1 COR

1 CROWN OFFICE ROW

Neil Sheldon KC

Call: 1998 KC: 2019

Neil Sheldon KC is recommended by the directories as a leading silk in a broad range of practice areas, including public & administrative law, public inquiries & inquests, professional discipline, and clinical negligence.

He has acted in many of the most important public inquiries and inquests of recent years including the Inquests into the terrorist attacks on Fishmongers' Hall, Westminster Bridge, London Bridge and Manchester Arena, the Victoria Climbie Inquiry, the Zahid Mubarak Inquiry, the Al Swaedy Inquiry, the Iraq Inquiry and the Alexander Litvinenko Inquiry. He acted for the NCA and a number of government departments in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). He was also instructed by the Cabinet Office in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, by a leading medical defence union in the Infected Blood Inquiry and is currently leading counsel for the Home Office in the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

Neil was first appointed by the Attorney General as junior counsel to the crown in 2002, and was on the A Panel since 2010. He undertakes a range of high profile work for a variety of government departments. He has particular experience of national security work.

He has extensive experience of advocacy in the higher courts. He has appeared in over 50 cases in the Court of Appeal, and in a number of the most important recent human rights appeals in the Supreme Court. Neil is currently instructed in a number of forthcoming Supreme Court appeals, and several cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

"He is an absolutely brilliant advocate who instantly inspires the trust of the judge."

Chambers & Partners 2027

"Neil is a brilliant technical lawyer and tactician and an amazing advocate. He deals with clients brilliantly and he is a joy to have on the team. He is our first port of call."

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Neil is first class. His advocacy and cross examination is masterful.”

Legal 500 2026

“Neil is a class act and a really formidable and excellent advocate.”

Chambers & Partners 2026

“Neil is a superb orator and brings calm to any situation at hand. He is highly adept at reminding people of the facts and keeping things calm with good strategic oversight.”

Chambers & Partners 2025

Inquests

Neil has acted in a wide range of high profile inquests. He regularly appears in high-profile and complex inquests, and has particular experience of cases involving confidential material. He is currently acting for the NCA in the case of Jermaine Baker, a high-profile fatal shooting inquest.

He acted for the Foreign and Home Secretaries in the Alexander Litvinenko and Khalil Dale inquests. He has represented the Youth Justice Board in a number highly sensitive inquests concerning the deaths of young people in custody.

Neil acted for the family of Frances Cappuccini, whose death led to the first prosecution of a health trust for corporate manslaughter. He acted for the Department of Health in an inquest concerned with the provision of contaminated blood products to haemophiliacs in the 1980s. He has represented a large number of doctors, and families, in inquests concerned with the provision of medical treatment.

Neil is recommended by both directories as a Band 1 Silk in public inquiries & inquests. Recent editorial includes:

“Neil is at the top of the field.” (Chambers & Partners 2027)

“*Neil Sheldon is someone I would follow into the war. He does amazing work. He is an absolutely brilliant advocate who instantly inspires the trust of the judge.”* (Chambers & Partners 2027)

“Neil is excellent all-rounder. He is well-prepared and demonstrates masterful advocacy. He is also a commanding presence and has good client care skills.” (Chambers & Partners 2027)

“Neil is first class. His advocacy and cross examination is masterful.” (Legal 500 2026)

“Neil is an excellent barrister and a really polished advocate.” (Chambers & Partners 2026)

“Neil is a brilliant technical lawyer and tactician and an amazing advocate. He deals with clients brilliantly and he is a joy to have on the team. He is our first port of call.” (Chambers & Partners 2026)

“Neil is an excellent all-round silk with ability to distil complex and voluminous material into simple and effective

advocacy." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is a class act and a really formidable and excellent advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is a superb orator and brings calm to any situation at hand. He is highly adept at reminding people of the facts and keeping things calm with good strategic oversight." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil is brilliant. He is calm and focused in what can be very distressing and difficult circumstances." (Legal 500 2025)

"His drafting skills as well as his clarity of advocacy and advice are impressive." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil has a great eye for detail; he is very methodical and logical and extremely knowledgeable. He gets to the crux of the issue quickly." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"It is impressive how he manages to juggle so many different pieces of work at once." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"He is extremely intelligent and really hard-working in challenging and difficult circumstances." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Neil makes everything seem very simple and when it is not simple at all he is unflappable and nothing fazes him." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"He is an incredibly good advocate: he is trusted with the most difficult matters time and time again." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"He is trusted by the government for its most sensitive cases and has a presence about him absolutely." "A brilliant advocate who can handle a vast caseload." (Chambers & Partners 2022)

