



**W Robert Griffiths QC**

Date of call: 1974

Year of silk: 1993

W. Robert Griffiths QC is Joint Head of Chambers and a Middle Temple Bencher. He has an interdisciplinary practice across a range of specialist areas including planning, licensing and entertainment, local government, property, oil exploration rights, environmental, public, judicial review, commercial, employment and sports law both in the UK and overseas.

His current instructions include:

(1) On the commercial side:

Representing Moni Varma in commercial proceedings against Lakshmi Mittal. The dispute concerns unpaid commission and fees in relation to a significant investment in oil exploration in Nigeria, exceeding USD 115m, facilitated by Mr Varma and made by Mr Mittal, in 2006, through his investment company, Mittal Investments Sarl, in joint venture with OVL (a subsidiary of ONGC India, India's leading oil and gas exploration company, and a Super-major oil company).

(2) On the planning and licensing side:

- (a) Instructed by Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation in relation to major mixed use development in Derby city centre at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary site, 'the Nightingale Quarter'.
- (b) Continuing to advise and represent Wolverhampton City Council on major retail development in Wolverhampton, the regeneration of its Canalside Quarter and Supreme Court proceedings relating to a dispute with the Health and Safety Executive over the proper approach to the consideration of planning applications effected by hazardous installations.
- (c) Advising various government embassies in connection with a range of planning matters in Central London.
- (d) Advising St George on proposed residential development at Chelsea Creek, Imperial Wharf.
- (e) Advising various sports venues on planning and licensing matters.
- (f) Advising and representing a number of entertainment venues on the staging of events and licensing law.
- (g) Advising on the effect of restrictive covenants on planning applications and permissions.

His most recent successes are: a) representing Lancashire CCC in a Court of Appeal case concerning the redevelopment of Old Trafford Cricket Ground and major retail development in Manchester and b) representing CALA Homes in a planning appeal which involved the consideration of the effect of nuclear installations at Aldermaston on proposed residential development.

He has appeared in a large number of high profile cases including; *Abse v Smith* (barristers' rights of audience), *The Strangeways Inquiry* (prison riots), *The Rose Theatre* (preservation of ancient monument, locus standi), *Marsal v Apong* (the Sultan of Brunei and the Brunei Constitution, Privy Council), *Darrell Hair v ICC* (fairness and discrimination), *The Oval Cricket Ground* (Stadium and hotel development), *HSE v Wolverhampton City Council* (planning and financial considerations, Supreme Court).

He successfully promoted both the New Forest and the South Downs National Parks at major public inquiries.

He has represented both private developers and local authorities on a regular basis at public inquiries relating to retail, commercial and residential development. He has specialist knowledge and experience of financial viability and consequential impact analysis.

He has specialist experience in the field of sports law, stadium development, staging agreements and broadcasting rights. This includes cases involving the Lord's Cricket Ground, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Millennium Stadium, Old Trafford, The Oval, Brighton Football Club, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and Lancashire CCC.

Clients have included Muhammed Ali, The Sultan of Brunei, Kerry Packer, The Albert Hall, Bucks Fizz, The Who and Manchester United.

He is a Special Advocate.

He has experience of advising charitable foundations and trusts. He is a special adviser to the Prince's Regeneration Trust and a Trustee of the Lords Taverners.

He is an overseas member of Selborne-Wentworth Chambers (Sydney) and Senior Counsel (New South Wales).

## **EDUCATION**

St Edmund Hall, Oxford (Open Scholar, MA, BCL)

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Special Adviser to the Prince's Regeneration Trust 2007  
Master of the Bench (Middle Temple) 2004  
Special Advocate 2004  
Senior Counsel (New South Wales) 1999  
Queen's Counsel 1993  
Junior Counsel to the Crown (Common Law) 1989 to 1993  
Called to the Bar 1974

## **PERSONAL**

He has given "more prolonged honorary and highly skilled work for MCC than many have achieved in a lifetime at the crease" - Tony Lewis, former England Cricket Captain and President of the MCC (Annual Report 1999).

Member of the MCC Committee 2000 to 2011, Chairman of the MCC Laws Sub-Committee 2008 - , Member of the MCC Cricket Committee 2008 - , Member of the MCC World Cricket Committee 2008 - , Chairman of the MCC Development Committee (Vision for Lord's) 2008- 2011.

