

Rt. Hon Lord Carnwath C.V.O.

Robert Carnwath has been Honorary President of UKELA since 13th December, 2006.

He was a Lord Justice of Appeal from September 2001, having been a Judge of the High Court, Chancery Division, from 1994. Since July 2004 he has taken a leading part in the reform of the UK Tribunal system. From November 2007 until April 2012, he acted as the first statutory Senior President of Tribunals under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. On 17th April 2012 he became a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Previously he was in practice as a barrister in the Chambers of the Right Hon. Geoffrey Rippon QC, MP (now Landmark Chambers). His main areas of practice were Local Government, Planning and Environmental Law, and Administrative Law. Between 1980 and 1985 he was Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue. He took silk in 1985. He served a period as Chairman of the Administrative Law Bar Association. Between 1988 and 1994 he was Attorney-General to HRH the Prince of Wales (following which he was made a Companion of the Victorian Order). He was Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales from February 1999 until July 2002.

He has written extensively on administrative and environmental law. In 1989 he was the author of a report for the Department of the Environment on the Enforcement of Planning Control, the main recommendations of which were enacted in the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Environmental Law.

Internationally, in 2004 he was a founding member, and first Secretary-General, of the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE). He has been joint-chairman of the judicial advisory committee for the UNEP handbook on environmental law; and a member of the UNECE taskforce on the Aarhus Convention.

Richard Drabble QC, Landmark Chambers

Richard Drabble QC practises in public law, planning and other local government matters. He has appeared frequently as an advocate at all levels of domestic courts, particularly the Administrative Court as well as the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. His practice also has a European dimension, with many appearances (in planning, environmental and social security matters) before the ECJ and the European Court of Human Rights and the former Commission. He has appeared for both developers and local authorities in major planning inquiries. He is a former Chairman of the Administrative Law Bar Association.

Justine Thornton, 39 Essex Street

Justine Thornton specialises in environmental and planning law and is rated by Chambers and Partners as "one of the finest juniors in the field". Prior to joining 39 Essex Street, she worked for Allen & Overy LLP, Simmons & Simmons and the European Commission Environment Department. Justine is a member of the Attorney-General's Panel of Counsel, appointed to act for the Government and is appointed as an Advocate for the Welsh Assembly. She is Co-General Editor of Thompson's Encyclopedia of Environmental Law and a contributor to Tromans on Environmental Impact Assessment Law and Practice. She is Case Law Editor of the Journal of Environmental Law.

David Hart QC, One Crown Office Row

David Hart has been an environmental lawyer for over 20 years. His work covers the whole range of issues - litigious, regulatory, planning, public law and transactional work – in respect of water (Cambridge Water, Bowden), waste (SRM, Winwood v. Biffa), air (Coalite, Dobson), noise (Dennis, Watson) and renewables. He has a wide contaminated land practice, including two leading appeals (Sevenoaks and Sandridge). He has appeared in courts at all levels, including the European Court of Justice (Bromley) and House of Lords (Cambridge Water, UU), and Supreme Court (E). He has been in 6 environmental group actions, on both sides. He is also a professional negligence lawyer, with experience of solicitors' planning cases (Mace & Jones) and planning consultants; he acted in a very large claim against environmental consultants (Chatham Dock). He was short-listed as environmental silk of the year by Chambers in 2012. He also sits hearing ETS, CRC and civil sanction appeals and is a mediator.