"He is very calm on his feet and very reasonable in his advocacy." "He's got a really lovely manner and he's very, very competent. I think he's very measured and I really rate him." (Chambers & Partners 2021)

'*Very experienced in very high-profile and complex inquests.*' (Legal 500 2021)

"He's really good at dealing with his clients and has played an important role in helping to deal with really challenging material." (Chambers & Partners 2020)

"He's one to watch, a silk in the making." "He's very good with clients and they adore his approach." (Chambers & Partners 2019)

"Superb on his feet. His advocacy is measured and incisive." "Extremely approachable and highly experienced. His understanding of the medical field is second to none." (Chambers & Partners 2018)

"A good advocate with very good people skills." "He is just completely in control of the brief. He is very, very calm under fire and a very reassuring presence, judges love him." "Incredibly approachable, he really goes above and beyond. His advice is always easy to follow and he is particularly brilliant with difficult clients and sensitive matters. An all-round pleasure to work with." (Chambers & Partners, 2017)

"He is very good and easy to get on with. He's counsel of choice if you are dealing with big witnesses." (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

Selected Cases

- **Dymond Inquest.**
- **Streatham Attack Inquest.**
- **Fishmongers' Hall Inquests.**
- **Manchester Bombing Inquests.**
- **London Bridge & Borough Market Inquests.**
- **Westminster Bridge Inquests.**
- **Prof. Bitner-Glindzicz Inquest**.
- **Foreign Secretary v Coroner for Inner North London [2013] Inquest LR 193:** Status of properly interested persons.
- **Foreign Secretary v Coroner for Inner North London [2013] WLR (D) 261:** Public Interest Immunity.
- **R (Pounder) v Coroner for North and South Durham [2010] EWHC 328 (Admin).** Fresh inquest; matters to be left to jury; unlawful restraint in secure training centres.
- **Frances Cappuccini Inquest:** Young mother; obstetric mismanagement.
- **Adam Rickwood Inquest:** 13 year old; death in custody.
- **Gareth Myatt Inquest:** 14 year old; death in custody.
- **Alexander Litvinenko Inquest:** Counsel to Foreign and Home Secretaries.
- **Khalil Dale Inquest:** ICRC worker taken hostage by terrorists; Counsel to Foreign Secretary.
- **Stuart Fuller Inquest:** Provision of contaminated blood products to haemophiliacs in 1980s.

Public Inquiries

Neil is recommended by both directories as a Band 1 Silk in public inquiries & inquests.

In 2018 he was named 'Public Inquiries Barrister of the Year UK' by The Lawyer Monthly.

He has acted in many of the most important public inquiries and inquests of recent years including the Inquests into the terrorist attacks on Fishmonger's Hall, Westminster Bridge, London Bridge and Manchester Arena, the Victoria Climbie Inquiry, the Zahid Mubarak Inquiry, the Al Swaedy Inquiry, the Iraq Inquiry and the Alexander Litvinenko Inquiry. He acted for the NCA and a number of government departments in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). He is instructed by the Cabinet Office in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, by the Home Office in the Undercover Policing Inquiry and by a leading medical defence union in the Infected Blood Inquiry.

"Neil is at the top of the field." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"*Neil Sheldon is someone I would follow into the war. He does amazing work. He is an absolutely brilliant advocate who instantly inspires the trust of the judge."* (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Neil is excellent all-rounder. He is well-prepared and demonstrates masterful advocacy. He is also a commanding presence and has good client care skills." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Neil is first class. His advocacy and cross examination is masterful." (Legal 500 2026)

"Neil is an excellent barrister and a really polished advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is a brilliant technical lawyer and tactician and an amazing advocate. He deals with clients brilliantly and he is a joy to have on the team. He is our first port of call." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is an excellent all-round silk with ability to distil complex and voluminous material into simple and effective advocacy." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is a class act and a really formidable and excellent advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is a superb orator and brings calm to any situation at hand. He is highly adept at reminding people of the facts and keeping things calm with good strategic oversight." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil is brilliant. He is calm and focused in what can be very distressing and difficult circumstances." (Legal 500 2025)

