

Darragh Coffey

Call: 2018



Darragh Coffey accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' work and is developing a broad practice with a particular focus on public law. He appears in courts and tribunals on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants in a range of civil hearings.

Darragh joined Chambers as a tenant in September 2019 after having successfully completing 12 months of pupillage at 1COR. During pupillage, Darragh was supervised by Richard Smith, Richard Mumford, Amy Mannion and Alasdair Henderson, spending three months with each and gaining experience across Chambers' main practice areas.

Darragh holds a first class honours Bachelor of Civil Law and a first class honours Master of laws degree, both from University College Dublin. Before coming to the Bar, he spent four years at the University of Cambridge where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in the area of human rights law. Prior to that, he served for six years as an Army Officer in the Irish Defence Forces. While at Cambridge, Darragh was the executive chairperson of the Cambridge Pro Bono Project, Co-Convener of the Cambridge International and European Law Conference and taught on the Human Rights and Civil Liberties module on the LLM course. These diverse experiences have helped him to develop a strong knowledge base and pragmatic, diligent and detail-orientated approach to his practice as a junior barrister.

Public Law

Darragh is developing a broad public law practice. Prior to coming to the Bar, he had published academic articles and blog posts on a range of public law matters in the UK and Ireland and he recently contributed to the Fifth Edition of *Administrative Law in Ireland*, the leading work on Administrative law and judicial review in the Irish Legal system.

Darragh's academic interest in public law is complemented by the experiences he gained in pupillage under the

supervision of both Amy Manion and Alasdair Henderson, whom he assisted with the drafting of pleadings and advice in a number of public law cases.

In his own practice, Darragh recently acted for the Applicant in *R (Zeghli) v Secretary of State for the Home Department*, in which the Applicant sought Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision not to treat her immigration appeal as a fresh claim. In granting permission following an oral permission hearing, the Upper Tribunal Judge commented that Mr Coffey had "conducted himself impeccably" during the hearing.

Darragh is a member of the Attorney General's 'Junior Junior' panel and has assisted both the Government Legal Department and HMRC with document review and disclosure exercises on large cases.

Human Rights

Darragh's PhD thesis examines the interaction of the European Convention on Human Rights and national security related deportation. He has published academic articles in this area and during his time in Cambridge, Darragh taught on the 'human rights and civil liberties' module of the highly respected Cambridge LLM course.

In practice, much of Darragh's immigration work has involved claims under the Human Rights Act. He maintains a particular interest in Article 3 claims and he regularly contributes to the [UK Human Rights Blog](#).

Selected Cases

- **Ahmadzai v Secretary of State for the Home Department (Upper Tribunal):** Article 8 Appeal against refusal of entry clearance.
- **Singh v Secretary of State for the Home Department (First Tier Tribunal):** Secured leave to remain on the basis of Article 8 of the ECHR for an individual who had been in the UK without status since arriving as a child.

Immigration

Darragh has a developing immigration practice and has appeared regularly before the First Tier Tribunal in immigration appeals. He has also appeared before the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunal.

Selected Cases

- **R (Zeghli) v Secretary for State for the Home Department (Upper Tribunal):** Judicial review of SSHD's refusal to consider the Applicant's appeal as a fresh claim
- **Ahmadzai v Secretary of State of the Home Department (Upper Tribunal):** Appeal against refusal of entry clearance.
- **Singh v Secretary of State for the Home Department (First Tier Tribunal):** Secured leave to remain on the basis of Article 8 of the ECHR for an individual who had been in the UK without status since arriving

as a child.

Public Inquiries

Since January 2020, Darragh has been instructed by the Metropolitan Police Service as a member of their counsel team for the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

Inquests

Darragh regularly appears in Coroner's Courts representing both families and institutional Interested Persons.

Selected Cases

- **Inquest touching upon the death of JW:** Darragh acted for the Deceased's family and drew the coroner's attention to several issues of concern, which resulted in five Prevention of Future Death (PFD) reports being issued.
- **Inquest touching upon the death of DB:** Darragh represented the London Ambulance Service in a five day jury inquest into a death in custody to which the LAS were called.

Clinical Negligence

Darragh is developing a varied practice in the area of clinical negligence. He accepts instructions from Claimants and Defendants to appear in the County Court and High Court in a variety of hearings. He also advises on liability and quantum and drafts a variety of pleadings in such claims.

Personal Injury

Darragh has appeared in court and advised Claimants and Defendants on liability and quantum in a variety of civil hearings and trials. He has experience in claims arising out of road traffic accidents, public liability and employer's liability. Darragh recently spent six months on secondment to HMRC's personal injury team advising on liability and quantum in employer's and occupier's liability claims.

Environmental Law

Darragh recently represented Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as a rule 6 party before a 12 day planning inquiry in which the Trust successfully opposed the grant of planning permission to a property Developer to build a 516 unit residential development in close proximity to Askham Bog, a site of special scientific interest described by Sir David Attenborough as 'irreplaceable'. Read more about the case [here](#).

Awards

- Travelling Studentship in Law, National University of Ireland (2014-2018)
- Faculty of Law Ph.D. Bursary, University of Cambridge (2014-2017)
- Francis and Buris Gahan Scholarship, Inner Temple (2016)
- BPTC Exhibition Award, Inner Temple (2016)
- BPTC Excellence Award, BPP Law School (2016)

Education

- Bar Professional Training Course (Very Competent), BPP Law School (2016-2018, Part-time)
- LLM (First Class Honours), University College Dublin (2013)
- Dip. Management and Defence Studies, Irish Defence Forces Military College (2009)
- BCL (hons.) (First Class Honours), University College Dublin (2008)

Memberships

- Inner Temple

Publications

- Contributor to: Hogan, Morgan and Daly, *Administrative Law in Ireland* (fifth edition) (Round Hall, Dublin, 2019) (chapter on Local Government Law)
- *What are the recent key developments relating to the doctrine of vicarious liability?* Lexis Nexis PSL 2020
- The Coronavirus Act 2020: Part I & Part II on UK Human Rights Blog
- 'Standards of Scrutiny in Judicial Review of Deportation Decisions Involving Article 3, ECHR –X.X. v Minister for Justice and Equality' (2017) 57 *The Irish Jurist* 144