## **CLUBS**

MCC, Garrick, Lord's Taverners (Trustee)

## CASES OF NOTE

- **Derwent Holdings v Trafford BC, Tesco Superstores Ltd and Lancashire CCC [2011] EWCA Civ 832** (Challenge to grant of planning permission to Lancashire CCC and Tesco – represented Lancashire) 2011 Court of Appeal
- **Wolverhampton CC v Peel, Sainsbury's and Tesco** (major retail development) 2011
- **Cala Homes v HSE** (effect of nuclear installations at Aldermaston on proposed residential development). **Public Inquiry 2010-2011**
- **Maddox Club** (judicial review and licensing) **2011**
- **HSE v Wolverhampton City Council** (planning and financial considerations, Supreme Court 2011)
- **Wolverhampton City Council (2010)** (major regeneration schemes in Wolverhampton)
- **HSE v Wolverhampton City Council (2009) EWCA Civ 892** (hazardous installations and the control of development)
- **Metro Construction Ltd. v London Borough of Barnet [2009] EWHC 2956 (Admin)** (quashing a Conservation Area designation)
- **Re Dianoor International (2009)** (due diligence of a pawnbroker, money laundering)
- **Club 54 2009** (licensing and planning issues relating to a nightclub)
- **Lord's Cricket Ground (2009)** (ongoing major re-development of the iconic venue and adjacent residential site)
- **Resumed South Downs National Park Inquiry (2008 - 09)** – (Represented Natural England in a 6 month public inquiry into the South Downs National Park).
- **Stansted Airport Inquiry (2008 - 09)**- Retained by the Civil Aviation Authority to represent them at the public inquiry into the second runway at Stansted Airport
- **Surrey County Cricket Club and Aurora Hotels (2008-09)** (new development in proximity to gasometers at the Oval Cricket Ground)
- **Darrell Hair v International Cricket Council (2007)** (race discrimination and sport)
- **Abbey Mine Ltd v The Coal Authority [2007] EWHC 118** (judicial review / natural justice / competition law)
- **Bolnere Village Public Inquiry (Crest Nicholson) (2006-7)** (longest running planning inquiry for major residential development and Hayward's Heath relief road)
- **Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd v Surry Heath BC & Natural England Public Inquiry (2006-7) No1** (impact of residential development on Thames Basins Heath SPA)
- **Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd v Natural England (2006-7) No2** (Leading Counsel for Taylor Wimpey / impact of residential development on Thames Basin Heath SPA)
- **South Downs National Park Public Inquiry (2004 and 2007)** (Leading Counsel for Countryside Agency / promoter 2004 (and Natural England 2007-08)
- **Lewes District Council v Secretary of State (2006)** (Brighton Football Club / planning)
- **Association of British Travel Agents Ltd (ABTA) v Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) [2006] EWCA 13** (judicial review / definition of package holiday)
- **New Forest National Park Public Inquiry (2004)** (Leading Counsel for the Countryside Agency / promoter)
- **Hammersmatch Properties Ltd v First Secretary of State [2005] EWCA 187** (appeal re major mixed retail / residential use site)
- **Dibden Bay Public Inquiry (2004)** (Leading Counsel for Environment and Countryside Agency)
- **Graham v Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions [2002] EWHC 1150** (planning / highways)
- **Castleford Homes Ltd v Secretary of State for Environment [2001] PCLR 470** (planning)
- **Tesco Stores Ltd v Norfolk DC [1999] 78 P & CR 359** (planning permission)
- **Marsal v Apong [1998] (Privy Council) 1 WLR 674** (Leading Counsel for the Sultan of Brunei / the Brunei constitution and limitations of actions)
- **Yorkshire Water Services Ltd v Sun Alliance and London Insurance Plc, [1997] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 21** (insurance contracts / repairs / water pollution)