"His drafting skills as well as his clarity of advocacy and advice are impressive." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil is one of the most knowledgeable lawyers in terms of public interest immunity points." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil has a great eye for detail; he is very methodical and logical and extremely knowledgeable. He gets to the crux of the issue quickly." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"It is impressive how he manages to juggle so many different pieces of work at once." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"He is extremely intelligent and really hard-working in challenging and difficult circumstances." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Neil makes everything seem very simple and when it is not simple at all he is unflappable and nothing fazes him." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"He is an incredibly good advocate: he is trusted with the most difficult matters time and time again." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"He is trusted by the government for its most sensitive cases and has a presence about him absolutely." "A brilliant advocate who can handle a vast caseload." (Chambers & Partners 2022)

"He is very calm on his feet and very reasonable in his advocacy." "He's got a really lovely manner and he's very, very competent. I think he's very measured and I really rate him." (Chambers & Partners 2021)

'*Very experienced in very high-profile and complex inquests.*' (Legal 500 2021)

"He's really good at dealing with his clients and has played an important role in helping to deal with really challenging material." (Chambers & Partners 2020)

"He's one to watch." "He's very good with clients and they adore his approach." (Chambers & Partners 2019)

"His skeleton arguments are impressive." "Highly composed, organised, thorough and comprehensive. He has a very cool head." "Extremely clever and good humoured and a delight to work with." (Chambers & Partners 2018)

Notable cases include:

- **Jermaine Baker Public Inquiry (ongoing).**
- **Undercover Policing Inquiry (ongoing).**
- **Infected Blood Inquiry (ongoing).**
- **Manchester Arena Inquiry (ongoing).**
- **Grenfell Tower Inquiry (ongoing).**
- **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)**
- **Victoria Climbie Inquiry:** Counsel to Inquiry.
- **Zahid Mubarak Inquiry:** Counsel to Inquiry.
- **Al Sweady Inquiry:** Counsel to the Military Witnesses.
- **Iraq Inquiry:** Counsel to several prominent political and military witnesses.
- **Alexander Litvinenko Inquiry:** Counsel to Foreign and Home Secretaries.
- **IICSA:** Counsel to several government departments.
- **Chantler Review into Standardised Tobacco Packaging:** Counsel to Review.
- **Investigation of Jimmy Savile at Broadmoor:** Counsel to Investigation.

National Security

Neil has been heavily involved in national security work since 2003 when he was first appointed as a special advocate to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. He acted as special advocate for, amongst others Abu Hamza and a number of the original Belmarsh detainees.

More recently, Neil has acted exclusively for government departments and agencies in work of this nature and has been involved in some of the most-high profile such cases including the Alexander Litvinenko inquest/inquiry, the Saudi arms trade litigation and a number of applications to European Court of Human Rights concerned with the bulk interception of communications and communications data.

Neil has extensive experience of SIAC and has acted for the Secretary of State in a variety of appeals including deportation with assurances, deprivation of citizenship and naturalization.

Notable cases include:

- **E3 and G3 v Secretary of State for the Home Department (ongoing):** Deprivation of citizenship (SIAC)
- **Al Khayer v Secretary of State for the Home Department (ongoing)**: refusal of naturalisation for various members of President Assad's extended family (SIAC).
- **Bureau of Investigative Journalism v United Kingdom (ongoing):** ECHR application concerning bulk interception of communications; Articles 8 and 10.
- **Saudi Arms Trade Litigation (ongoing):** JSA 2013 closed material procedure; international humanitarian

law; relationship between national security and international relations.

- **McGartland v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] EWCA Civ 686:** National Security; JSA 2013 closed material procedure; NCND principle; correct approach to case management under the JSA.
- **Foreign Secretary v Coroner for Inner North London [2014] ACD 43** PII; Litvinenko Inquest; successful Jr of Coroner's decision to order disclosure of material.
- **McGartland v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWHC 2248 (QB):** JSA 2013 closed material procedure; s.6 declaration; case management.
- **LO (Jordan) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWCA Civ 164:** Appeals against preliminary rulings of SIAC; application of s.7 of the SIAC Act 1997.
- **E v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2007] HRLR 18.**

Human Rights

Neil regularly appears in the higher courts in a wide variety of judicial review cases, with particular emphasis on claims involving the European Convention on Human Rights. A selection of his recent cases in this area is set out below.

