law, Second and Third Editions, (2008 and 2013)
- The Thundering Tide: Contempt in the age of the internet' Lecture to the Government Legal Department (2012)
- Contributor to the 1COR Quarterly Medical Law Review (QMLR)
- Editor of the UK Human Rights Blog.