



Jonathan Fowles

Call: 2004

Jonathan is absolutely superb, really clear, accessible and always generous with his time. He is so incredibly knowledgeable.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

✉ clerks@serlecourt.co.uk ☎ +44 (0)20 7242 6105

Jonathan Fowles is a leading expert in charity law.

He is recommended as a "Star Individual" in Charities by Chambers & Partners and in Tier 1 in Charities in The Legal 500. Jonathan also has supporting expertise in related areas of law, particularly trusts and probate, real property, company law, so far as it relates to charities, and public law.

He is Junior Counsel to the Treasury in Charity Matters, advising the Attorney General in their constitutional function as defender of charity and the charitable interest and representing them in litigation where necessary. He also advises ministerial government departments and has, in the past, advised the Charity Commission. However, Jonathan continues to undertake contentious and non-contentious work for private clients – charities, charity trustees, and others in the sector.

Jonathan is also co-editor of the leading textbook, *Tudor on Charities*, 11th edition (Sweet & Maxwell), and is the senior editor of the forthcoming 12th edition. He has published many articles on charity law and has spoken at the Charity Law Association's annual conference on several occasions. Most recently, he has contributed to the forthcoming volume by Fry & Picton (eds.), *Landmark Cases in Charity Law* (Hart Publishing, 2026).

Expertise

Charities

Jonathan provides advice, related drafting, and representation in all areas of charity law. He is particularly known for his technical excellence and ability to find solutions to complex problems in both litigation and non-contentious advice. He sometimes works in teams of lawyers with specialisms in complementary areas of law, but will often work on his own, including, where appropriate, directly for a charity or its trustees.

Contact

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Out of hours

Nick Hockney: +44 (0)7702 159953
Dan Wheeler: +44 (0)7714 853641

General enquiries

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In addition to advising and representing the Attorney General, Jonathan also advises ministerial government departments and, in the past, has advised the Charity Commission on charity law. Much of his work is confidential and reputationally sensitive.

Recent Cases

- *Free Grammar School of John Lyon within the Town of Harrow-on-the-Hill v Attorney General* [2025] EWHC 849 (Ch) and [2024] EWHC 2857 (Ch) – Acted for the Attorney General on Harrow public school's application for a cy-près scheme, in which the Court considered for the first time s.75ZA, Charities Act 2011, and ss.7 and 11, Public Schools Act 1868. The case is also of significance in the law of charitable corporations.
- *Mohammed v Daji* [2024] EWCA Civ 1247 – Acting for successful claimants in dispute about charitable trusts of an extensive site in East London; the judgments of the Court of Appeal and High Court contain important analysis of trusts arising from charity appeals.
- *Merton LBC v Nuffield Health* [2023] UKSC 18 – A landmark case on public benefit and charitable relief from non-domestic rates.
- *Re NGO* (2023) – Advising an internationally renowned organisation about its charitable status
- *Re Legacies* (2021-23) – Advising household-name English charity about proper approach to hundreds of historic bequests and donations
- *Naik v Charity Commission* (2020) – Acted for an internationally renowned Islamic preacher in an appeal from disqualification by the Charity Commission.
- *Re RSPCA* (2018-19) – Advising RSPCA on governance reform.

Public Access

Jonathan accepts public access instructions in the field of charity law.

Testimonials

"Jonathan is absolutely superb, really clear, accessible and always generous with his time. He is so incredibly knowledgeable."

Chambers & Partners

"His knowledge was second to none and he became part of the team immediately. We could not have done the case without him."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Jonathan is a fantastic barrister, hugely expert in and dedicated to the charity sector. We hugely value his advice, approach and the fact he is immensely pleasant to deal with as an individual."

Chambers & Partners 2026

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"Jonathan has an encyclopaedic knowledge of anything and everything related to charities and the law. He is incredibly user-friendly, he delivers advice in a clear, concise and focused way, and he is also a superb strategist."

Legal 500 2025

"One of the very best charity juniors at the Bar. He has an incredible depth of charity law knowledge and produces clear, authoritative advice in a style that clients are able to easily digest."

Legal 500 2024

"Jonathan Fowles is absolutely brilliant. His technical knowledge of charity law is unsurpassed."

Chambers & Partners 2023

"Particularly knowledgeable and responsive, Jonathan's advocacy is conducted skilfully and professionally."

Legal 500 2023

Recommendations

- Charities (Chambers & Partners) – Star Individual
- Charities (The Legal 500) – Tier 1
- Property Litigation (The Legal 500) – Tier 4
- Private Client: Trusts and Probate (Legal 500) – Tier 4

Publications

- Tudor on Charities, 12th ed. (Sweet & Maxwell, forthcoming), senior co-editor
- "Re Snowden" in R. Fry and J. Picton (eds), Landmark Cases in Charity Law (Hart Publishing, 2026 – forthcoming)
- "Nuffield Health: Public benefit in the Supreme Court", P.C.B. 2023, 5, pp.173-179
- "A fine balance" article for Civil Society: Governance & Leadership, March 2023
- Tudor on Charities, 11th Ed. (2022, Sweet & Maxwell), co-editor

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Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- Charity Law Association

Education & Qualifications

- Karmel & Bedingfield Scholar, Gray's Inn
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law, City University, London
- MA (Literae Humaniores), New College, Oxford

In the Press

- 'Harrow' Case Featured in The Times "[Harrow loses fight to write 500-year-old charter in plain English](#)" 13 November 2024

BSB Registration

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