Neil is currently instructed in a number of cases before the European Court of Human Rights including AL v United Kingdom (female genital mutilation in Nigeria), Bureau of Investigative Journalism v United Kingdom (bulk interception of communications; protection of journalistic sources), and Nait-Liman v Switzerland (universal jurisdiction for acts of torture; state immunity).

Selected Cases

Supreme Court

- **KV (Sri Lanka) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWCA 119:** Asylum; self-infliction of injuries by proxy; correct approach to medical evidence in asylum cases.
- **R (Kiarie & Byndloss) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (judgment awaited):** Article 8; certification; procedural fairness in out of country appeals.
- **SXH v Crown Prosecution Service [2017] UKSC 30:** Article 8; whether decisions to prosecute can engage the right to respect for private/family life.
- **Agyarko v Secretary of State for Home Department [2017] UKSC 11:** Article 8; removal of overstayers; need for 'insurmountable obstacles' to continuation of family life and 'exceptional circumstances'.
- **MM (Lebanon) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] UKSC 10:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the immigration rules.
- **Hesham Ali v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] UKSC 60:** Article 8; deportation of foreign criminal; principles to apply; function of the Tribunal in human rights appeals.
- **R (Eastenders) v HMRC) [2014] UKSC 34:** Article 6; power to detain goods pending enquiries as to whether duty paid; construction of s.139 of CEMA 1979.

Court of Appeal

- **Nguyen v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWCA Civ 258:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; interests of children, including step-children whose biological parents are opposed to relocation.
- **R (Rights of Women) v Lord Chancellor [2016] 1 WLR 2543:** Challenge to LASPO regulations concerning victims of domestic violence; Padfield ulra vires; financial abuse as component of domestic abuse.
- **WW (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] EWCA Civ 648:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to proportionality assessment.
- **BB (Algeria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] EWCA Civ 25:** Immigration; interpretation of long residence rules; transitional provisions; statutory construction.
- **Danso v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] EWCA Civ 596:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to proportionality assessment.
- **Ikuga v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] 1 WLR 390:** Article 8; removal of overstayers; need for 'insurmountable obstacles' to continuation of family life and 'exceptional circumstances'.
- **FZ (China) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] 3 CMLR 12:** EU law; Article 20, TFEU; deportation; Zambrano principle.
- **CG (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] EWCA Civ 194:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; young offenders; correct approach to application of immigration rules.
- **AJ (Angola) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWCA Civ 1636:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to application of immigration rules.
- **LC (China) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] INLR 302:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; best interest of children in foreign criminal cases.
- **HA (Iraq) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWCA Civ 1304:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation); correct approach to the public interest in the deportation of serious offenders.
- **SJ (Pakistan) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] 1 WLR 1073:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the immigration rules.
- **SXH v Crown Prosecution Service [2014] EWCA Civ 90:** Article 8; whether decisions to prosecute can engage the right to respect for private/family life.
- **AA (Iran) v Upper Tribunal [2013] EWCA Civ 1523:** Asylum; unaccompanied minors; duty to trace; imputed political opinion.
- **MF (Nigeria) v Secretary of State for Home Department [2014] 1 WLR 544:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to new immigration rules.
- **CW (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] EWCA Civ 915:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; public interest in deportation of serious drugs offender.
- **MB (Bangladesh) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] EWCA Civ 220:** Right of Abode; presumption of legitimacy under s.1(4) of Legitimacy Act 1976.
- **Hayat & Treebhowan v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] INLR 17:** Article 8; requirement to apply from abroad; interpretation and application of Chikwamba.
- **R (Eastenders) v HMRC [2012] 1 WLR 2067:** Article 6; power to detain goods pending enquiries as to whether duty paid; construction of s.139 of CEMA 1979.
- **RS (Uganda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWCA Civ 1749:** Article 8; deportation of young offenders; application of Maslov v Austria.

- **Quila v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] 3 All ER 81:** Articles 8 & 12; proportionality of raising age limit to combat forced marriages; paragraph 277 of Immigration Rules.