- **Yorkshire Water Services Ltd v Sun Alliance & London Insurance Plc (No.2) [1998] Env. L.R. 204** (insurance contracts / negligence / nuisance / repairs / water pollution)
- **West Midlands Probation Committee v Secretary of State for the Environment [1998] JPL 388** (planning considerations)
- **Regina v Department of Trade and Industry, Ex parte Healaugh Farms [1996] P & CR 1** (judicial review / wayleaves)
- **R v Sheffield CC [1994] 68 P & CR 331** (locus standi / established use / judicial review)
- **Chief Adjudication Officer and Another v Ahmed and Others (1994) Times, 6 April (Court of Appeal)** (temporary absences abroad)
- **Barnet BC v Secretary of State for the Environment, Cox and ors [1993] IPL 767** (planning policy / Green Belt)
- **F. G. Whitely Ltd v Bickerton [1993] EG 100** (surveyor's negligence / limitation of actions)
- **Wimpey Homes Holdings Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and another [1993] JPL 919** (section 106 agreements)
- **Chichester District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and another [1992] 3 PLR 49** (planning conditions)
- **Delaney v Staples [1992] 1 AC 687 (House of Lords)** (payment in lieu of notice / wages)
- **Ynys Mon Borough Council v Secretary of State for Wales and others [1992] 3 PLR 1** (time limits)
- **Sharkey and another v Secretary of State for the Environment and another [1992] 2 PLR 11 (Court of Appeal)** (remedies / compulsory purchase)
- **Strangeways Inquiry (1991)** (prison disturbances / (Junior Counsel for Home office))
- **Department of Education and Science v Taylor [1991] IRLR 308** (res judicata / abuse of process)
- **Fox v Secretary of State for the Environment [1991] 62 P & CR 459** (compulsory purchase)
- **Cherwell DC v Hodges [1991] RVR 169** (community charge)
- **Expro Services v Smith [1991] ICR 577** (transfer of undertakings)
- **Dhatt v McDonald's Hamburgers Ltd [1991] 3 All ER 692 (Court of Appeal)** (race discrimination)
- **Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Attard (1990) Times, 14 March (Court of Appeal)** (unlawful suspension without pay)
- **McClaren v Home Office [1990] ICR 824 (Court of Appeal)** (civil service contracts / judicial review)
- **Re Rose Theatre Ltd [1990] QB 504** (ancient monuments / judicial review)
- **Regina v Police Complaints Authority, Ex parte Thompson (1989) Times, 24 October** (disciplinary proceedings)
- **Payne v Secretary of State for Employment [1989] IRLR 352 (Court of Appeal)** (associated employers / redundancy payment)
- **Regina v National Dock Labour Board, Ex parte Emerson and Another; Regina v Grimsby and Immingham Dock Labour Board, Ex parte Tom S leight Seiners Ltd and Another; National Dock Labour Board v Vendelbo Fishing Company Ltd and Others (1989) Times, 24 March** (Dock labour board policy)
- **National Dock Labour Board v Pinn and Wheeler Ltd [1989] BCLC 647** (piercing the corporate veil)
- **Dhatt and Another v McDonalds Hamburgers Ltd [1988] ICR 591** (race discrimination)
- **Eaton v Robert Eaton [1988] ICR 302** (director / employee)
- **Sadiq v Chief Adjudication Officer (1988) Times, 28 March** (liability for repayment of overpaid child benefit)
- **Secretary of State for Employment v Crane [1988] IRLR 238** (redundancy payments)
- **Caledonian Mining Co v Bassett [1987] ICR 425** (repudiation)
- **Regina v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Ex parte Stevenson (1987) Times, 22 April** (natural justice)
- **Abse v Smith [1986] QB 536** (amicus curiae / rights of audience)
- **National Dock Labour Board v Buschini** (Standing Counsel for Dock Labour Board / dock work)
- **Cox v E L G Metals Ltd [1985] ICR 310** (oversees employees)

- **Naylor v Orton & Smith Ltd [1983] ICR 665** (industrial action)
- **Horsey v Dyfed CC [1982] ICR 755** (sex discrimination)
- **Skyrail Oceanic Ltd v Coleman [1981] ICR 864** (sex discrimination)
- **Marley Tile Co v Burrows [1978] QB 241** (bankruptcy)
- **Moody v Telefusion Ltd [1978] IRLR 311** (unfair dismissal)
- **Tanner v Keen [1978] IRLR 110** (unfair dismissal)
- **Egg Stores (Stamford Hill) v Leibovici [1977] ICR 260** (frustration)
- **Thompson v Eaton Ltd [1976] UK EAT 24 76 1404** (unfair dismissal / industrial action)

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

ALBA  
COMBAR  
PEBA

#### **OTHER BARS**

New South Wales  
Brunei

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Open Scholarship

#### **LANGUAGES**

French

#### **DIRECTORY ENTRIES**

##### **Legal 500, 2011:**

Recommended leader in **Employment Law**: "*...first rate advice*" (2010); **Environmental Law**; **Media/Entertainment & Sport** and **Planning Law**; "*An outstanding advocate, his core strength is in dissecting the other side's evidence and seeking to deliver the client's case in the best light*" (2011).

##### **Chambers & Partners, 2009:**

Recommended leader in **Sports Law**.

##### **Legal Experts, 2010:**

Leading expert in Environmental Law

#### **CLERKS EMAIL**

Michael Kaplan and Elliot Langdorf

## Practice areas

---

Judicial review	Compulsory purchase
Local government bodies	EPA inquiries
Planning inquiries	Privy Council appeals
Discrimination law	Industrial action
Human rights & civil liberties	Rating
Planning appeals - High Court	Arbitration
Sports law	Other jurisdictions
Environmental information & statements	Restraint of trade
Professional bodies	Dismissal claims
Constitutional & parliamentary	Equal pay
Local government finance	Minerals & mines