



## Angus McCullough QC

Call: 1990 QC: 2010

Described as “a brilliant and balanced advocate” and being “exceptionally bright, able, independent-minded and thorough”, Angus is recognised as one of the leading QCs at the Bar across a range of different legal fields, with a particular strength in written and oral advocacy.

Angus McCullough QC has extensive experience on matters of 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*. He has appeared in the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, as well as representing the UK Government at the UN in Geneva and in European Court of Human Rights in proceedings in Strasbourg. He has acted in 8 cases before the House of Lords / Privy Council / Supreme Court.

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. He also advises and appears in regulatory and disciplinary matters.

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 cases include:

- **CAAT**: Challenge to UK licensing of arms sales to Saudi Arabia
- **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
- **Sarkandi and McGartland**: First two appeals against closed procedures ordered under s.6 of the Justice and Security Act 2013

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 instructed 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,

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.

Before turning to law, Angus read Zoology at Oxford where he was President of the Oxford Union. 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 really inspires the confidence of clients in the most difficult of circumstances." "He has the ear of the court, and is very experienced and knowledgeable."*

**Chambers & Partners 2019**

*"He is exceptionally bright and adept at identifying issues immediately. He has an air of authority, while remaining completely down-to-earth." "He really inspires the confidence of clients in the most difficult of circumstances."*

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*"Excellent on complex medical causation issues." "Easy to get on with, user-friendly, bright and very engaging." "A fantastic silk who's got good judgement."*

**Chambers & Partners 2019**

## Public Law

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An esteemed public law silk, he is renowned for his adept handling of SIAC work, which often centres on national security matters. He routinely acts for both claimants and the government in complex, high-profile cases.

## Selected Cases

- **Re: Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (aka Tommy Robinson) [2018] EWCA Crim 1856**: acted as advocate to the

court in the remitted contempt of court proceedings involving Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, who is known for political purposes as Tommy Robinson.

- **Campaign Against the Arms Trade v Secretary of State for International Development [2017] EWHC 1754 (Admin):** Challenge to the Government's licensing of arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
- **Rahmatullah v MoD and others [2017] EWHC 547:** Civil claim alleging mistreatment and unlawful transfer to US custody by UK state; acting as special advocate.
- **R (MR) v SSHD [2017] EWHC 469 (Admin):** Challenge to cancellation of British passport.
- **McGartland v SSHD [2015] EWCA Civ 686:** Consideration by CA of principles to be applied in permitting closed material procedure under s.6 of the Justice and Security Act 2013.
- **Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF, AN and AE ("AF No.3") [2009] UKHL 28.**
- **R (Baiai & Others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] 1 AC 287, House of Lords.**
- **Savage v South Essex Partnership NHS Trust [2009] 2 WLR 115, House of Lords.**
- **OO (Jordan) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2009] 2 WLR 512, House of Lords.**
- **R (Quila) v SSHD [2012] 1 AC 621, Supreme Court.**
- **Dallas v UK, ECtHR:** Application to Strasbourg Court by juror imprisoned for contempt of court in researching case on the internet.

## Clinical Negligence

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He has extensive experience in conducting claims of the highest value and complexity, including obstetrics and fetal medicine, neonatal management, neurosurgery, management of spinal injuries, infectious diseases (including TB and meningitis), and anaesthetics.

### Selected Cases

- **Bolitho v City & Hackney Health Authority (CA).**
- **Savage v South Essex Partnership NHS Trust [2009] 2 WLR 115, House of Lords.**
- **Plampin v Havering NHS PCT [2006] EWHC 39, Forbes J.**
- **Holt v Edge [2007] EWCA Civ 602, CA.**
- **EW v Johnson [2015] EWHC 276 (QB):** Claim against GP alleging fail-ure to refer child with pneumococcal meningitis.
- **EXP v Barker [2015] EWHC 1289:** Alleged failure to identify vascular abnormality in MRI brain scan.
- **McGuinn v Lewisham & Greenwich NHST [2017] EWHC 88 (QB):** 'Wrongful birth' claim; failure to refer for further investigation and advice in relation to antenatal abnormalities.
- **Winspear v City Hospitals Sunderland NHSFT [2015] EWHC 3250 (QB):** Human rights claim arising out of 'do not attempt cardio-pulmonary resuscitation order.'

## Inquests

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Angus is experienced at handling high profile inquests and public inquiries, often involving sensitive or confidential

information.

## Selected Cases

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

## Professional Discipline & Regulation

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Angus has long experience of acting before regulatory panels, and on appeal, in particular on behalf of doctors and dentists. He also frequently advises representative bodies on regulatory and policy issues (recent examples being tooth whitening, fluoride varnish, eye laser surgery, and entry onto specialist lists).

## Selected Cases

- **R (Shiekh) v General Dental Council [2007] EWHC 2972 (Admin):** Termination of a suspension order.
- **Dad v General Dental Council [2000] 1 WLR 1538, Privy Council:** Successful appeal against sanction to the Privy Council on behalf of dentist.

## Environmental Law

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## 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.

## Appointments

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- 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

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

## Education

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

## Memberships

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- PNBA
- ALBA
- HRLA
- PIBA
- UKELA

## Publications

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- 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)