High Court / Divisional Court

- Judicial review regarding stolen 16th century Qur'an.
- **Gill (on behalf of the Sikh Federation UK) v Cabinet Office [2019] EWHC 3407:** challenge by the Sikh Federation to 2021 census.
- **R (Britcits) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] EWHC 956:** Article 8; Padfield ultra vires; challenge to immigration rules restricting rights of entry for adult dependant relatives.
- **R (Rights of Women) v Lord Chancellor [2015] 2 FLR 823:** Challenge to LASPO regulations concerning victims of domestic violence; Padfield ulra vires; financial abuse as component of domestic abuse.
- **R (Litvinenko) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] HRLR 6:** Challenge to Home Secretary's decision not to order a statutory inquiry; Article 2; public interest considerations in investigation of high profile deaths.
- **Foreign Secretary v Coroner for Inner North London [2014] ACD 43:** PII; Litvinenko Inquest; successful Jr of Coroner's decision to order disclosure of material.
- **R (Majid) & Ors v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] 1 WLR 2306:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the immigration rules.
- **SXH v Crown Prosecution Service [2013] EWHC 71 (QB):** Article 8; whether decisions to prosecute can engage the right to respect for private/family life.
- **R (Wilmot) v Secretary of State for Justice [2012] EWHC 3139 (Admin):** Life prisoners; transfer to open conditions; principles to be applied by parole board.
- **Raed Mahajna v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWHC 2481:** Article 5; detention pending deportation; requirement to give accurate reasons for deportation.
- **R (Bonhoeffer) v General Medical Council [2012] IRLR 37:** Hearsay evidence in professional disciplinary proceedings; Article 6; compelling reasons required to justify absence of witness.
- **R (MA) v National Probation Service [2011] ACD 86:** Article 6; challenge to conditions imposed after release on licence; sufficiency of judicial review.
- **R (English) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] EWHC 1726:** Foreign students; minimum educational requirement; ultra vires; application of Pankina.

Clinical Negligence

Neil acts for both claimants and defendants in high value and complex clinical negligence claims, and he has represented hundreds of doctors, dentists and other health professionals in disciplinary proceedings before the GMC, the GDC, at inquests, and in internal employment proceedings.

In the 100th episode of our podcast Law Pod UK, listen to Neil discuss Disaster Avoidance for Experts here.

"Neil is a stellar barrister. He is calm, cool and collected; clients and their families really like him." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"*His range of knowledge and ability to digest volumes of information are outstanding and his delivery in conferences when handling sensitive information is elite."* (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He has a great way with clients, provides quality advice and is excellent as an advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Neil is generous with his time, collegiate in his approach, and a real pleasure to work with." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Clarity of thought, precision of drafting, excellent advocacy skills, and the ability to think on his feet." (Legal 500 2027)

"He is absolutely brilliant." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"He is an exceptional barrister." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil has excellent attention to detail. He is able to grasp complex medical issues and apply them to the confines of the law governing clinical negligence." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil is absolutely outstanding. A first class barrister who is excellent with clients and hugely empathetic, as well as being a tenacious advocate and negotiator." (Legal 500 2026)

"Neil is very calm under pressure. His calmness and clarity of thought is impressive and he puts his lay clients at rest." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil has a sharp mind, makes clients feel at ease and explains complex issues in an understandable way. He is a tough negotiator and has been responsible for some of his instructing solicitors' biggest successes – they cannot rate him highly enough." (Legal 500 2025)

"Neil has fantastically honed advocacy skills." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"He provides clear written opinions and deals with matters promptly. He makes himself available and his manner with clients is caring and reassuring. His trial preparation is meticulous and his advocacy is measured and persuasive." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"An impressive advocate and strategist. He has a brilliant legal mind and is a delight to work with." "Sought after due to his experience and highly persuasive advocacy. He achieves excellent results at trial." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

'He is exceptional in his drafting and will ensure that every case has the best chance of success through thorough examination of the evidence. ' (Legal 500 2024)

Selected Cases

- **A v States of Guernsey and Others (2020):** defence of obstetrician in maximum severity cerebral palsy claim with jurisdictional issues.
- **H (2020):** represented Claimant in near-maximum severity cerebral palsy claim.
- **JXM (2020):** multimillion cerebral palsy claim on behalf of child with complex family dynamic.

- **AB (2020):** defence of GP in cauda equina claim.
- **Z-R (2020):** acted for family of man who committed suicide whilst in psychiatric care.
- **M v W (2017):** defence of doctor in secondary victim claim.
- **S v H (2017):** defence of doctor in alleged late diagnosis of cancer claim brought by professional motor race involving complex loss of earnings.
- **JKL v Great Ormond Street Hospital (2017):** cerebral palsy claim acting for the claimant. Settled for £27.5m.
- **M v S (2017):** defence of doctor in claim concerning delayed diagnosis of hip pathology.
- **Badri v Hariram [2016] EWHC 2122 (QB):** successful defence of GP; subluxation of infant hips; diagnosis of developmental dysplasia.
- **Lee v Hammer [2016] LTL A58YJ640:** successful defence of spinal surgeon; interpretation of complex radiology and neurophysiology.
- **Webb v Liverpool Women's Hospital [2015] EWHC 133 (QB):** successful claim for a child injured during delivery; obstetric mismanagement; shoulder dystocia.
- **Packham v Hazari [2014] EWHC 3951:** successful defence of plastic surgeon; scarring; consent; inability to predict precise outcome in advance of surgery.

Costs

Neil undertakes a wide range of costs work, and has particular experience of cases concerning the costs consequences of Part 36 offers. He appeared for the successful claimant in the recent Court of Appeal of Webb which set out the principles to be applied when a claimant beats a Part 36 offer but does not succeed on all issues in the case.

Neil has acted in a number of judicial review cases involving protective costs orders, and he has regularly acts for the Lord Chancellor in cases concerning criminal defending funding.

Selected Cases

- **Webb v Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust [2016] 1 WLR 3899:** Part 36; principles to apply if claimant beats Part 36 offer but only succeeds on some issues in the case.
- **R (Litvinenko) v Secretary of State for Home Department [2013] EWHC 3135:** protective costs orders in judicial review claims; public interest; claimant's means.
- **Wilson v Ministry of Defence [2013] CP Rep 33:** Part 36; preliminary issues; meaning of 'trial has started' in CPR 36.9(3)(d).
- **Eastenders v HMRC [2012] STC 2036:** application of s.144(2)(b) of CEMA 1979 to costs recover following successful claim.
- **Lord Chancellor v McLarty & Co [2012] 1 Costs LR 190:** interpretation and application of Litigators Graduated Fee Scheme; special preparation fee; audio recordings.
- **Lord Chancellor v Michael J Reed & Co [2010] 1 Cost LR 72:** criminal Defence Service (Funding) Order 2007; special preparation fee; DVD footage.

Professional Discipline & Regulation

Neil has represented hundreds of doctors, dentists and other health professionals in disciplinary proceedings before the GMC, the GDC, the HCPC and the GOC. He has extensive experience of employment related disputes concerning health professionals, including the application of MHPS, and of judicial review challenges arising out of such cases.

Neil has acted in some of the most important professional disciplinary cases of recent years including the cases of Dr Andrew Wakefield (MMR), Professor Philip Bonhoeffer (the leading case on hearsay), Dr Ruscillo (the first CHRE appeal), and SS & Ghosh (legal representation in Trust disciplinary hearings).

"A master of professional discipline." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"He is fantastic. He's a hard-working, brilliant barrister and a delightful man." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"Neil writes incredibly clear and precise pleadings and demonstrates sharp legal analysis." "If you've got a difficult case, Neil is excellent." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"Neil is an exceptional advocate and consistently produces meticulous and practical advice in complex matters." "Neil is a truly outstanding silk. He is very calm and considered." (Chambers & Partners 2023)

"He's really terrific, a fantastic advocate." "Incredibly bright and always happy to help, responsive and brilliant with very difficult clients. He's personable and good on his feet." (Chambers & Partners 2022)

"He is always brilliant. He is fantastic at dealing with difficult clients and he always goes above and beyond. He is excellent in conference and when providing written submissions." "Incredibly knowledgeable in any field you throw at him. Amazing ability to put clients at ease in really stressful situations and achieve the best results for them." "He is very clever, very calm and a fabulous advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2021)

'A very polished silk who demonstrates great client empathy.' (Legal 500 2021)

"Modest and universally able" and *"a rising star." "He is extremely good and I suspect we will be seeing much more of him."* (Chambers & Partners 2020)

Selected Cases

- **S (2020):** dishonesty allegations brought by GMC against neurosurgeon.
- **O (2020):** represented married couple accused of fraudulent claiming on NHS contracts.
- **K (2020):** defended consultant psychiatrist accused of inappropriate relationship with vulnerable patient.
- **Al-Mishlab v Milton Keynes Hospital Trust [2015] EWHC 3096 (QB):** internal disciplinary proceedings; MHPS; injunction; correct approach to defects in investigation.
- **Al Mishlab v Milton Keynes Hospital Trust [2015] EWHC 91 (QB):** claim by doctor for breach of contract; duty to seek alternatives to suspension; breakdown in working relationships.
- **R (Bonhoeffer) v General Medical Council [2012] IRLR 37:** successful challenge to MPTS decision to

admit hearsay evidence; only permissible in compelling circumstances.

- **R (SS) v Knowsley NHS Primary Care Trust [2006] EWHC 26 (Admin):** right to legal representation at removal hearings; Article 6; common law fairness.
- **Ruscillo v CHRE [2005] 1 WLR:** First appeal by CHRE for undue leniency; applicable principles.
- **Dr Andrew Wakefield v General Medical Council:** MMR; legal aid funding; research ethics; dishonesty.

Immigration

Neil has extensive experience of immigration law, and regularly appears in the higher courts in a wide range of appeals. He has particular experience of cases concerning the ECHR, and has appeared in many of the most important such cases in recent years including the recent appeals to the Supreme Court in *Hesham Ali*, *MM (Lebanon)*, *Agyarko* and *Kiarie & Byndloss*.

Neil is currently acting in a number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights concerned with immigration.

"Neil is calm, client-friendly and has a real gravitas in court." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Neil is an effective and hard-working silk." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"He is an experienced and very highly regarded practitioner." (Chambers & Partners 2027)

"Neil is a smooth, focused and effective advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"He is impressive and gets to grips with matter details quickly." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"His legal analysis is really tight." (Chambers & Partners 2026)

"Neil Sheldon is always a fair but formidable opponent." (Chambers & Partners 2025)

"His work is excellent. He is very good." "A wonderful advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2024)

"He will turn over difficult and complicated fact-heavy cases with a really efficient, effective and thorough approach." "He is absolutely fabulous to work with and is very experienced." (Chambers & Partners 2022)

"A fantastic barrister; forensically adept and has fantastic knowledge of case law." (Chambers & Partners 2021)

"He is exceptional in his drafting and will ensure that every case has the best chance of success through thorough examination of the evidence." (Legal 500 2021)

"He's often given high-pressure public impact cases and is hugely impressive." (Chambers & Partners 2020)

"He is a really top-quality barrister and a very clever guy." "He's super hard-working and entirely reliable. He produces clear, concise and elegant written submissions and has very thorough knowledge of immigration." (Chambers & Partners 2018)

Selected Cases

Supreme Court

- **KV (Sri Lanka) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWCA 119:** Asylum; self-infliction of injuries by proxy; correct approach to medical evidence in asylum cases.
- **Agyarko v Secretary of State for Home Department [2017] UKSC 11:** Article 8; removal of overstayers; need for 'insurmountable obstacles' to continuation of family life and 'exceptional circumstances'.
- **MM (Lebanon) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] UKSC 10:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the immigration rules.
- **Hesham Ali v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] UKSC 60:** Article 8; deportation of foreign criminal; principles to apply; function of the Tribunal in human rights appeals.
- **R (Kiarie & Byndloss) v Secretary of State for the Home Department**: Article 8; certification; procedural fairness in out of country appeals.

Court of Appeal

- **Nguyen v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWCA Civ 258:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; interests of children, including step-children whose biological parents are opposed to relocation.
- **BB (Algeria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] EWCA Civ 25:** Immigration; interpretation of long residence rules; transitional provisions; statutory construction.
- **Danso v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] EWCA Civ 596:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to proportionality assessment.
- **Ikuga v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] 1 WLR 390:** Article 8; removal of overstayers; need for 'insurmountable obstacles' to continuation of family life and 'exceptional circumstances'.
- **FZ (China) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] 3 CMLR 12:** EU law; Article 20, TFEU; deportation; Zambrano principle.
- **CG (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] EWCA Civ 19:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; young offenders; correct approach to application of immigration rules.
- **AJ (Angola) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWCA Civ 1636:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to application of immigration rules.
- **LC (China) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] INLR 302:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; best interest of children in foreign criminal cases.
- **HA (Iraq) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWCA Civ 1304:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation); correct approach to the public interest in the deportation of serious offenders.
- **SJ (Pakistan) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] 1 WLR 1073:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the immigration rules.
- **AA (Iran) v Upper Tribunal [2013] EWCA Civ 1523:** Asylum; unaccompanied minors; duty to trace; imputed political opinion.

- **MF (Nigeria) v Secretary of State for Home Department [2014] 1 WLR 544:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; correct approach to new immigration rules.
- **CW (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] EWCA Civ 915:** Article 8; foreign criminal deportation; public interest in deportation of serious drugs offender.
- **MB (Bangladesh) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] EWCA Civ 220:** Right of Abode; presumption of legitimacy under s.1(4) of Legitimacy Act 1976.
- **Hayat & Treebhowan v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2013] INLR 17:** Article 8; requirement to apply from abroad; interpretation and application of Chikwamba.
- **RS (Uganda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWCA Civ 1749:** Article 8; deportation of young offenders; application of Maslov v Austria.
- **Quila v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] 3 All ER 8:** Articles 8 & 12; proportionality of raising age limit to combat forced marriages; paragraph 277 of Immigration Rules.
- **SL (Vietnam) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] 1NLR 651:** Deportation; bests interests of children; Article 8; mistakes of fact.
- **TF (Angola) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] EWCA Civ 905:** Asylum; Article 8.
- **MH (Syria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] 3 All ER 564:** Article 1F of Refugee Convention; involvement in terrorism and crimes against humanity.
- **VK (Sri Lanka) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] EWCA Civ 1435:** Detention following failed asylum claim; fresh claims; Hardial Singh principles.
- **EB (Ethiopia) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] QB 1:** Asylum; confiscation of identity documents as persecution; statelessness.
- **JN (DRC) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2008] EWCA Civ 320:** Asylum; false documentation, procedural irregularity.
- **RJ (Jamaica) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2008] EWCA Civ 93:** Deportation of foreign criminal; procedural fairness; absence of representative at appeal; professional conduct.
- **MT (Zimbabwe) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2007] EWCA Civ 455:** Asylum; Article 8.
- **SO (Nigeria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2007] EWCA Civ 76:** Asylum; Article 8; best interests of children.
- **HA (Iraq) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2006] EWCA Civ 1373:** Asylum; application of Tanveer Ahmed; standard of proof; documentary evidence in asylum claims.

High Court / Divisional Court / Tribunal

- **Cheryl Ribelli v Entry Clearance Officer, Pretoria [2018] EWCA Civ 611**
- **TZ (Pakistan) v Secretary of State for the Home Department : PG (India) v S Secretary of State for the Home Department (2018).**
- **OA (Nigeria) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2018] EWHC 681.**
- **R (Britcits) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2016] EWHC 956:** Article 8; Padfield ultra vires; challenge to immigration rules restricting rights of entry for adult dependent relatives.
- **Dasgupta (error of law-proportionality – correct approach) [2016] UKUT 28:** Adult dependent relatives; correct approach to error of law findings; Article 8 proportionality.
- **Deelah (section 117B – ambit) [2015] UKUT 515:** Presidential Panel; challenge to vires of Part 5A of 2002 Act.
- **R (Majid) & Ors v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] 1 WLR 2306:** Articles 8/14; proportionality of minimum income requirement; discrimination; correct approach to a challenge to the

immigration rules.
- **Raed Mahajna v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] EWHC 2481:** Article 5; detention pending deportation; requirement to give accurate reasons for deportation.
- **R (English) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] EWHC 1726:** Foreign students; minimum educational requirement; ultra vires; application of Pankina.
- **R (A) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2007] ACD 42:** Unlawful detention; serious sexual offender; disputed nationality; imminence of return.

Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown (A Panel) (2010 – 2019)
- Junior Counsel to the Crown (B Panel) (2006-2010)
- Junior Counsel to the Crown (C Panel) (2002-2006)
- Special Advocate to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (2003 – present)

Education

- Diploma in Law, City University
- MA, Cambridge University

Memberships

- ARDL
- HRLA
- PNBA

Publications

- Law Pod UK Ep. 100: Disaster Avoidance for Experts